

American Board Of Health Physics

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

April 1978

Dear Colleague:

The American Board of Health Physics has just completed the 19th year of its existence and thanks to the response and support of active Certified Health Physicists, the program continues to be financially stable, active, and is becoming more prestigious with each year.

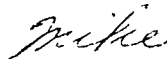
As indicated in previous annual letters, financial assistance through voluntary subscriptions was initiated as a temporary measure and was dropped last year in favor of the increased fee program. However, deep appreciation and gratitude are expressed to all those who have contributed. It was clear evidence of the fact that the majority of the Certified Health Physicists recognized the need to support such a program which contributes to the profession as a whole as well as to each individual.

The continued efforts of the American Board to restrict expenses to a bare minimum have been successful as evidenced by the fact that the amount of money realized through the examination fees has nearly met the expenses of the program during the past year. However, during the last Board meeting, it was recognized there are some increased expenses resulting from the need to expand the examination questions utilized in Part I, in addition to an increased fee assessment from the Professional Examination Service. In any event, it was felt by the Board that it would be necessary to raise the examination fees for new candidates effective January 1, 1977, in order that the program be self supporting. It should be emphasized, however, that employees of the Board and panel members continue to graciously support the work of the ABHP in the form of secretarial services and travel expenses.

A summary of the highlights of the Board activities is attached for your information.

Thank you for your continued support of ABHP activities.

Sincerely yours,



Michael S. Terpilak
Secretary-Treasurer

Summary of ABHP 1977 Board Meeting Actions

1. Recertification

The Board approved a Continuing Certification Program and appointed a Continuing Education Panel to initiate and implement the program. Les Slaback is the present Chairman and R. J. Junkins is Vice-Chairman. Carlyle Roberts, as ABHP Vice Chairman, coordinates the activities of the Continuing Education Panel. Information and applications were mailed to all Certified Health Physicists in March 1978. Also enclosed is a list of courses approved by the Continuing Education Panel and a list of frequently asked questions concerning the program.

2. Panel of Examiners

Certification examinations were conducted in July 1977, were graded, and the results approved at the Board meeting in Chicago on September 23, 1977. Of the 52 candidates who took the entire exam, Parts I and II: 15 (29%) passed, 22 (42%) failed, and 15 (29%) were given the option to either take an oral examination or retake the part failed. This year's exam once again was designed to allow specialty groups to demonstrate competence in their area of expectation to a greater extent than in previous years.

3. National Registry of Radiation Protection Technologists

The second National Registry of Radiation Protection Technologists examination was given as scheduled on November 5, 1977. There were 64 applicants approved of which 56 took the examination at 20 locations, and 41 (64%) were successful. The Board does not feel that this higher-than-expected percentage of successful candidates indicates that the exam was too easy. Rather, it is believed that the numerous training programs developed around the country in preparation for the exam were a significant factor.

The NRRPT Board meeting was held on January 15 and 16 at San Diego at which time the results of the exam were approved by the Board. Those applicants which were approved but did not take the exam will still be eligible to take the exam next year. The next NRRPT exam will be given on November 4, 1978.

4. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report indicates total assets of \$12,604.34 as of December 31, 1977. It is anticipated that the present increases in application fees for Parts I and II of the examination will provide sufficient funds to support the examination without additional voluntary subscription from Certified Health Physicists.

5. Exam Panel Officer Appointments and Member Replacements

<u>Retiring</u>	<u>Replacement</u>
Thomas A. Steele	Ronald L. Kathern
Roland H. Jalbert	Paul H. Ruther
Nathaniel A. Greenhouse	Kenneth H. Kase
Ralph H. Thomas	William R. Casey -

Panel Officer appointments were:

Richard R. Bowers - Chairman
Joel O. Lubenau - Vice-Chairman

6. ABHP Member Replacements

<u>Retiring</u>	<u>Replacement</u>
Jack S. Krohmer	Nathaniel A. Greenhouse

In addition, the following ABHP officers were elected:

Bryce L. Rich - Chairman
Carlyle J. Roberts - Vice-Chairman
Michael S. Terpilak - Secretary-Treasurer

At this time, the American Board of Health Physics would like to express its sincere thanks and gratitude to outgoing Board Member Dr. Jack Krohmer for his inspiring leadership, guidance, duration, dedication and support during his term of office. Thanks again, Jack, for a job well done!

7. Reactor HP Certification Program

Enclosed in this newsletter package is a letter addressed to all Certified Health Physicists from Chairman Bryce Rich, American Board of Health Physics, summarizing the work of a subcommittee composed of Dave Myers and Dick Bowers concerning specialty certification as it relates to the power health physics area. The questions before the Board and before each Certified Health Physicist is that, in taking all the information presented in this letter into consideration, should the ABHP proceed with development of a specialty certification in the area of power reactor health physics? Please give the Board the benefit of your ideas and opinions in order to help the Board decide its professional responsibilities in this area. Since the Board plans to discuss this important item at its June meeting in Minneapolis, it is important that your ideas and suggestions reach the Chairman, ABHP, by early June so that they can be organized before the meeting.

American Board of Health Physics
Program of Continuing Certification and Education

FREQUENT QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE PROGRAM

1. Q: Who approves my course attendance?

A: The ABHP does this as part of the review of your application for certification renewal. The CHP certifies his attendance via this application procedure. However, the course itself must previously have been approved by the Continuing Education Panel.

2. Q: What courses are eligible for continuing education credit?

A: Courses presenting subject matter which is included in a general way on ABHP examinations and on which the certification of diplomates is based may be considered for credit towards the continuing education portion of the certification renewal program. Some credit may also be approved for courses although only a portion of the material is of sufficient relevance to health physics to be considered eligible for credit. Another basic ingredient necessary for approval of continuing education credit is that the course follow a formal "instructional or tutorial" format.

3. Q: Why are the Health Physics Society meetings being considered as part of the continuing education program?

A: Certainly these technical meetings do not constitute education in formal sense, although they are informative and hence "educational" in a more general context. Essentially this approval was a compromise to assure that there will be adequate opportunity for all CHP's to meet the continuing education requirements during the early years of the program.

4. Q: What about other professional meetings, and courses not approvable as part of the continuing education program?

A: In the interest of avoiding an unnecessarily elaborate program the continuing education requirement is structured very simply. In other words, the continuing education portion of the renewal program is not intended to encompass the multitude of different "educational" activities that exist. The activities that are not approved for credit as part of the formal continuing education program should be described under the appropriate section of the renewal application.

5. Q: Why are some basic courses given more credit than some advanced health physics courses?
- A: An absolute scale has not been established for course values. Many factors go into establishing the credit assigned to a particular course including content, instructor quality, and course length. Also, an aspect that should not be ignored is the fact that this program is in its formative stages. Once an adequate data base is established it is expected that things will mesh better, although there will certainly still be disagreements on details. It should also be remembered that continuing education is just a portion of the application for certification renewal. Numbers (i.e., credits) aside, the application still must be of an adequate overall quality.
6. Q: How does the CEP know what portion of a course is to be reviewed for continuing education credit?
- A: If the applicant did not specifically indicate those portions in his application, a conservative estimate is made based on the descriptive material provided. If this appears overly conservative (i.e., result in a rating that is too low) the application will be returned for more information.
7. Q: How does the CEP distinguish between a basic course in a subject (e.g., internal dosimetry) versus an advanced course with the same title and general description?
- A: By reference to supplementary information provided by the applicant. If this material is not present, the evaluation will be based on those assumptions which result in a lower rating or the application will be returned for more information.
8. Q: What if I don't have any detailed information on the qualifications of the instructors?
- A: Unless the instructor(s) have such an extensive reputation that they are known by all members of the panel, little or no credit will be allowed for that element of the evaluation. This does not prevent the course from being approved but it may lower the number of credits assigned to the course.
9. Q: What if I don't agree with the number of credits assigned for my course?
- A: You may resubmit the application with more information, may vent your wrath on the Chairman or other members of the CEP, or may appeal to the ABHP.

10. Q: Why does it take six weeks to process an application?

A: Consider the steps involved: one-two weeks to process for mailing to panel members, depending on the number being received; two-three weeks for review by the panel members, depending on the mails, their job, and their spouse; one-two weeks to tabulate the results and for the post office to get the reply to you.

11. Q: Why did I not hear anything for three months?

A: The Panel Chairman will attempt to provide some sort of status letter if it appears that the review procedure will extend beyond 8 weeks.

12. Q: Why do course approval applications have to be submitted within 90 days of the end of the course?

A: To keep all the CEP members from resigning in the last half of 1981 because the majority of the CHP's are afflicted with the "April 15" syndrome.

13. Q: Do I have to be a CHP to apply for a course to be assigned continuing education credits?

A: No. Anyone may do so although it would normally be either a CHP attending the course, someone associated with putting the course on, or a local chapter representative doing it as a service for the CHP's.

14. Q: Will the ABHP/CEP organize or put on courses?

A: Not at this time.

15. Q: Will there always be approved courses at annual meetings?

A: This basically depends on the wishes of the program committee of the HPS. The position of the ABHP is to do everything possible to have a program of continuing education at these meetings.

16. Q: How many continuing education credits may be earned by attending the Annual HPS Meeting?

A: In a typical four year renewal period, if you attended at least three full days of the meeting each year, you could earn 3 X 4 or 12 credits, but only 8 would be accepted by the Board. In addition, assuming the Atlanta meeting to be representative of future meetings, you could earn as many as 4 CEC's at each one by attending specifically approved workshops and refresher courses. This would add up to 4 X 4 or 16 more credits. The grand total, therefore, would be 8 plus 16 or 24 CEC's, so you would not even need the 8 credits you received for conference attendance. Also note that a separate request to the CEP for approval of the conference attendance is not necessary.

17. Q: Can symposia organized by HPS Chapters qualify for continuing education credit?

A: Yes, as long as they meet the requirements of the ABHP, some of which were discussed in question 2. Also, the ABHP would like to encourage local programs as much as possible.

18. Q: Can I get continuing education credit for preparing and giving a lecture on an advanced health physics topic?

A: No. This sort of activity should be reflected on the professional activities portion of the application. However, if this lecture were part of an organized course which was approved as a whole and you participated as a student in the rest of the course then you could take credit for the whole course.

As a final note please recognize the limitations of the Continuing Education Panel in handling course approval applications for all the CHP's. If your application is more than a few pages (5 at most) please send eight (8) copies. Be concise and be sure the course is adequately described, especially as to the level of the content.

COURSES APPROVED BY THE CONTINUING EDUCATION PANEL**

<u>Certificate No</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Sponsor/Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Assigned CEC</u>
77-1	Measurement of Particulates in Air	Annual Meeting, HPS Atlanta, GA	6 Jul 77	1
77-2	Environmental Behavior & Dosimetry of Carbon 14	Annual Meeting, HPS Atlanta, GA	6 Jul 77	1
77-3	Recent Developments in the Application of ALARA to Nuclear Medicine	Annual Meeting, HPS Atlanta, GA	6 Jul 77	1
77-4	Environmental Monitoring at Background Radiation Levels & Statistical Treat- ment of Data	Annual Meeting, HPS Atlanta, GA	7 Jul 77	1
77-5	Workshop on Recent Advances in Neutron Personnel Monitoring	Annual Meeting, HPS Atlanta, GA	7 Jul 77	1
77-6	Respiratory Protection	Annual Meeting, HPS Atlanta, GA	8 Jul 77	1
77-7	SI Units in Health Physics	Annual Meeting, HPS Atlanta, GA	8 Jul 77	1
77-8	Handling Patients Contaminated with Radioactive Material (Short Course)	Western Occupational Health Conference, Livermore, CA	6 Oct 77	3
* 77-9	In-Place Filter Testing Workshop	Harvard School of Public Health Boston, MA	12-16 Sep 77	19
77-10	New ICRP Internal Emitter Dosimetry (long course)	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, D. C. 20555	29-30 Aug 77	5
77-11	New ICRP Internal Emitter Dosimetry (short course)	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, D. C. 20555	31 Aug 77	2

*Approval is restricted to individual named on application only.

**Courses approved through 1 April 1978. In some cases inconsistencies are apparent in the courses approved to date. As the program develops these should be ironed out.

<u>Certificate No.</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Sponsor/Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Assigned CEC</u>
77-12	Air Sampling	Rio Grande Chapter Albuquerque, NM	27 Oct 77	1
77-13	Human Health Risk - Estimate for Inhaled Alpha Emitters from Nuclear Fuel Cycles	Rio Grand Chapter Albuquerque, NM	28 Oct 77	1
77-14	Development & Operation of a Radiation Safety Program	North Carolina State University Department of Nuclear Engineering	20-24 Feb 78	10
* 77-15	Medical Use of Radionuclides	Baylor College of Medicine Houston, TX	25-29 Jul 77	8
77-16	Not Issued			
77-17	Short Course in Basic Health Physics	Louisiana State University Baton Rouge, LA	12-16 Dec 77 8-12 May 78	12
77-18	Nuclear Reactor Safety	Louisian State University Baton Rouge, LA	Jan to May 78	28
77-19	Dosimetry Intercomparison Study	Oak Ridge National Laboratory Oak Ridge, TN	13-22 Jul 77	14
77-20	Electron Linear Accelerators in Radiation Therapy	Amer. Assoc. in Physicists in Medicine - Univ of Col Med Ctr Denver, CO	27-29 78	7
77-21	The Physics of Clinical Nuclear Medicine	Univ of KY (AAPM Summer School)	25-29 Jul 77	10
77-22	Workshop on Personnel Neutron Dosimetry	ERDA Washington, D. C.	11-12 Jul 77	8
77-23	Symposium on Transportation Safety & Accident Experience	East Tennessee & North Carolina Oak Ridge, TN	30 Sep & 1 Oct 77	2

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<u>Certificate No.</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Sponsor/Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Assigned CEC</u>
77-24	Emergency Care of Radiation Injuries (Symposium)	Connecticut Chapter, HPS New Haven, CT	14 Oct 77	5
* 77-25	Health Physics in Radiation Accidents	Oak Ridge Associated Universities Oak Ridge, TN	24-28 Jan 77	17
77-26	DVSRS Health Physics Training/ Refresher Course	Delaware Valley Society for Radiation Safety Philadelphia, PA	1/17 - 5/23/77	25
77-27	National Waste Terminal Storage Program Siting Nuclear Facilities	North Carolina Chapter, HPS Raleigh, NC	11-12 Mar 77	2
77-28	Biological Effects of Microwaves	North Carolina Chapter, HPS Raleigh, NC	20-21 May 77	4
77-29	Safety in the Transportation of Radioactive Materials	North Carolina Chapter, HPS Raleigh, NC	30 Sep - 1 Oct 77	2
77-30	Pending			
77-31	Health Physics Certification Review	University of Lowell Lowell, MA	12-16 Jun 78	25

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78-1	Pending			
78-2	Health Physics Certification Course	Georgia Institute of Technology Atlanta, GA	29 May - 9 Jun 78	30
78-3	Current ALARA/ALAP Concepts in Radiation Protection	Brookhaven National Laboratory Upton, NY	17 May 78	4
78-4	Planning for Nuclear Emergencies	Harvard School of Public Health Boston, MA	8-12 May 78	26
78-5	Environmental Radiation Surveillance	Harvard School of Public Health Boston, MA	5-9 Jun 78	23