

CHP Corner



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF HEALTH PHYSICS email: AAHP@burkinc.com

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Reciprocity Between the ABHP and ABMP

Kent Lambert, CHP, AAHP Past President

Good news! In response to the American Board of Health Physics (ABHP) request to expand the reciprocity agreement between ABHP and the American Board of Medical Physics (ABMP), the ABMP met on 12 December 2016 and approved the following subcommittee recommendations:

- A physicist who is certified by the American Board of Health Physics (i.e., a certified health physicist [CHP]) and who meets the education and professional clinical work experience requirements for certification by the ABMP in medical health physics, may apply directly for the ABMP Part III oral examination in medical health physics.
- The CHP candidate is still required to meet all other ABMP requirements for references, experience in a clinical setting, and an advanced degree.
- If a CHP candidate fails to pass the oral examination, the candidate is subject to current ABMP policy which states a candidate may be admitted to a second and third oral examination, after paying the appropriate fees.
- If the oral examination has been taken unsuccessfully three times, the candidate will be required to reapply for the entire sequence of examinations. Also, there is a time limit of 10 years to complete the certification process.

Continuing Education Committee Update

Jim Willison, CHP, Chair

This is just a short note to tell you about the American Academy of Health Physics (AAHP) courses that were held at the 2017 Health Physics Society Midyear Meeting in Bethesda, Maryland, and also to solicit courses for the 2017 HPS Annual Meeting in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Two AAHP courses were offered at the midyear meeting on Saturday, 21 January 2017:

- "ANSI N13.1, Nuances, Facts and Fiction," taught by Brent Blunt
- "Radiation Risk Assessment," taught by Fred Dolislager and Stuart Walker

The committee is also soliciting eight-hour courses for the annual meeting. Instructors receive an honorarium of \$1,000 for the course and 20 continuing education credits (CECs) for their efforts. If you would like to try your hand at presenting an interesting topic, please contact the committee at aahpcec@burkinc.com.

As I write this, I am getting ready to turn over the chair of the Continuing Education Committee to Glenn Sturchio. Having had the chair role since 2009, I feel it is a good time to pass the responsibility on. Correspondence for the committee should still go to aahpcec@burkinc.com.

A Reminder

Nancy Johnson has now retired. Please direct any AAHP- or ABHP-related questions to Amy Wride-Graney at awride-graney@burkinc.com or at 703-790-1745, ext. 213.

ABHP Part I Panel of Examiners Activities

Karen Barcal, CHP, Vice Chair

This past November, the American Board of Health Physics (ABHP) Part I Panel of Examiners met for two days in McLean, Virginia, to review the performance of the 2016 exam and prepare a new exam for 2017. The panel is composed of 12 certified health physicists (CHPs) with expertise in many areas, including academic/research applications, medical health physics, accelerators, dosimetry, environmental health physics, fundamental health physics, fuel cycle/waste management, power reactors, and regulations. Panel members are appointed by the ABHP for a four-year term.

Prior to each meeting, the metrics of exam-question performance from the current year are tabulated in a report for review by the committee. The panel members review the report and develop recommendations for changes to the exam bank and are responsible for the development and selection of questions to replace those chosen for removal from the test bank. Questions are subject to peer review, lively debate, and difficulty ranking prior to being accepted into the bank.

During the 2016 meeting, the panel reviewed slightly more than 20% of the questions from the 2016 exam. The panel also reviewed four new questions for inclusion in future exams. 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 Panel of Examiners when you submit your ABHP annual dues. You may also contact panel Past Chair [Chris Martel](#), Chair [Karen Barcal](#), or Vice Chair [James Cherniak](#) at any time. It is a rewarding experience and an opportunity to work with some of the best in the field of health physics.

Activities of the Professional Standards and Ethics Committee

John "Jack" Buddenbaum, CHP, Chair

The Professional Standards and Ethics Committee is a standing committee of the American Academy of Health Physics (AAHP) and is composed of five members of the academy. The Professional Standards and Ethics Committee is charged with defining the standards of professional responsibility for certified health physicists (CHPs) and reviewing all complaints about unethical practice that are referred to the committee by the Executive Committee. The committee also serves as a clearinghouse for questions regarding professional standards and ethics from persons engaged in the work of health physics.

One complaint was referred to the committee in late 2016 and is currently under review.

Your 2017 Professional Standards and Ethics Committee consists of Dan Burnfield, Todd Davidson, John Keklak, Bryce Rich, and me.

You are invited to join the conversations at the Health Physics Society News Cafe.

Click [here](#) or on the Facebook logo on the [Health Physics Society website](#).

