



American Academy of Health Physics
American Board of Health Physics

Corner

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The CHP and RRPT: Partners in Radiation Safety

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In our quest to assure the safety of workers, the public, and the environment with respect to radiation, the Certified Health Physicist (CHP) and Registered Radiation Protection Technologist (RRPT) form a natural and vital partnership. Working hand in hand, the CHP on the professional level and the RRPT on the technologist level are a potent and formidable combination.

As CHPs we should encourage employers to hire NRRPT Registered candidates to fill radiation protection technologist and technician positions and to provide incentives to RRPTs as well as to CHPs. Indeed it is to our advantage as CHPs to have knowledgeable technologists to assist us in accomplishing our radiation protection goals. The National Registry of Radiation Protection Technologists (NRRPT) evolved out of the need for responsible and competent radiation protection technologists. With the support of the HPS and ABHP, the NRRPT was established in 1976 and since that time has worked to establish and maintain high standards for RRPTs. Employers hiring one of the more than 4,000 RRPTs are assured that this individual has demonstrated the knowledge and experience to perform radiation protection tasks at a level meeting or exceeding the industry standard for technologists.

All RRPTs have at least five years of qualifying experience and have passed a rigorous examination designed to test

a candidate in three major categories: Applied Radiation Protection, Detection and Measurements, and Fundamentals. These major categories were developed from 18 sub-categories established from a detailed role delineation (task analysis) of the activities or disciplines in health physics that a technologist may encounter.

Professional responsibilities for Certified Health Physicists are codified in *Standards of Professional Responsibility for CHPs* and include a commitment to support and improve the profession and to maintain high standards. Ensuring high standards through encouraging NRRPT Registration for the technologists who assist us is an important means of assuring the overall quality of radiation protection programs.

RRPTs are not dissimilar from CHPs in that both have taken the initiative (often at considerable personal sacrifice) to improve and demonstrate their knowledge of our diverse interdisciplinary profession. In fact, it could be said that the NRRPT might be considered a "feeder" to the Academy. A recent study by Kevin Collins (himself both a CHP and RRPT), soon to be published, revealed that over the past five years, almost 20 percent of the candidates passing Part 1 of the ABHP Exam are RRPTs, and 119 of the 1,107 active CHPs are RRPTs as well. These statistics indicate that RRPTs, much like their CHP counterpart, set high standards for themselves . . . the kind of standards that we expect at our places of work. We encourage all CHPs to support the NRRPT at their facilities and, wherever possible, to utilize RRPTs in helping them to accomplish their radiation safety mission. Thank you.

Academy Special Session and Luncheon

The Second Annual American Academy of Health Physics luncheon, held to honor all 1997 inductees to the Academy, will be on Tuesday, 14 July 1998, in conjunction with the Academy's special session at the HPS annual meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The Minneapolis meeting agenda will undoubtedly be a challenge to our time management skills, but PLEASE plan early to participate in this special luncheon and take advantage of the opportunity to meet some of the new AAHP members.

Additional information on the Academy-sponsored special session will appear in both the preliminary program for the HPS meeting and the June edition of the *CHP News*. ■