

The CHP Corner, May 2022

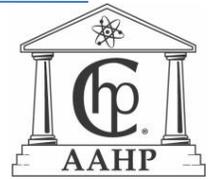
For CHPs, aspiring CHPs, and anyone else on the bell curve.



The American Academy of Health Physics

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AAHP SPECIAL SESSION AT THE JULY HPS MEETING IN SPOKANE

Scott Schwahn, CHP, AAHP Past President

Join us for our upcoming session, “The System of Radiological Protection”, at the Health Physics Society’s Annual Meeting Tuesday, July 19th, and Wednesday, July 20th. This session will be Co-Chaired by Scott Schwahn, AAHP’s Past President, and Christopher Clement, Scientific Secretary of the ICRP.

We’re excited to have a great lineup of industry leaders from organizations including Nuclear Protection Evaluation Centre, M.H. Chew & Associates, Inc., Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, CRCPD, U.S. Department of Energy, National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, IRPA, and International Commission on Radiological Protection.

HISTORY OF THE LINEAR NO-THRESHOLD MODEL: EARN CECS!

Dan Sowers, CHP, CHP Corner Editor

Great news! Not only should CHPs view HPS’ fascinating and informative [History of the Linear No-Threshold Model](#) video series for their edification, but 10 continuing education credits can be earned by watching all 22 episodes. Use preapproval lookup code 2022-04-21-185 after viewing the series. In keeping with the theme of transparency and as is offered with the peer review process, submit comments or suggested edits to FactCheck@hps.org, and be sure to include your sources. If you’re not a member of the HPS and would like to join, follow [this link](#).

SAVE THE DATE! CEC WORKSHOPS IN SPOKANE

Michael Canino, AAHP Executive Director

If you are planning to attend the HPS Annual Meeting this summer in Spokane, be sure to arrange an early arrival to take advantage of the AAHP-hosted CEC workshops on Saturday, July 16 at 8:00 am PT. The CEC workshops offer a great opportunity for in-person education and networking with other AAHP members in advance of the main event. Attendees will have the option to select from two 8-hour workshops or a 4-hour workshop. Those who complete the workshops will earn 2 CECS per hour towards their CHP recertification.

Anticipated topics include:

- 8-Hour: “Key Aspects of Radiological and Nuclear Emergency Response and Recovery”
- 8-Hour: “FRMAC AS50 Assessment Science Overview”
- 4-Hour: “Introductory Radiation Epidemiology and Biostatistics”

Separate registration will be required for these workshops and will be available through AAHP directly. These courses are not part of the HPS Annual Meeting program. Registration will be available shortly on the AAHP website.

AAHP NOTICE: VOTE TODAY!

Cast Your Vote Today! The 2022 election for AAHP officers is officially open until Thursday, May 26th. The ballot and detailed instructions are located on the [AAHP “Members Only” website](#), along with information on the candidates.

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CHPS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Dan Sowers, CHP, CHP Corner Editor

I recently had the opportunity to interview some of the folks who passed last year's ABHP exam. Although the passing rate was below the historical average, for the most part the story our newest CHPs told leading to their success was one I have heard before: spouse and family support for time spent studying, mentor support and guidance, and a whole lot of discipline to stick with their study plans. Meet May's CHPs in the Spotlight: Emily Caffrey, Tyler Cantrell, Lainy Cochran, Jessica Joyce, and Charles Wilson!

Emily, University of Alabama at Birmingham's Health Physics program director and the HPS' Ask the Experts Editor in Chief, pursued certification because it's "the pinnacle of [her] education."

Tyler emphasized the importance of breaking down the study materials into bite-sized chunks to avoid feeling overwhelmed. He also leads the Discord group to participate in group discussions or ask questions. As most of us would agree, he asserts, "Sometimes talking about something is enough to answer your own questions."

Lainy, from her desk at Sandia National Labs, recalls from a young age having an interest in nuclear science. It motivated her, she affirms, being surrounded by peers at Sandia who are certified, including, no pressure, the AAHP's current president.

Jessica was inspired to pursue certification because she's surrounded by passionate health physicists who continue to speak highly about their field and the value of certification. She thanks several folks with holding her accountable for finishing each week's study material and goal.

Charles, a perpetual optimist, offers this advice: "For anyone doubting themselves, this test covers a lot of information, but you can do it. It just takes a lot of work." Like Lainy, Charles had encouragement from his major professor, Wei-Hsung Wang, prior ABHP chair.

The group calculates between 200 and 500 hours were spent studying and preparing for the exams. They worked prior exams over video calls on the weekends and on their own. They communicated with and encouraged each other. They held each other accountable. The test and the certification process, they agree, "isn't just another class in college. It's OUR field. It isn't just about passing [the exams] but becoming better health physicists."

Mentorship, this group agrees, is the key to success in becoming certified, and more holistically, the key to success as a health physicist. The study plans, hours put forth, and connection to other peers they agree led to success; ultimately, they just did what their mentors told them to do, and a lot of it. Cheers to May's CHPs in the Spotlight: Emily, Tyler, Lainy, Jessica, and Charles!

INTRODUCING NEW ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Kyle Underwood, CHP, CHP Corner Associate Editor

I am excited to be working with fellow Boilermaker Dan Sowers as Associate Editor of the CHP Corner! I appreciate the work that Mike Zittle has done in the past and I look forward to being able to help draw attention to the important issues being addressed in our field by Academy members.

I have worked at Mayo Clinic for the past seven years and am pursuing my Ph.D. in Environmental Health at the University of Minnesota. I earned my undergraduate degree in Physics from Ball State University, my master's degree in Nuclear Engineering and Radiological Health Sciences from Purdue University, and achieved board certification in 2020.

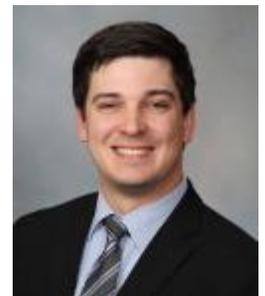


Photo courtesy of Kyle Underwood