

The CHP Corner, September 2021

For CHPs, aspiring CHPs, and anyone else on the bell curve.



The American Academy of Health Physics

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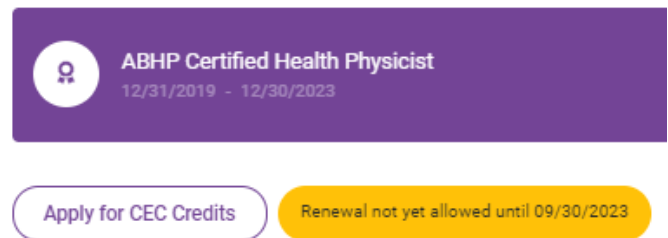
SUMMARY OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

Scott Schwahn, CHP, AAHP President

It's been a month now since the Health Physics Society's annual meeting, where the Academy and Board also met to perform a large portion of their business and activity. It was so great to see the many of you who were there! I was hoping to communicate to everyone right afterward, but catching up on business missed during the week caused me to be a bit delayed. Here are some highlights of changes, most of which were presented at the AAHP business meeting on July 27.

- CMA did a great job of putting on and supporting the activities at the meeting, to include three Continuing Education Courses (in-person, virtual, AND hybrid!), a two-day ABHP Part II Panel of Examiners workshop, a two-day ABHP Board meeting, the AAHP Executive Committee meeting, the ABHP Part II Exam, the booth setup and takedown at the exhibition hall, and the AAHP/ABHP Awards luncheon. These activities are the normal work, but they had not done it for us before, so we anticipated some challenges. Nonetheless, I have received nothing but positive feedback. (Though if any of you were there and have some other feedback, please send them to director@aahp-abhp.org so we can learn for next time.)
- It was mentioned that some folks are having a bit of a problem finding what they need in the personal CEC approval system. I'll try to get a couple clarifying videos and/or screen shots this month and put them up on our web page.
- There is a button in the CEC system that is not available until 9/30 in the year before renewal is required. After the 9/30 date, the button changes to a

"Submit" button, and you can submit your CEC "transcript" for final review by the CEC Committee, which functions like the normal four-year recertification application. There will be an opportunity to reaffirm that you are still performing professional HP work and that you will behave ethically in that work. Once the application is approved and your fees are current, CMA is automatically notified and they can send out your new sticker for your ABHP diploma! Your current button may look like this:



- Four months after maintenance fees are due, the database system automatically moves members into Inactive status. There is a \$25 reinstatement fee that is included automatically upon renewal should this happen. This reinstatement fee has been in place for several years now, but has only recently been coded into the renewal system. While Inactive, members may not use the title of CHP.
- It was initially reported at the Business Meeting that a recent policy change has occurred, namely that Inactive CHPs that remain inactive for four or more years have to start the process over. However, there were questions at that meeting regarding extenuating circumstances, and continued discussion with CHPs for days afterwards about the implications of this decision. At this time, the Executive Committee is rethinking how these extenuating circumstances should be considered. Until there are implementing procedures in place, if the decision affects you

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negatively you can send a request for reinstatement and each case will be considered on an individual basis by both the ABHP Board and the AAHP Executive Committee.

- If an Inactive CHP has been inactive for less than four years, they can become active again by paying all fees owed (current and past due) and demonstrating 80 CECs earned in the last four years.
- The Board reviewed its fees for the first time in 24 years and came to the determination that they were significantly lower than examination fee schedules of other professional societies, and not financially self-sufficient. Fees are being adjusted over the next three years:

Type	Part I	Part II
Application	\$50 → \$100	2021: \$50 2022: \$150 2023: \$200 2024: \$250
Examination	\$150 plus local Pearson VUE testing fee	2021: \$200 2022: \$300 2023: \$400 2024: \$500

- Finally, the 2022 budget was not approved yet due to multiple changes, to include timing of the fiscal year. As soon as the budget is finalized, it will be available for member review. The Finance Committee will meet later this month.

As always, please contact director@aahp-abhp.org with any concerns or comments. Or send me a note directly...my email is in the Members-Only directory.

CHPS IN THE SPOTLIGHT: DAVE AND TARA MEDICH

Dan Sowers, CHP Corner Editor

Recently, at the Medich household, Tara arrived home from work with a Geiger counter in her bag. Not a strange occurrence whatsoever, Dave greeted her and the conversation quickly (re)turned to health

physics. Having sparked their first relationship critically during a tour of UMass Lowell’s Research Reactor (Dave’s been told he gives fantastic tours), they’ve been inseparable ever since. Introducing our September CHPs in the Spotlight: Dave and Tara Medich!

Dave, an Associate Professor in the department of Physics at Worcester Polytechnic Institute and Director of the Nuclear Science and Engineering Program, grew up in Long Island, NY. He exclaims, “the best thing about health physics is how broad a field it is.” This lends nearly every health physicist an interesting work story to tell. When serving as acting director of the UMass Lowell Research Reactor, Dave shares he was able to have highly enriched uranium reactor fuel shipped to him and hold the new fuel rod before being loaded into the reactor.

Tara is currently the Director of Radiation Safety and the RSO for Massachusetts General Hospital. Growing up in the Midwest, an 8th grade dream of smashing atoms for a career became simply not glamorous enough once she got to college. After her first health physics course – taught by none other than Herman Cember – she was hooked into the incredible, diverse, and dazzling world of health physics.



Photo courtesy of Dave and Tara Medich

Dave and Tara pursued certification to help advance their careers and to be better mentors. Tara recalls the proud moment at an annual Health Physics Society meeting not too long ago where her badge first displayed the letters “CHP.” They each passed the exams on the first attempts following strict study guidelines in advice from Dr. Clayton French. Tara recalls she “didn’t feel defeated” after leaving the

exams due to her solid foundation of academics and studying. Dave, recollecting his time taking part 2 as being “very, very, *very long*,” left the exam room, headed straight to the hotel bar, ordered a Manhattan, and had to hold the drink in his other hand because “[his] writing hand was really cramped from all that writing.”

Tara, certified one year early than Dave (not that she would ever hold that over him), reminds soon to be exam takers that most of the part 2 questions start with “You are a health physicist at a...” Ignore that! “It doesn’t matter what industry is being described,” she advises. “Get to the root of the concept that is the subject of the question. Dimensional analysis works every time!”

It’s important to get involved in your profession in whatever ways your schedule permits, they both agree. A mentor to both (and many others), Dr. Chris Martel once told Dave, “Health physics helped you become educated and employed, so now it’s your obligation to pay it forward and support the Society and future health physicists.” Following that lead, Dave and Tara have served on multiple committees, exam panels, and on the board of directors. “Get involved,” Tara insists, “whether it’s at the local, national, or Academy level.” Not one to miss a punch line, Tara reminds us that two certified health physicists are not always better than one; however, dinner time conversations are usually quite lively. Her final piece of advice? “Connect with colleagues to collaborate on practical solutions to common issues and to commiserate. Or even, if you’re so inclined, marry one.”

Cheers – and happy anniversary – to our September 2021 CHPs in the Spotlight, Dave and Tara Medich!

2021 AAHP/HPS SALARY SURVEY

Gary Lauten, CHP salary survey coordinator

The 2021 American Academy of Health Physics and Health Physics Society Salary Survey is currently underway until 30 October 2021. Please visit www.aahp-abhp.org/salariesurvey to fill out the survey. You can log in via the Academy website or HPS website, and they will take you to the same survey. Please fill out the survey only once. The survey is easy to complete and will only take a few minutes. Your confidential participation will benefit the entire membership.

IRPA 2022 REGIONAL CONGRESS: CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Dan Sowers, CHP Corner Editor

The first-ever North American Regional Congress of the International Radiation Protection Association has issued a call for abstracts. This meeting is being held in the Gateway to the West, St. Louis, Missouri, 20–24 February 2022. Check out the [meeting website](#) for more information. The deadline for submitting an abstract is October 15. Please [follow this link](#) to submit your abstract!