

CHP Corner



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF HEALTH PHYSICS

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The Work of the ABHP Part II Panel of Examiners

Kathleen Dinnel-Jones, CHP, Chair

The 2017 Part II Panel Exam Workshop will be held 8–9 July 2017 in Raleigh, North Carolina, just prior to the 62nd Annual Meeting of the Health Physics Society (HPS). At this intense, two-day workshop, your group of dedicated panel members will work hard to review and improve questions and stock solutions from the exam data bank, thereby ensuring that the next several years of exams will be both *fair and challenging*.

Participation on the panel is a very rewarding (and sometimes humbling) experience and involves a significant commitment. You will meet colleagues who have very similar technical interests and are extremely talented. Members on the panel have staggered terms of four years each. Normally, the members are expected to serve approximately 100 to 200 hours per year in drafting and reviewing new exam questions, attending the panel workshop, and grading selected exam questions. In exchange for the hard work, active panel members are eligible to obtain substantial recertification continuing education credits and receive potential financial support (e.g., for transportation, hotel, and meals) to attend the workshop.

For those who wonder why it takes so long to get your exam results, here is a quick insight into the exam process. It all starts at the annual HPS meeting with the completion of the exam by the candidates. After the exam is over, all of the exams have to be transferred back to HPS headquarters for evaluation, recording, and distribution to the Part II Panel and American Board of Health Physics (ABHP) board members for grading. The Part II Panel and the ABHP members work in teams to grade each of the questions, *by hand*, as assigned by the panel chair. The individual grades for each question are then compiled and reviewed by a team leader to ensure that grades from each of the three graders are reasonably consistent. Discussions are held among the team members to reconcile any disparities. This process is usually completed by early fall. The candidates are informed of their examination results in November, after the ABHP board meeting.

Before the exam is administered in July, the panel chair starts by choosing questions from each subject area, to be reviewed by members of the panel and the ABHP. This involves question evaluations, corrections, and balloting. The chair tallies the results, ranks the questions, and finalizes the composition of the Part II examination for the review by the board. An independent review is performed by a “Three Wise People” panel of experts in health physics disciplines. They provide valuable feedback to the board and panel chairs as to whether the proposed exam questions are reasonable and fair. In parallel, the rest of the panel members start reviewing and improving questions that reside in the exam data bank.

The panel members put in a tremendous effort during this cycle. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the members of the 2017 Part II Panel for taking time out of their busy schedules to contribute to this valuable task: Vice Chair Allen Mabry, Past Chair Wei-Hsung Wang, PhD, Matthew Arno, Wes Boyd, William Bullard, Michael Campbell, Jeff Chapman, John Dixon, Daniel Evans, Milan Gadd, Gerald George, Andrea Geyer, Tom Hansen, Gregory Jones, John Kinneman, Henry Lynn, William McCarthy, Joseph McDonald, Aaron Miaulis, Hans Oldewage, Jack Parry, David Rynders, Clifford Stephan, Johnafred Thomas, John Tomon, William Uhland, Latha Vasudevan, and Scottie Walker.

Finally, a great big THANK YOU to Amy Wride-Graney (new) and Nancy Johnson (recent past), executive directors of the ABHP, for their tireless and valuable support in our whole question-writing and grading process as well as the workshop arrangements.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Part II Panel for a four-year adventure, please do not hesitate to indicate your willingness when you submit your American Academy of Health Physics annual dues or let a current panel or board member know of your interest. While expertise in all disciplines is needed, right now we are especially looking for certified health physicists with fuel cycle/waste, nonionizing, and power reactor experience.

See you in Raleigh!!!

Activities of the Title Protection Committee

Jay Maisler, CHP, Chair

The roles and responsibilities for the Title Protection/Professional Recognition Committee of the American Academy of Health Physics (AAHP) include the following:

- Developing and implementing legislation protecting the title “certified health physicist” and the acronym “CHP.”
- Promoting the professional recognition of certified health physicists.
- Providing an annual report to the Executive Committee of the AAHP.

Although there has not been much activity this past year, the committee has been engaged in the American Industrial Hygiene Association’s efforts to protect the title of “industrial hygienist” across the country.

The committee coordinates its efforts with the Health Physics Society through the federal agency liaison.

Jay Maisler is the chair of the committee and its members include Richard Harvey, Charles Kent, Ruth McBurney, Paul Ward, and Jim Yusko.

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.