Health Physics News
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The HPS Effect

Craig Little, HPS Agency Liaison

I was privileged to serve as a delegate to the 14th Congress of the International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA), held in Cape Town, South Africa, 9–13 May 2016. While others have reported on that meeting, I was struck by the large number of organizations that collaborated with this meeting or are in some way affiliated with IRPA. It seems to me that there are multiple options for Health Physics Society members to become more involved in international bodies if they are interested.

Organizations that were represented in Cape Town include the European Commission (EC), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP), International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP), International Commission on Radiation Units and Measurements (ICRU), International Labor Office (ILO), International Organization for Medical Physics (IOMP), International Society of Radiographers and Radiological Technicians (ISRRT), Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA), Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR), and World Health Organization (WHO).

In future Health Physics News articles, I intend to write vignettes of a number of these organizations. Stay tuned!

CHP Corner

The Part II Examination Panel Process

Wei-Hsung Wang, CHP, Chair

The Part II Panel of Examiners Workshop will be held on 16 and 17 July 2016 in Spokane, Washington (just prior to the 61st Annual Meeting of the Health Physics Society). At this intense, two-day workshop, a group of panel members will work diligently to review and improve questions and their stock solutions, with the goal of ensuring that the examination will be fair and challenging.

The two primary responsibilities of the Part II Panel of Examiners are Part II examination preparation and examination grading. Participation on the panel is a very rewarding (and sometimes humbling) experience and involves a significant commitment. Members of the panel have staggered terms of four years each. Panel members normally contribute approximately 100 to 200 hours per year.

Panel duties include drafting/reviewing questions, attending the panel workshop, and grading the questions. In exchange for their hard work, active panel members are eligible to obtain substantial recertification credits and receive financial support (e.g., for transportation, hotel, and meals) to attend the workshop.

After the Part II examination is given in July, grading activities begin. Members of both the panel and the American Board of Health Physics (ABHP) work in teams of three to grade each of the questions, as assigned by the panel chair.
A panel/board member usually grades one of the required 50-point questions from one of the four core topics of health physics (i.e., biological effects of radiation, measurements and instrumentation, personnel dosimetry, and shielding and activation) and one elective 100-point question from one of the eight specialty topics of health physics (i.e., accelerators, environmental, fuel cycle/waste management, general, medical, nonionizing, power reactors, and university).

A team leader assembles the results for the team and ensures that grades from each of the three graders are consistent. This process is usually completed by early fall, and the candidates are informed of their examination results after the ABHP board meeting in November.

In January, the panel chair chooses three questions from each subject-area category and sends them to all members of both the panel and the ABHP for evaluation and balloting. Completed ballots are then provided to the chair. The chair tallies the results, ranks the questions, and finalizes the composition of the Part II examination for review by the ABHP.

After the balloting round is concluded, the panel chair makes question assignments for each panel member. Typically, each member works to develop two questions: one 50-point question from one of the four core topics and one 100-point question from one of the eight specialty topics. These questions can be entirely new or updates and revisions of existing questions. These questions are submitted to the panel chair in time for compiling and formatting for the subsequent panel workshop in July.

The panel members put in a tremendous effort. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the entire panel for taking time out of their busy schedules to contribute to this vital task.

Kathleen Dinnel-Jones (vice chair)
Richard Adams (past chair)
Matthew Arno
Wes Boyd
William Bullard
Michael Campbell
Jeff Chapman
John Dixon
Daniel Evans
Gerald George
Tom Hansen
Gregory Jones
Chris Kessler
Mark Krohn
Henry Lynn
Allen Mabry
William McCarthy
Joseph McDonald
Hans Oldevage
David Rynders
Johnafred Thomas
John Tomon
William Uhland
Betsy Ulrich
Toshihide Ushino
Latha Vasudevan

Finally, a great big THANK YOU to Nancy Johnson, executive director of the ABHP, for her valuable guidance and support in the question-writing and grading process as well as the workshop arrangements.

If you are interested in participating on the panel for a four-year adventure, please indicate your willingness when you submit your American Academy of Health Physics annual dues.

**Title Protection and Professional Recognition**

*Jay Maisler, CHP, Chair*

The Title Protection/Professional Recognition Committee is responsible for developing and implementing legislation protecting the title and name of “Certified Health Physicist” and “CHP.”

Towards this end, the committee has coordinated closely with the American Industrial Hygiene Association in efforts to recognize both the health physics and the industrial hygiene certifications in various states. The committee is also engaged in promoting the professional recognition of certified health physicists. The committee will meet this year, in person, at the 61st Annual Meeting of the Health Physics Society in Spokane, Washington.

The current committee composition is:

- Jay Maisler (chair)
- Richard Harvey
- Charles Kent
- Ruth McBurney
- John Solini
- Paul Ward