

CHP Corner



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Call for 2015 McAdams Award Nominations

Andy Miller, CHP, Vice Chair, ABHP

Nominations for the William A. McAdams Outstanding Service Award are due by **2 March 2015**. The McAdams award is presented annually by the American Board of Health Physics (ABHP) and the American Academy of Health Physics (AAHP) to honor a certified health physicist who has made a significant contribution toward the advancement of professionalism in health physics and to the certification process. Any member of the AAHP may submit a nomination. More details and information on the history of the McAdams Award, as well as a list of past recipients, may be found at hps1.org/aahp/boardweb/awards/mcadams.html. The nomination form may be found at hps1.org/aahp/boardweb/forms/McAdams_Nomination.pdf.

Continuing Education Committee

Jim Willison, CHP, Chair

Another year has passed, another new class of certified health physicists (CHPs) has been minted, and the hunt for continuing education credits (CECs) goes on. However, this year the situation is a bit more murky.

First, the basic ground rules as they exist as I write this are that to remain certified, each of you must accrue a total of 64 CECs over the next four years, starting in January after you were initially certified. You can find information on the types of activities that qualify for credits at the AAHP web-site at the link titled "Recertification Info."

For the 2015 Health Physics Society (HPS) Midyear Meeting in Norfolk, the Continuing Education Committee has arranged for two eight-hour courses. Course 1 is "Nondestructive Assay of Nuclear Material Holdup," to be put on by Jim Bogard. Course 2 is "How Randomness Affects Radiation Risk Assessments and Decisions for Radiation Safety," put on by Ray Johnson. Each of these courses will be held on the Saturday prior to the start of the midyear meeting and each is worth 16 CECs.

The Continuing Education Committee is currently soliciting ideas for the three AAHP eight-hour courses for the Saturday before the 2015 HPS Annual Meeting in Indianapolis. Instructors receive a \$1,000 honorarium and 20 CECs for their troubles as well as the opportunity to share their knowledge with their colleagues. If you would like to be considered to present one of these courses, please contact us at aahpcec@burkinc.com.

In addition to the AAHP courses, the HPS has included professional education programs (PEPs) during the main sessions of the midyear meeting in place of normal paper presentations. This occurs on both Tuesday and Wednesday of the meeting. Normally, scientific meetings would qualify for 2 CECs per half day up to a maximum of 12 CECs for the meeting (for just the paper sessions). Consistent with Continuing Education Committee standard operating procedures, the Monday plenary session remains at two CECs per half day. However, the shortened paper sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday are worth only one CEC for each half day with four additional CECs available from the embedded PEP. This means that a CHP could get 4 CECs for a full day on Monday, 10 CECs for a full day on Tuesday, and an additional 10 CECs for a full day on Tuesday. This is beyond the 16 CECs for AAHP courses on Saturday and up to 12 CECs from Sunday PEPs.

Now for the murky part. The rules for CEC assignment will likely be somewhat different by the time of the meeting. To retain ABHP accreditation by the Council of Engineering and Scientific Specialty Boards, the number of credits required for recertification needs to increase from 64 to 80 per four-year period. The ABHP has approved this change, but the policy change requires ratification by the AAHP Executive Committee. That committee will meet at Norfolk on Sunday prior to the midyear meeting. The Executive Committee will also be considering the aforementioned proposed changes to the CEC accounting to make the credit requirement increase as painless and equitable as possible.

The results of the Executive Committee meeting regarding continuing education requirements will be reported as soon as practicable, so all CHPs should keep an eye on the [website](#) for further information. Regardless, the Norfolk meeting offers a bonanza of opportunities for acquiring credits.

ABHP Part I Panel of Examiners Activities

Paul Jones, CHP, Chair



2014 fall meeting, left to right, Pat McDermott, Janine Katanic, Karen Brown, 2014 Past Panel Chair Cindy Flannery, Karen Barcal, Michael Whalen, 2013 Past Panel Chair Bill Rhodes, 2015 Panel Vice-Chair Chris Martel, 2015 Panel Chair Paul Jones, Beth Hilt, William Barley, Jim Willison, John Serabian, and Govind Rao

Each year in November, the ABHP Part I Examination Panel meets for two days in McLean, Virginia, to review the performance of the current year's exam and prepare a new exam for the following year. In 2014 the panel held its annual meeting 23–24 November. The panel is composed of 12 CHPs from locations throughout the United States with expertise in different areas, including academic/research applications, accelerators, dosimetry, environmental and fundamental health physics, fuel cycle/waste management, power reactors, and regulations.

This year's meeting also included two panel members who began their terms in 2015 and who were at the meeting to observe. These experienced and well-qualified CHPs work in a variety of settings, such as medical facilities, universities, nuclear power facilities, regulatory agencies, and Department of Energy facilities. Panel members are appointed by the ABHP for a four-year term.

Prior to each meeting, the results of exam-question performance from the current year are tabulated in a report for review by the committee. To prepare for the meeting, members review the report and develop recommendations for changes to the exam bank within their area of expertise. Recommended changes can include modifications to existing questions, the removal of poor-performing

or outdated questions, and the addition of new questions. During the meeting, the members submit their recommendations to the panel for review. The proposed modifications and new questions are reviewed and, if approved by the panel, are added to a bank of existing questions for possible use on future exams.

During the 2014 meeting, the panel reviewed almost 20% of the questions from the 2014 exam, changing some, refining some, and leaving some as written. The panel also reviewed around the same number of new questions for inclusion in future exams. Some domains of interest that had poor performance during the 2014 exam were atmospheric dispersion and security of materials. Candidates are reminded that this is a comprehensive exam and that all domains of practice discussed in the preparation guide should be reviewed thoroughly prior to sitting for the exam.

The Part I Panel's work is a significant part of the accreditation process for health physicists and has proven to be a rewarding experience for CHPs who have volunteered for this important job. Because the terms of panel members are staggered, there are frequent opportunities for new members to join.

If you are interested in contributing to our profession and enjoy working in a collegial atmosphere with fellow CHPs, please indicate your interest in serving on the Part I Examination Panel when you submit your ABHP annual dues. You may also contact panel Chair [Paul Jones](#) or Vice-Chair [Chris Martel](#) at any time. It is a rewarding experience and an opportunity to work with some of the best in the field of health physics. Although not a requirement for membership, Hawaiian shirts are always welcome.

Professional Development Committee Update

Jan Johnson, CHP, Chair

The Professional Development Committee (PDC) is tasked with expanding and enhancing standards for ABHP certification, evaluating the standards for recertification, assisting CHPs in improving their knowledge, publicizing the benefits of certification, and fostering recognition of ABHP certification. Our current members are Chair Jan Johnson, former Chair Tom Johnson, Balwan Hooda, and Richard Granberg.

The PDC met at the 2013 HPS Annual Meeting in Madison, Wisconsin, where several ideas to increase exam participation and assist with exam preparation were discussed. (The PDC did not meet at the 2014 annual meeting in Baltimore.) The Madison meeting was followed up with emails to committee members to reiterate the goals and check on progress with individual assignments.

The PDC has developed an informative pamphlet to hand out at the ABHP booth at the HPS annual meeting. The pamphlet is still in process. The PDC plans to update the ABHP booth with new information and pictures of CHPs at work. We encourage members to contribute photographs that might be used individually or in a collage to illustrate the wide variety of professional activities that are part of the CHP world.

An important goal of the committee is to make more students aware of the exam and the eligibility requirements by interacting with the leaders of the HPS student branches and providing them with information on how, when, and where to apply, as well as suggesting various ways to study for the exam. Most students are eligible to take the exam after completing their bachelor's degrees, and the sooner they take Part I, the more likely they are to eventually become fully certified.

The PDC has discussed the possibility of creating a mentoring program for potential exam takers in cooperation with the HPS Student Support Committee to give advice on how and what to study and to provide help with specific topics. A barrier that some students face in taking the exam is finding a CHP mentor to support their application. A robust and well-advertised mentoring program could be very beneficial to potential exam takers.