

American Board Of Health Physics

November 1, 1973

Dear Colleague:

As the American Board of Health Physics approaches its 15th anniversary, we can look back with pride on its accomplishments and should look ahead to ensure the viability of the certification program.

ABHP certification is generally recognized by government and industry to indicate that the diplomate has completed required study and professional experience and has passed an examination to test his competence. Manifestations of this recognition are numerous. Some employers are including ABHP certification as a requisite for senior positions. Certain regulatory and governmental organizations consider a CHP to be a "qualified expert" in health physics.

Perhaps the greatest benefit of the ABHP certification is that it establishes criteria of professional competence and conduct. It can be argued that these criteria are essential for a profession and without them, the professional status of the specialists is ambiguous.

Some aspects of the ABHP program need improvement. It is desirable to have a Registry of Certified Health Physicists that would list CHP's who are active in the field and are fulfilling the responsibilities due the profession. Although 600 health physicists have been certified, an unknown number of them are now in other fields. The first Annual Registry will be prepared in the spring of 1974. It would be available to organizations seeking CHP's as employees or consultants and governmental organizations required to verify credentials. The Health Physics Society and other associations represented on the ABHP will be asked to include the Registry in their membership handbooks.

The ABHP is requesting a subscription of \$10 from each Certified Health Physicist to assist in meeting the costs of the certification program and to support the preparation of the Annual Registry. The financial status of the Board was reviewed in the July issue of the Health Physics Society Newsletter. The anticipated income from the subscriptions and the recently increased fee for applicants will provide the necessary funds for the Board to maintain the high quality of the certification program. It is expected that a subscription of \$10 will have to be requested each year at least through 1975. Thereafter, it may be reduced or even eliminated, depending on the financial position of the Board.

All CHP's who complete and return the enclosed form will be listed in the 1974 Registry. Each subscriber will be acknowledged in the Registry.

November 1, 1973

A diplomate who does not return the completed form and, therefore, is not listed in the Registry will retain his certificate and will continue to be designated as a Certified Health Physicist. However, CHP's not listed in the Registry may be asked to verify that they are fulfilling the Professional Responsibilities of Certified Health Physicists (see enclosed form), which is required for the continuance of certification.

Your support and cooperation will be important in helping the Board to carry out and improve the certification program.

Sincerely yours,



W. C. Reinig
Secretary-Treasurer

WCR:sm
Enc.