

AAPM NEWSLETTER

May/June 2025 | Volume 50, No. 3



Special Interest Feature:
Women's Professional Subcommittee Report

IN THIS ISSUE:

- ▶ Chair of the Board's Report
- ▶ AAPM Summer School Subcommittee Report
- ▶ Chapter Report
- ▶ MPPG Update
- ▶ Report of the Innovations in QA Specialty Meeting
- ▶ Report From Academy 2025 CECIP Members, Sponsored by AAPM Research Committee
- ▶ ...and more!



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AAPM is located at 1631 Prince Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

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Jennifer Pursley, PhD, Editor

Assistant Professor
Mayo Clinic Radiation Oncology
200 First St SW
Rochester, MN 55905
507-284-2511
newsletter@aapm.org

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

To keep all reports uniform, we kindly request that submissions be made through a [QuestionPro](#) portal.

Questions? Contact [Nancy Vazquez](#)

PUBLISHING SCHEDULE

The AAPM Newsletter is produced bi-monthly.

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CORPORATE AFFILIATE ADVERTISING

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EDITOR'S NOTE

I welcome all readers to send me any suggestions or comments on any of the articles or features to assist me in making the AAPM Newsletter a more effective and engaging publication and to enhance the overall readership experience. Thank you.

All articles appearing in this newsletter are expressions of the authors' own personal views and are not a reflection of the views of their places of employment or of AAPM.



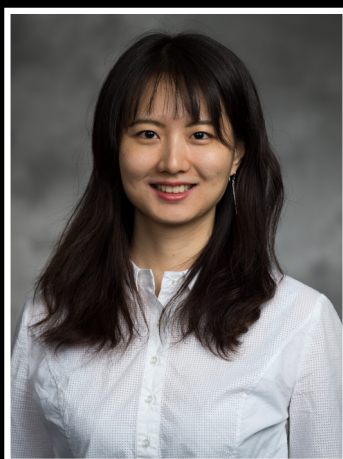
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
of PHYSICISTS IN MEDICINE

Congratulations!

to the 2024-2025 class of the
AAPM Science Council Associates Mentorship Program



Daniel Alexander, PhD
University of Pennsylvania
Mentor: Issam M. El Naqa, PhD
Moffitt Cancer Center



Sunan Cui, PhD
University of Washington
Mentor: Olivier Morin, PhD,
University of California
San Francisco



Soleil Hernandez, PhD
**University of Colorado Anschutz
Medical Campus**
Mentor: Chuck Mayo, PhD, FAAPM,
FASTRO, University of Michigan



Emily Hewson, PhD
The University of Sydney
Mentor: X. Sharon Qi, PhD
UCLA School of Medicine



Sudharsan Madhavan, PhD
**Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center**
Mentor: Martha Matuszak, PhD,
FAAPM, University of Michigan



Claire Park, PhD
Harvard Medical School
Mentor: Laura I. Cervino, PhD
Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center



Emily Thompson, PhD
MD Anderson Cancer Center
Mentor: Ingrid S. Reiser, PhD
The University of Chicago



Zi Yang, PhD
Stanford University
Mentor: Kristy Brock, PhD, FAAPM,
UT MD Anderson Cancer Center

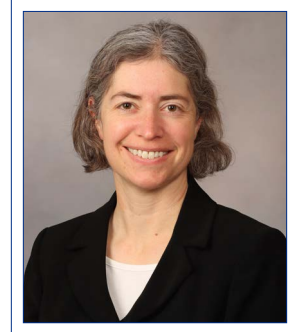
Spring Break and Spring Meetings

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT

Welcome to the May/June edition of the 2025 AAPM Newsletter. As I write this, school spring breaks around the country are either wrapping up or just starting, and the AAPM Spring Clinical Meeting in Henderson, NV, also recently concluded. It looked like a great meeting with an interesting program, and I hope everyone is looking forward to next year's meeting in Orlando, FL. Next up on the AAPM meeting schedule is the MR Physics Summer School from June 19–24, and the Annual Meeting from July 27–30. You'll find more information about these meetings on the AAPM website and in the *Newsletter*!

The Special Interest Group for this issue of the *Newsletter* is the Women's Professional Subcommittee. Check out the articles in that section, which range from a feature on AAPM President-Elect **Robin Miller** to a discussion on mentorship and its impact. If you are interested in participating in outreach efforts, see the article on Medical Physics Outreach for instructions on how to add this interest to your AAPM Speaker index entry! Other reports in this issue include an update from the Annual Meeting Subcommittee on keynote speakers and exhibitor highlights, and a report on the recent AAPM Innovations in QA Specialty Meeting, along with many other topics.

Please enjoy this issue of the *Newsletter* and send us your feedback and ideas for the future. Our goal is to keep the AAPM *Newsletter* relevant and interesting to everyone who wants to learn what's happening in medical physics. We're always interested in submissions and suggestions from AAPM members, which can be submitted directly through the link on the [Newsletter page](#). And as always, please share the articles you enjoy with your social media network; the *Newsletter* is available for all to read. I hope everyone is looking forward to the start of summer! ■



Jennifer Pursley, PhD
Mayo Clinic



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
of PHYSICISTS IN MEDICINE

Congratulations!

to the 2024-2025 class of the
AAPM International Council Associates Mentorship Program



Kricia Ruano Espinoza, MS
West Physics
Mentor: Izabella Barreto, PhD
University of Florida
College of Medicine



Mary Gronberg, PhD
UT Southwestern Medical Center
Mentor:
Ana Maria Marques da Silva, DSc
University of Sao Paulo and
Medical Imaging & Data
Analytics (MEDIIMA)



Kai Huang, PhD
**University of Maryland
Medical Center**
Mentor: Manju Sharma, PhD
University of California,
San Francisco



Williams Igoniye, MS
**University of Port Harcourt
Teaching Hospital**
Mentor: Afua Yorke, PhD
University of Washington
Medical Center



Ikechi Ozoemelum, PhD
University of Michigan
Mentor: Laurence Court, PhD
UT MD Anderson Cancer Center



William Swanson, PhD
Weill Cornell Medicine
Mentor:
Magdalena Bazalova-Carter, PhD
University of Victoria

AAPM: A Bold Vision for the Future of Medical Physics

CHAIR OF THE BOARD'S REPORT

As we look ahead this year, I want to remind our members of the ambitious and future-forward strategic plan that will guide the American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM) over the coming years. This plan was shaped with thoughtful input from across our membership and lays out four primary strategic priorities that will ensure we remain a dynamic, relevant, and impactful organization:

1. **Advance the Contributions of Medical Physics:** This priority focuses on sustaining and advocating for the current roles of medical physicists in healthcare, while also expanding into new clinical domains and technologies where our expertise can further enhance patient care.
2. **Advance New Computational Technologies:** AAPM is committed to preparing our community to embrace emerging computational tools, including artificial intelligence, data science, and modeling, so we can stay at the forefront of innovation in medicine.
3. **Improve Health Equity:** We are committed to promoting equitable access to medical physics services. This includes strengthening the training and development of a diverse workforce and ensuring our services reach underserved communities.
4. **Enhance Organizational Sustainability:** AAPM is transforming its operations and governance to enable members to focus more on science and clinical practice by streamlining processes and improving organizational agility.

To accelerate progress on our first strategic priority, we are planning a high-impact summit in early 2026 dedicated to creating actionable strategies that will define the next decade of medical physics. The summit will include three focused tracks:

- **AI/Computational Science**
- **Theranostics**
- **Frontiers of Physics**

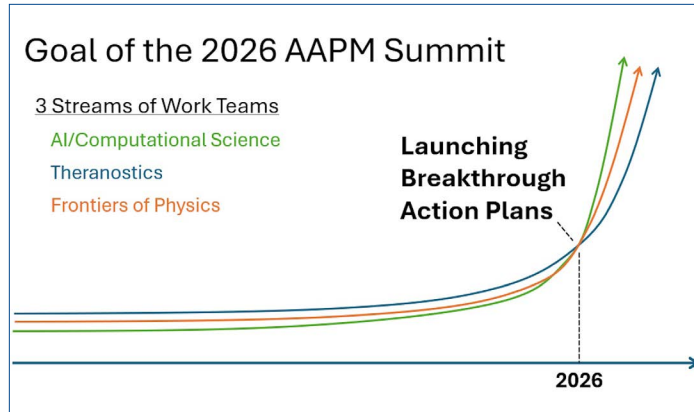
These tracks will be examined through three interrelated perspectives: science, workforce, and industry. The overarching goal of this summit is to reexamine our professions from the ground up — and to identify transformative breakthroughs that can propel medical physics to its fullest potential over the next 5–10 years.

We are thrilled that many AAPM members have agreed to serve on the planning teams. These teams will kick off their work in early April 2025 and will meet monthly to build the content and structure of the summit. They'll also work to engage thought leaders and stakeholders beyond the medical physics community, ensuring that our efforts are bold, collaborative, and future-focused. We plan to begin sharing more details with our members by this summer, as momentum builds toward this landmark event.



Todd Pawlicki, PhD
UC San Diego

CHAIR OF THE BOARD'S REPORT, Cont.



Remember that the AAPM Board of Directors approved the creation of the **Medical Physics Institute (MPI)** in 2023. This initiative was proposed by Task Group No. 376 and was initially funded with an allocation of up to \$200,000 from reserves. The MPI was established to provide early assessment and guidance on emerging technologies, with the long-term goal of achieving budget neutrality and ultimately generating revenue for the association. Looking ahead, the MPI is poised for a year of exciting development. The MPI Board is finalizing the statement of work and contracts for its first project, with two to three additional projects currently under consideration. The MPI Board meets monthly to review new partnership opportunities and to shape the institute's evolving role within and beyond AAPM.

To mark its formal launch, MPI will host a special event on Sunday during our 2025 Annual Meeting in Washington DC. This will be an exciting milestone that establishes MPI as a dynamic connector between industry and the AAPM community. Members interested in participating in MPI projects should keep an eye out for committee-classified postings. These expert consultants will contribute authoritative opinions and supporting data to guide deliverables. Early guidance documents developed by these panels may also shape or support future AAPM Task Group Reports.

Two additional initiatives reflect AAPM's forward-looking commitment to advocacy and collaboration as spearheaded by our 2025 President **M Mahesh**:

First, the **importance of advocacy** has become even more critical in 2025. With the healthcare landscape evolving rapidly, the voice of medical physicists must be represented in discussions around regulation, funding, and clinical policy. Our advocacy work ensures that our profession continues to thrive and that patient care benefits from the essential role we play. We urge members to get involved — your voice is powerful, and your engagement makes a difference.

Second, AAPM will **welcome four major society presidents** to the 2025 President's Symposium at this year's Annual Meeting: leaders from ACR, ASTRO, SNMMI, and RSNA. This unprecedented gathering will spark meaningful dialogue and collaboration, strengthen our inter-society relationships, and promote mutually beneficial initiatives that enhance the entire community.

As we look forward to a transformative 2025 leading into 2026, AAPM is building momentum across all fronts. With a strategic plan grounded in purpose, a groundbreaking summit on the horizon, an expanding Medical Physics Institute, and renewed energy in advocacy and collaboration, we are laying the foundation for a stronger, more innovative, and more impactful future for medical physics.

As Chair of the Board this year, I look forward to working with all of you on this journey. Stay engaged, stay inspired, and together we will advance the science, practice, and influence of medical physics. ■

Updates on Impact of Federal Funding and Policy Shifts on Associations and Our Technology Transformation

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Recent Federal actions are having an impact on the broader association community. I'd like to share with you some recent research on what that looks like and what it might mean for our Association. I'll also provide an update on the ongoing transformation of our technology infrastructure, highlighting the steps we're taking to enhance your experience and better support our mission.

Federal Policy Impacts

Some associations are experiencing headwinds due to new Federal policies impacting funding for medical research, limits on Federal scientists participating in conferences and publications, and ongoing reductions-in-force (RIFs) in many agencies. Large tariffs and new policies on border enforcement and immigration appear to be causing reactions around the world that may lead to less engagement with US-based organizations. Many organizations are also reviewing their policies and programs that relate broadly to diversity, equity, and inclusion in reaction to new Executive Orders focused on those types of programs.

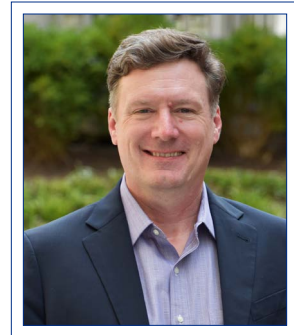
An American Society of Association Executive snap poll in mid-March indicated about half of respondents were experiencing negative impacts on their operations from the above factors, as shown by negative pressure on membership, exhibits, and sponsorship. ("Financial and Mission Impact of the Federal Funding and Policy Shifts on Associations", *ASAE Insight Update*, ASAE, March 2025.)

Given this level of uncertainty and change, what is the impact on AAPM so far?

Our member renewal season closed in March with an elevated number of lapsed members compared to recent years. While this may be due in part to new Federal policies, RIFs, and geopolitical dynamics, we also had our own technology issues that limited the ability to renew at various times that may have contributed as well. More on that below.

Our recently completed Spring Clinical Meeting had over 400 attendees, beating its budgeted target. While we have yet to complete analysis of attendee feedback, in my experience the meeting was vibrant with networking, full sessions rooms, and a very active exhibit hall. Summer School registration is ongoing and is also off to a strong start. As of this writing, the [2025 Annual Meeting & Exhibition](#) registration has just opened, and we will closely monitor our performance as we build toward July.

AAPM is conducting a review of our DEI-related policies and programs to identify where we may have risk as it relates to the new Executive Orders. This



C. David Gammel
Executive Director, AAPM HQ

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT, Cont.

will help us assess changes we should consider making to manage that risk while maintaining our commitment to being a welcoming and inclusive organization for everyone.

For now, AAPM appears to be experiencing relatively minor impact from these issues as compared to other organizations that are more fully focused on research and academia or Federal employees. We will continue to monitor policy changes and trends as the year progresses.

We are working with individual members who are impacted by these policy changes to maintain their engagement with AAPM. If you are impacted and would like to discuss options, I encourage you to get in touch with me at dgammel@aapm.org.

Advocating for Medical Physics

These are challenging times in an unpredictable environment. However, as you can read in this month's column by Chair of the Board **Todd Pawlicki**, we have a lot of activity going on to map out the future breakthroughs and pathways for medical physics. We, as your Association, are champions for the future of the discipline.

We are also ramping up our capability to advocate on behalf of medical physics, including our first ever [Advocacy Hill Day](#) at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, this July. It will be an opportunity to support the value of our discipline and speak out in favor of medicine, science, and the important position of physics in that enterprise. AAPM has signed onto several letters with other organizations in the biomedical research space to support robust funding for federal research agencies including indirect costs. You can access tools to contact your members of Congress by visiting [AAPM's VoterVoice site](#). Additionally, **President Mahesh's** Presidential Symposium will focus on advocacy and medical physics.

Technology Infrastructure Transformation

In my last column I mentioned some of the improvements we have planned for our online content, e-commerce, and volunteer and community tools and services. While our vision of the future is bright and I remain highly confident in our ability to provide much improved services, we do have critical and complicated work to achieve first.

AAPM's technology stack suffers from a problem described very well in this post on [O'Reilly Radar](#). As described in the post, once AAPM began to rely on custom software, it in essence became a software development company, bringing all the attendant costs and risks that come with that reality. While AAPM is an excellent association, it has not had the scale and expertise to be a great software developer. Important modernization work was pushed off into the future over the course of many years. We are now addressing those shortfalls and moving to off-the-shelf software with the help of our expert partners.

As we go on this journey of transformation, we anticipated running into some challenges. That has been the case as many of you may have experienced during our membership renewal campaign. You have my apologies for those interruptions. We are doing everything we can to avoid and minimize these issues and I humbly ask for your patience as we continue to unwind and rebuild.

Going forward, what can you expect from us over the course of this year and beyond?

- We will make improvements to our current web site to enhance navigation and findability of key content and functions.
- We will continue to migrate key online functionality to best-in-class hosted providers, including dues renewal, volunteer operations/community, elections, and others.
- We will relaunch the stalled redesign of the complete AAPM website, which will take 12 to 18 months from beginning to completion.

For those of you who are active volunteers, you can expect some of our processes and interfaces to change in our main volunteer tools. We will limit customizations to these systems and work with them how they are best designed to operate. This will speed the transition, manage our costs, and make future upgrades and improvements seamless and relatively easy. Our staff liaisons will work closely with you as we prepare for those transitions, and we will offer training and orientation opportunities on the new systems for our volunteers.

Overall, these updates will provide you a more effective suite of tools supporting your volunteer work while putting us on a sustainable technology pathway.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT, Cont.

Finally, as mentioned in the O'Reilly article above, as our team becomes expert at sourcing, managing, and integrating off the shelf solutions, this will position us well to layer in AI-enhanced tools into our technology stack to provide improved services and value to our members.

In Summary

AAPM's vision is to improve health through medical physics. I, and our HQ team, remain committed to your success as medical physicists making critical contributions to the safe

and accurate diagnosis and treatment of patients. Please rely on AAPM as your resource, network, and champion as we navigate the coming months and years ahead together. We will continue to improve our infrastructure and services to give you a high-value member experience that advances your work and career.

I look forward to seeing you in Washington, DC, for the AAPM 67th Annual Meeting & Exhibition, July 27–30! ■



Join us for AAPM's inaugural in-person

AAPM
ADVOCACY
DAY 2025
July 31
Washington, DC

This is an opportunity for members interested in supporting AAPM's advocacy agenda of expanding awareness of medical physics, enhancing policies that support the medical physicist workforce and education opportunities, and to highlight the need for continued federal investment in scientific research.



Advocacy Day participants will receive Hill meeting training, will be formed into meeting teams, and will have meetings scheduled to engage directly with congressional offices.



AAPM members can learn more and register here.



2025

AAPM

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICISTS IN MEDICINE

Medical Physicists to Take Action — Inaugural Advocacy Day and More

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS REPORT

Let Your Voice Be Heard: Join AAPM's First-Ever Advocacy Day

AAPM is proud to launch its inaugural [Advocacy Day](#) on Thursday, July 31, 2025, immediately following the AAPM Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. This in-person event is a major milestone for our organization and an important opportunity to raise the visibility of medical physics on Capitol Hill.

Participants will be organized into small teams and meet directly with congressional offices to advocate for policies that support our profession, enhance education and workforce development, and promote continued investment in scientific research. These meetings will serve as a starting point to advance our shared mission and values by forming valuable relationships between our AAPM members and policymakers.

To prepare, all attendees will receive in-person training and meet their fellow advocates on Wednesday, July 30, from 1:00 to 5:00 pm at the Marriott Marquis Washington, DC. The afternoon training will be followed by a networking reception. Participants will also receive webinar trainings in advance, advocacy materials, and support from AAPM's Government Relations team.

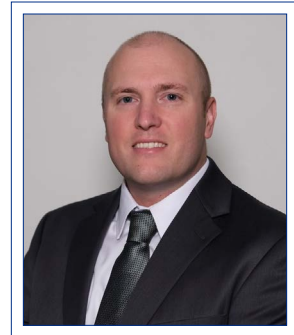
Additionally, there are sponsorship opportunities for AAPM members who may need financial support to participate. See our [Grants and Fellowships](#) page for more details.

Developing AAPM's First Advocacy Agenda

This year has brought unique challenges and unpredictability across the federal landscape, marked by executive actions and a departure from standard policy processes. In this environment, AAPM's Government Relations team has remained active — often working through coalition effort — on behalf of the medical physics community.

To guide our approach and clarify when to lead or support a particular effort, AAPM has developed its first-ever Advocacy Agenda. This document was crafted through an inclusive process led by the [Government and Regulatory Affairs Committee](#) (GRAC), with input from AAPM councils, committees, and leadership. It aligns with AAPM's [Strategic Plan](#) and will help us focus our efforts where they can have the greatest impact — whether leading on issues unique to our profession, supporting partner organizations, or monitoring developments for timely action.

By the time this article is published, the Advocacy Agenda will hopefully have been approved by AAPM's Board of Directors. It will also shape our key talking points for Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill. At the time of writing this article, our primary draft goals include increasing awareness of our field, building a robust workforce, moving towards consistent state regulations, and enhancing support for medical physics across federal agencies. ■



David Crowley
Senior Government Relations Manager,
AAPM HQ

Get Involved — We Need You!

Whether you're new to advocacy or a seasoned voice, there are many ways to contribute:

- **Register for [Advocacy Day](#)** on July 31 in Washington, DC.
- **Take action** online via our [Take-Action](#) page.
- **Volunteer with CHAMPS** to support state-level advocacy.
- **Join on a committee**, as a volunteer or a guest, such as [GRAC](#) or [ECON](#), or in sub-groups like [WGPVAC](#), [CRCPDS](#), [JMLPSC](#), or [GRPSC](#).

Your involvement is vital to advancing our shared mission and making the voice of medical physicists heard where it matters most.

For questions or suggestions on our advocacy work, please reach out to: david@aapm.org.

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Get Ready for AAPM 2025 — Exciting Keynotes & Exhibitor Highlights!

ANNUAL MEETING SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Greetings from the AMSC! Our highly anticipated Annual Meeting is just around the corner, and we couldn't be more thrilled! We're putting the final touches on the invited and proffered sessions, ensuring an unforgettable experience for all attendees. Mark your calendars: abstract dispositions will be available by the end of April, and the final meeting program will be released at the beginning of May.

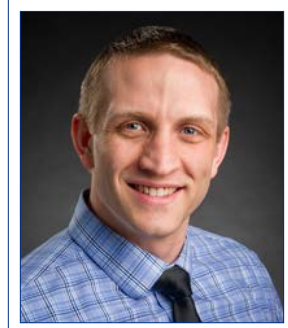
The 67th Annual Meeting, ***Coming Together to Forge Ahead in Medical Physics***, will kick off on Sunday, July 27th and wrap up on Wednesday, July 30. Get ready for full-day sessions from Sunday through Tuesday, with the final session ending on Wednesday at 4:00 PM. This year, we're making history with not one, but **two Keynote sessions!** These sessions will bring us together as a society to hear from two luminaries in our field, setting the tone for an inspiring and impactful meeting.

Opening Keynote Session

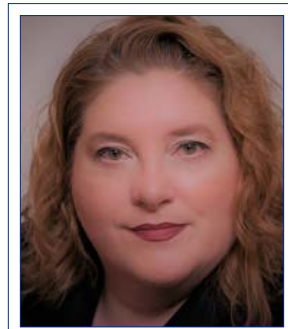


We're excited to introduce our opening keynote speaker, **Dr. Georgia Tourassi, PhD**. Dr. Tourassi is a distinguished scientist and leader in computational sciences, currently serving as the Associate Laboratory Director for Computing and Computational Sciences at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL). With a career spanning cutting-edge research in AI, biomedical informatics, and high-performance computing, Dr. Tourassi has been a driving force in advancing computational methodologies for scientific discovery and national security.

Her groundbreaking work in medical imaging, machine learning, and data analytics, particularly in cancer research and healthcare innovation, has positioned her as a leading voice at the intersection of computing and medicine. Dr. Tourassi's visionary approach and dedication to innovation continue to shape the future of computational research, making her an influential figure in both scientific and technological communities.



Samuel L. Brady, PhD
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center



Deborah L. Schofield, PhD
UT MD Anderson Cancer Center

ANNUAL MEETING SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT, Cont.

Closing Keynote Session



For our closing session, we're honored to welcome **Dr. Anthony Chang, PhD**. Dr. Chang is a pioneering leader in precision medicine and molecular imaging, serving as the Founder and CEO of BAMF Health, the world's largest and most advanced comprehensive theranostics center. His visionary approach to integrating AI,

molecular imaging, and targeted radionuclide therapy is revolutionizing personalized medicine, enhancing patient outcomes in oncology, neurology, and beyond.

Under Dr. Chang's leadership, BAMF Health has become a global leader in theranostics, combining diagnostic imaging with targeted therapy for precision treatment. His work focuses on harnessing AI-driven analytics and state-of-the-art imaging technologies to advance early disease detection and individualized treatment strategies. Dr. Chang's dedication to innovation and patient-centered solutions continues to shape the future of precision medicine, establishing BAMF Health as a global hub for next-generation healthcare advancements.

Exhibitor Highlights — Don't Miss Out!

After Sunday's Opening Keynote, join us for the grand exhibit hall opening! This year, the hall will be open from Sunday to Tuesday, offering a dynamic, interactive experience with vendors showcasing cutting-edge products and solutions.

Our popular **Partners in Solutions (PinS)** and **Guided Tours** sessions are back, providing educational overviews and vendor solutions on therapy and diagnostic topics. Explore additional educational offerings throughout the exhibit hall, including **graduate and residency program booths, posters**, and the **Innovation Lounge** — a dedicated space for PinS and vendor showcases. We're also offering a **student-trainee focused tour** to help foster connections between vendors and attendees just starting their careers. Plus, the meeting program now includes a **dedicated vendor programming track**, so you won't miss any exciting content.

Beyond connecting with vendors, the exhibit hall serves as an interactive hub for collaborative exchange. Enjoy lunches and enhanced afternoon breaks daily from Sunday through Tuesday. We're also bringing back the popular photo lounge, where attendees can get a complimentary professional headshot. As always, there will be ample space for networking and reconnecting with old friends and colleagues.

A Special Thank You to Our Sponsors

A huge shoutout to **Sun Nuclear, a Mirion company (booth #5000)**, our inaugural **platinum sponsor**. Their valuable financial support for all three of AAPM's major meetings demonstrates their commitment to our organization. Our exhibitors play a critical role in supporting AAPM and our meetings, so be sure to engage with them during the conference.

We're gearing up for an **unforgettable** Annual Meeting, and we can't wait to see you in Washington, DC! ■

NEW FORMAT!

AAPM 2025

JULY 27–30 | WASHINGTON, DC
67TH ANNUAL MEETING & EXHIBITION



COMING TOGETHER TO FORGE AHEAD IN MEDICAL PHYSICS

#AAPM2025

WE'RE STARTING EARLIER!

The Annual Meeting now kicks off Sunday, July 27 at 8:30 AM — no more late starts. With a streamlined Sunday–Wednesday schedule, you'll get more learning, more connections, and more impact packed into less time. Arrive early and dive in! Here's a quick look at what's new:

SUNDAY 7.27

10:15 AM: *All Day Sessions Start | Early Career/Mentor Lounge Opens*

NEW!

8:30 AM: Keynote Speaker

9:30 AM: Exhibit Hall Opening

12:15 PM: Box Lunch in the Exhibit Hall

3:30 PM: Poster Reception and Visit the Vendors

7:00 PM: Opening Party at the American Museum of American History
(formerly the Night Out)

MONDAY 7.28

7:30 AM: *All Day Sessions Start | Early Career/Mentor Lounge Opens*

10:30 AM: President's Symposium

12:00 PM: Box Lunch in the Exhibit Hall

3:30 PM: Poster Reception and Visit the Vendors

6:30 PM: Awards & Honors Ceremony and Reception
at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center

TUESDAY 7.29

7:30 AM: *All Day Sessions Start | Early Career/Mentor Lounge Opens*

12:15 PM: Box Lunch in the Exhibit Hall

3:30 PM: Poster Reception and Visit the Vendors

5:00 PM: Exhibit Hall Closes

NEW!

7:30 PM: Closing Celebration *(a fundraiser for the E&R Fund at the Marriott Marquis Hotel)*

WEDNESDAY 7.30

7:30 AM: *All Day Sessions Start | Early Career/Mentor Lounge Opens*

NEW!

9:00 AM: Keynote Speaker

THURSDAY 7.31

NEW!

Advocacy Day, Capitol Hill!

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

For more information, go to <https://w4.aapm.org/meetings/2025SS>

2025 AAPM
SUMMER
SCHOOL

CLINICAL MR PHYSICS: State-of-the-Art Practice

University of Denver, Denver, CO

JUNE 19-24

GET
READY!

FOR THE NEW
EARLY CAREER/MENTOR LOUNGE
AT THE 2025 AAPM ANNUAL MEETING & EXHIBITION!

The Early Career/Mentor Lounge is a networking space for student, trainee, and early career members to relax, connect with peers, and take advantage of programming specific to students and trainees.

The lounge will be open Sunday – Wednesday during the 2025 Annual Meeting & Exhibition.



AAPM 2025

JULY 27-30 | WASHINGTON, DC
67TH ANNUAL MEETING & EXHIBITION

COMING TOGETHER TO FORGE AHEAD
IN MEDICAL PHYSICS

Join Us at the 2025 Summer School on Clinical MR Physics: State-of-the-Art Practice!

AAPM SUMMER SCHOOL SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Ready to level up your MR physics knowledge? The American Association of Physicists in Medicine is excited to invite you to the **2025 Summer School on Clinical MR Physics: State-of-the-Art Practice**, happening from **June 19–24, 2025**, at the beautiful **University of Denver**! This is the event for physicists, researchers, and clinicians eager to dive into the ever-evolving world of MR technology.

A Tradition of Excellence, a Future of Innovation

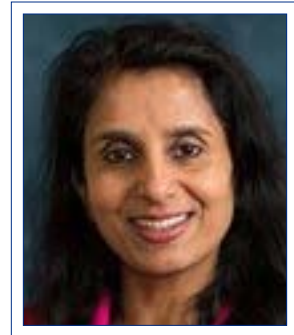
Since 1969, the AAPM Summer School has been the gold standard for education and professional growth in medical physics. The 2025 Summer School continues this legacy, bringing you an exciting blend of cutting-edge knowledge, hands-on experience, and practical insights. With an exclusive AAPM monogram capturing the essence of the event, the proceedings will be an essential reference for MRI students and clinicians for years to come. Whether you're an MR physicist, a therapy physicist, or considering a new MR-Sim or MR-Linac, this is the place to be!

The Ultimate Learning Experience

This year's program is the brainchild of our dynamic directors, **Ho-Ling Anthony Liu** and **Xiahong Joe Zhou**, along with a stellar committee of MR experts: **Trevor John Andrews**, **Samuel A. Einstein**, **Heidi A. Edmonson**, **Lei Qin**, and **R. Jason Stafford**.

Together, they've crafted a comprehensive curriculum spanning **six critical topics** over **four-and-a-half action-packed days**:

- **Essentials of Clinical MR Physics:** Master the basics — spins, signal generation, relaxation, and image formation.
- **Facility Planning and Performance:** Discover how to design and optimize top-tier MR facilities.
- **MR Safety:** Learn the latest safety protocols for today's high-tech MR environments.
- **MR Protocols:** Understand standardized procedures that ensure top-notch imaging.
- **Quantitative and Advanced MR:** Dive deep into advanced imaging techniques and the future of clinical diagnostics.
- **Emerging Technologies:** Get a sneak peek at the innovations that will reshape MR practice.



Vrinda Narayana, PhD
Providence Cancer Center

AAPM SUMMER SCHOOL SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT, Cont.

Why Should You Attend?

- **Cutting-Edge Content:** From AI-powered image reconstruction to the latest safety protocols, you'll stay ahead of the curve.
- **Expert Faculty:** Learn from the best in the field — world-class experts passionate about advancing MR physics.
- **Networking Galore:** Meet peers, leaders, and innovators shaping the future of MR physics.
- **Hands-On Learning:** Experience dynamic sessions that connect theory with real-world application, so you can start using what you learn immediately.
- **Inspiring Venue:** The University of Denver provides a collaborative, stimulating atmosphere to spark your intellectual curiosity.

A Special Touch: The AAPM Monogram Proceedings

This isn't your typical conference! The Summer School publishes its proceedings as an AAPM monogram — a one-of-a-kind collection of insights, research, and best

practices that will serve as an invaluable resource for years to come. Think of it as a legacy of knowledge, capturing the brightest advancements in clinical MR physics!

Register Today

Don't miss your chance to be part of a transformative educational experience, built on decades of excellence and powered by today's trailblazers. Whether you're looking to sharpen your skills, expand your professional network, or help shape the future of MR imaging, the **2025 Summer School on Clinical MR Physics** is where it's happening.

Join us as we honor the past, celebrate the present, and look to the future of MR physics. For more info and to register, check out the [AAPM Summer School webpage](#).

Be part of the innovation — let's shape the future of clinical MR physics together. We can't wait to welcome you to an event that promises to be inspiring, educational, and, yes, a lot of fun! ■

Call for Proposals: AAPM Grand Challenge Sponsorship Opportunity

The AAPM Working Group on Grand Challenges (WGGC) is now accepting proposals from those wishing to organize a scientific Grand Challenge! The WGGC will identify a proposal that merits sponsorship (some financial support is available) and assist the organizers in moving forward with the Challenge. The timeline for a proposed Challenge should allow for the conduct and conclusion of the Challenge before the Summer 2026 AAPM Annual Meeting. One member each from the Organizing team, the winning participant team and the runner-up participant team will be awarded complimentary AAPM Annual Meeting registration to attend in-person, where they will present at a dedicated Challenge session and to be honored at the Awards & Honors Ceremony.

Deadline for submission is 5:00 PM EDT Friday, August 1, 2025. [More details and the proposal form can be found here.](#)

Competition is the fuel that ignites innovation, we look forward to working with you!

Special Interest Feature: Women's Professional Subcommittee

FEATURED PHYSICIST: ROBIN MILLER, MS, DABR, FAAPM, AAPM PRESIDENT-ELECT

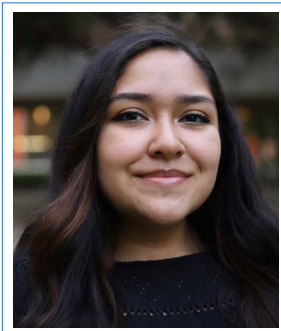
Alyssa Alvarez, DMP | Northwest Medical Physics Center

"The best advice I can offer a rookie physicist is to start by finding a mentor. As you grow, seek additional mentors who can guide you in different areas of your development. It is acceptable, even encouraged, to have more than one mentor. Identify goals or gaps, then search for mentors with that experience and expertise."



Robin Miller, MS, DABR, FAAPM, is a member of the Northwest Medical Physics Center (NMPC) and serves as Chief Physicist at Kaiser Permanente Capitol Hill Campus in Seattle, WA. She is also a Fellow of AAPM, a distinction awarded to members who have made significant contributions to the organization.

Robin has a long and distinguished history of professional service, making it challenging to summarize within the constraints of this article. For those interested, a comprehensive record of her service can be found under her profile in the AAPM directory under the [History of Service](#) tab.



Notably, she has served as President of both the Northwest and Southeast AAPM chapters and currently holds the role of President-Elect of AAPM — just a few highlights among her many leadership positions.

I have had the privilege of working with Robin through both NMPC and Kaiser since 2023. Over this time, I have come to deeply value her mentorship, admire her numerous contributions to AAPM, and find continuous inspiration in her dedication to leadership in medical physics. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to ask Robin about what led her to the field, her motivation for stepping into leadership roles, and her advice for young physicists and future medical physics leaders.

What led you to Medical Physics?

Becoming a medical physicist was, in many ways, a happy accident. After graduating from Vanderbilt University with a double major in Biomedical Engineering and Mathematics, I had no clear career path. Fortunately, I was introduced to **Don Frey**, a medical physicist at the Medical University of South Carolina in Radiology and

Nuclear Medicine. I started as a volunteer intern and was lucky to be hired soon after. I spent my time shadowing radiology residents, testing equipment, and absorbing as much knowledge as possible. After a few years, I continued my journey at the University of Kentucky, where I applied my experience in Radiology and expanded my expertise to include radiation oncology under the guidance of **Charley Coffey**.

Who were your mentors, and what impact did they have on your career?

Don Frey and **Charley Coffey** were my formative mentors, shaping my understanding of what it means to be a medical physicist. Early in my career, **Bruce Curran**, then the AAPM secretary, invited me to my first AAPM leadership reception. Recently out of graduate school, I was in awe, surrounded by icons of the field — many of whom had authored my textbooks. Yet, each person I met was approachable and willing to engage. That evening taught me a valuable lesson: I could always reach out to a fellow medical physicist, and more often than not, they would be willing to discuss any topic and be supportive.

I've been asked why I don't mention any women mentors. While many accomplished women have shaped the field of medical physics, I had little exposure to female mentors early in my career simply due to circumstance. However, from a peer mentorship

FEATURED PHYSICIST, Cont.

perspective, I've been fortunate to have many incredible women colleagues whom I deeply admire and respect. This network has been more than just professional support — they have been mentors, trusted advisors, and valued friends.

How long have you been an AAPM member and what led you to get involved in AAPM?

I have been an AAPM member for over 25 years but less than 50 years. Insider tip: how do you determine how long someone has been an AAPM member? In the member's profile, on the *membership tab*, you can see when a member (or yourself!) joined AAPM and when they became a Full Member.

What I shared as part of my presidential election bio: Early in my career, I attended a town hall meeting where I listened intently to the voices of seasoned professionals with decades of experience. It struck me that many of the decisions being debated and ultimately made were by physicists approaching retirement. These decisions would profoundly impact my career, shaping the opportunities and choices ahead,



Robin on course for an auto cross event

while having little bearing on theirs. This realization was the catalyst that spurred me to get involved with the AAPM.

What advice do you have for young physicists and future leaders, especially women?

The best advice I can offer a rookie physicist is to start by finding a mentor. As you grow, seek additional mentors who can guide you in different areas of your development. It is acceptable, even encouraged, to have more than one mentor. Identify goals or gaps, then search for mentors with that experience and expertise.

The next logical question is: well, how do I do that? AAPM has a [mentorship platform](#) available to any member. Joining an AAPM committee as a guest is a valuable opportunity to observe and connect with other physicists who may align with your interests. Additionally, participating and attending chapter meetings provides another excellent avenue for networking and discovering like-minded professionals. I recommend following the Women's Professional Subcommittee (WPSC), joining the WPSC Women Who Coffee and Curie, and attending the Women's Luncheon at the AAPM Annual Meeting. You might consider creating your own local medical physicist networking group.

What are your interests and hobbies outside of medical physics?

My colleague and friend, **Rex Ayers**, introduced me to autocross, a type of car racing, soon after I joined Northwest Medical Physics Center.

Both my husband and I have been hooked ever since.

The Pacific Northwest is a region of breathtaking beauty, filled with stunning natural wonders. One of the best ways to experience its splendor is by hiking the many scenic trails. Here's a picture from Silver Falls State Park in Oregon, a perfect example of the area's awe-inspiring landscapes. ■



Robin and her husband, Marty, at Silver Falls State Park (Upper North Falls)

Special Interest Feature: Women's Professional Subcommittee

CU*iP 2025: CONFERENCE RECAP AND MY EXPERIENCE AS A SPEAKER

Jennifer E. Dorand, PhD | ProCure Proton Therapy Center

The CU*iP conferences take place simultaneously at host institutions across the country over 3 days at the end of January. Sponsored by the American Physical Society, they are open to all undergraduates studying physics, engineering, and other areas of science, and are free for participants. Over the course of the weekend, attendees learn about various career paths, research experiences, and educational opportunities, while networking with fellow students, connecting with potential mentors, and presenting their research.

This year, I was invited to speak at CU*iP, Conference for Undergraduate Women and Gender Minorities in Physics, at Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, NJ. These CU*iP conferences take place simultaneously at host institutions across the country over 3 days at the end of January. Sponsored by the American Physical Society, they are open to all undergraduates studying physics, engineering, and other areas of science, and are free for participants. Over the course of the weekend, attendees learn about various career paths, research experiences, and educational opportunities, while networking with fellow students, connecting with potential mentors, and presenting their research.

Despite the January chill, the excitement in the air was palpable and the backdrop couldn't have been more gorgeous, with most



conference buildings having sweeping views of the New York City skyline. Ting Lu, PhD and the organizing committee at Stevens arranged an engaging program with an emphasis on networking and resilience. The weekend kicked off on Friday night with a networking session led by Sam Collins, CEO of Encouraging Women Across All Borders. After a brief introduction on the importance of building a network and strategies on how to do so, we were encouraged to talk to other attendees and exchange networking cards to inspire connections following the conference. As part of our swag packages, we were also provided with pins, each themed to represent a different area of physics. To further encourage networking, each attendee received 10 of the same buttons with a goal of exchanging them in order to collect them all! From the Schrödinger's cat logo to the photo op, complete with frame and backdrop, the creative touches lent a fun atmosphere to the event.

Saturday morning started with a big bang, as Dr. Julianne Dalcanton, Director of the Flatiron Institute's

Center for Computation Astrophysics, gave a plenary talk on her career as an astrophysicist and the unique opportunities she has had because of her research. I sat on a career panel with scientists at various career stages and positions in both academia and industry where we discussed our experience in a male-dominated discipline and fielded questions about research opportunities, graduate school, and our career trajectories. The keynote address, broadcast to all CU*iP locations across the country, was given by Dr. Meghan Anzels, an executive leader in data and analytics product development and deployment. She spoke about pivoting fields following her graduate studies in physics to join the insurance industry, then leveraging her expertise in data analysis and AI into business advisory roles, eventually founding her own company, which is now a part of Aon. Throughout her address, she highlighted the importance of resilience, how controlled risk-taking has shaped her career, and the value of networking.

Rounding out Saturday's program, I gave a plenary talk titled "Roadblocks and Radiation: My Journey to a Career in Medical Physics." To introduce those who have never heard of medical physics to our field, I spoke about the various career opportunities in medical physics, the educational pathway, the reasons we might choose this career path, and how a therapy physicist participates in the clinical workflow. I followed this with a discussion of

CU*iP 2025: CONFERENCE RECAP AND MY EXPERIENCE AS A SPEAKER, Cont.

my career journey, highlighting the mentors that have guided me, my research and efforts in the clinic, and how my career has been shaped by the roadblocks I've faced, including my experience navigating chronic illness. I emphasized the importance of building your network, tailoring your career to your strengths, learning from your mistakes, and not being afraid to seek support. My plenary talk inspired students to learn more about our field – some told me they had never heard of medical physics before but were now interested in considering it as a career. Others told me it reignited their enthusiasm for medical physics and confirmed this was the path they

hoped to pursue. Having students confide in me that they were also facing chronic health issues or other challenges and thank me for being open about my experience, I know my talk resonated with attendees. One student told me that it was so encouraging to know it's possible to have a career in physics despite the health challenges she's facing.

The discussion continued through dinner, where I joined the students for a cruise around New York harbor. In addition to continuing my conversations with attendees, I was able to finally sit down and have a conversation with Ting about our career paths and passion for

education. Amy Reneé, a medical physics PhD candidate at the University of Chicago and Argonne National Laboratory, to have an enthusiastic discussion about our research and the future of our field. I even joined some students on the observation deck to get a better view of the Statue of Liberty.

Dr. Sukin (Dylan) Sim, Quantum Applications Architect at PsiQuantum, gave the final plenary talk on Sunday morning, discussing quantum computing and the lessons learned during each stage of their career, while opening up about the mental health challenges they have faced along the way.



Dr. Jennifer Dorand attending CU*iP 2025



Dr. Jennifer Dorand at her booth at CU*iP 2025.

CU*IP 2025: CONFERENCE RECAP AND MY EXPERIENCE AS A SPEAKER, Cont.

My time at the conference concluded with a career fair over lunch, where I represented our profession and my employer, ProCure Proton Therapy Center. With swag and flyers from AAPM and ProCure, my booth drew quite a crowd. I fielded questions from enthusiastic students who already hoped to pursue a career in medical physics, those interested in the field after attending my plenary talk the day before, and others who were curious to learn more, whether to

gauge interest in the field or find out how we use all the items borrowed from the clinic on display.

My efforts paid off: two students reached out to connect after the conference to decide if a career in medical physics is right for them, one of which I've met for coffee and have plans to meet again! After such a rewarding and fun weekend, I left feeling encouraged and energized by the aptitude and passion of the

undergraduates I met. If you would like to join me in participating in a CU*IP near you next year, please reach out to the Working Group on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee Outreach and Social Media ([WGEDIA](#)) or the Women's Professional Subcommittee ([WPSC](#)). By continuing to participate in CU*IP conferences each year, we can attract and inspire the next generation of medical physicists! ■



Dr. Jennifer Dorand presenting at CU*IP 2025



Dr. Jennifer Dorand on a cruise around New York harbor with the students attending the conference. In the backdrop is the Statue of Liberty.



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Special Interest Feature: Women's Professional Subcommittee

MEDICAL PHYSICS OUTREACH: WHY AND HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Jennifer E. Dorand, PhD | ProCure Proton Therapy Center
Sandra Meyers, PhD | University of California, San Diego

How did you first learn about medical physics and decide to pursue it as a career?

Medical physics is often considered a lesser-known field of physics, and many of us did not hear about it until late into our undergraduate or even graduate studies. This is likely limiting the number of excellent candidates entering our field, purely because trainees do not know it exists! The AAPM Working Group on Equity, Diversity, Inclusion Committee Outreach and Social Media (WGEDIO) is trying to change this by making our profession more visible to students from diverse backgrounds, at a variety of stages of their training.

The AAPM Working Group on Equity, Diversity, Inclusion Committee Outreach and Social Media (WGEDIO) is trying to change this by making our profession more visible to students from diverse backgrounds, at a variety of stages of their training. Our committee helps to facilitate medical physics participation at numerous outreach events throughout North America, targeting both the science community and the general public. Examples of events include [American Physical Society meetings](#), the [Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students \(ABRCMS\)](#), [Conferences for Undergraduate Women and Gender Minorities in Physics \(CU*IP\)](#), [Canadian Undergraduate Physics Conferences](#),



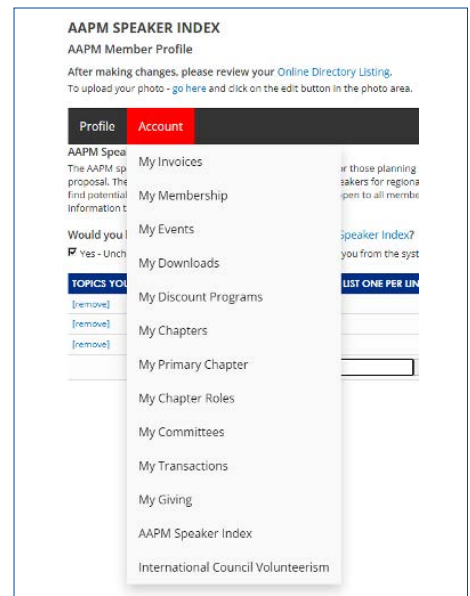
Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) [National Diversity in STEM Conferences](#), [Reach For The Stars - STEM Festival](#), and others. We identify local medical physicists, residents, postdoctoral fellows and graduate students interested in getting involved and put them in touch with conference organizers to ensure medical physics is incorporated into the program. Past volunteers have given presentations, participated on panels, and run booths at career fairs, and have found the experience very rewarding.

If you are interested in participating in outreach, WGEDIO is always looking for volunteers. There are many ways to get in touch with us, including reaching out to [committee members](#) or contacting us through our social media accounts (@AAPM_EDIC on X, @aapm_edic on Instagram, AAPM EDIC on Facebook and LinkedIn), where we often advertise outreach events. We have a repository of materials and will serve as the liaison between you and the AAPM to ensure

you have plenty of swag and informational flyers, if needed.

We've made it even easier to let us know you are interested in attending events near you – just add the topic of “outreach” to your AAPM speaker index. You can edit your speaker index entry or add yourself to the list by going to your AAPM Member Profile and clicking on AAPM Speaker Index under the Account tab.

We look forward to working with you to reach the next generation of medical physicists! ■



Edit your speaker index entry or add yourself to the list by going to your AAPM Member Profile and clicking on AAPM Speaker Index under the Account tab.

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR** with these
important
dates!

Hyatt Regency Orlando | Orlando, FL



MARCH 21-24
2026

RFP Opens	Wednesday, May 14 , 2025
RFP Closes	Wednesday, June 11 , 2025
Abstract Submission Site Opens for Proffered Abstract Submissions	Wednesday, July 16 , 2025
Deadline for Proffered Abstract Submissions	Wednesday, August 27 , 2025
Authors Notified of Presentation Disposition	Wednesday, October 15 , 2025
Online Meeting Program Goes Live	Wednesday, November 12 , 2025

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR** with these
important dates!

AAPM2026

JOINT AAPM/COMP MEETING | July 19-22 | Vancouver, BC

RFP Opens	Tuesday, September 2 , 2025
RFP Closes	Thursday, October 9 , 2025
Abstract Submission Site Opens for Proffered Abstract Submissions	Tuesday, November 11 , 2025
Deadline for Proffered Abstract Submissions	Tuesday, January 27 , 2026
Authors Notified of Presentation Disposition	Thursday, April 23 , 2026
Online Meeting Program Goes Live	Friday, May 8 , 2026

Special Interest Feature: Women's Professional Subcommittee

SCIENCE IS FOR EVERYONE: AIP'S SUMMIT ON CHAMPIONING INCLUSION

Angélica Pérez-Andújar, PhD | Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

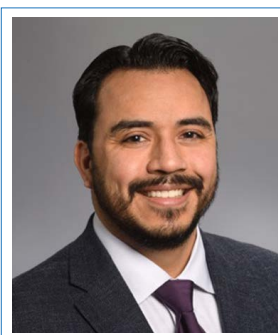
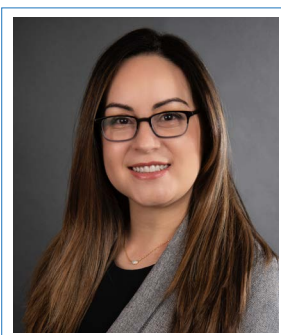
Julianne Pollard-Larkin, PhD | MD Anderson Cancer Center

Richard Castillo, PhD | Emory University

In recent months, there has been a national movement to equate equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives with underperformance. This is simply not true! Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion initiatives

aim to remove systemic barriers, to create opportunities for all members and build a vibrant federation of professional and highly-qualified scientists. There is strength in diversity. Diversity runs deeper than just skin color, race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, and sexuality, but includes every way you can classify an individual from their religious beliefs to their disability status and beyond.

On February 27th, the American Institute of Physics (AIP) hosted the Championing Inclusion and Expanding Opportunities Summit at the American Center for Physics (ACP) in Washington, DC just to show how committed the field of physics is to make that a reality. The one-day summit had a packed agenda that started with a keynote presentation by Dr. Travis York, the Director of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). During his keynote speech, Dr. York shared a valuable analogy. His hobby is sailing, and he mentioned that when there is a storm and you are in the



middle of the ocean, it is important not to go below deck but also not to try to overcorrect as a reaction to the storm. These are uncertain times, but we have a mission to promote science and provide everyone with access and opportunity to contribute to our collective advancement of the field of Medical Physics.

This meeting was inspirational. The AIP successfully gathered a diverse and passionate group of scientists, advocates, and champions who devote their lives to ensuring everyone has access to the STEM fields and

physics. The entire event was packed with sessions aimed at breaking down specific strategies to move forward with inclusion efforts in uncertain times. The panels hosted during the day focused on the

landscape of inclusion and belonging in the physical sciences as well as strategies for promoting inclusion, belonging, and opportunity. The meeting concluded with two breakout sessions with the first dedicated to "Uncovering Microaggressions and Understanding Positionality," and the second on "A seat on the Table: A talk about Inclusion." These were dynamic sessions where participants shared their experiences, perspectives, and wisdom on how to deal with different situations, ranging from inter-personal to systemic contexts,

AIP Member Societies (reference [AIP website](#))

Acoustical Society of America
American Association of Physicists in Medicine
American Association of Physics Teachers
American Astronomical Society
ACA: The Structural Science Society
American Meteorological Society
American Physical Society
Optica
AVS: Science & Technology of Materials, Interfaces, and Processing
The Society of Rheology

SCIENCE IS FOR EVERYONE: AIP'S SUMMIT ON CHAMPIONING INCLUSION, Cont.

within these subjects. The meeting participants were representatives from the associations that compose the AIP Federation¹.

AIP was founded in 1931, and part of its strategic mission is to: "Help its Member Societies leverage their diverse expertise and contributions in advancing the physical sciences in the research enterprise, in the economy, in education, and in society."² AIP also focuses on professional development, advocacy, community building, and stakeholder engagement. The AIP definition of diversity is expansive and includes racial and ethnic minorities, members with disabilities, first generation college students, women, multi-nationals, members from a low socioeconomic status, and sexual and gender minorities (SGM).

In recent months, there has been a national movement to equate equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives with underperformance. This is simply not true! Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion initiatives aim to remove systemic barriers, to create opportunities for all members and build a vibrant federation of professional and highly-qualified scientists. There is strength in diversity. Diversity runs deeper than just skin color, race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, and sexuality, but includes every way you can classify an individual from their religious beliefs to their disability status and beyond.

Diversity in the physical sciences is centered on scientific excellence, but it is essential to recognize that, in many instances, underrepresented communities do not have access to showcase that excellence in service to our shared mission, vision, and values. The work in this area seeks inclusion, access, equal opportunity, and belonging for ALL.

What was important about this meeting is that it helped to realign and form a unified vision for all AIP societies on how we will move forward with our inclusion efforts. Our work in AAPM continues, in collaboration, in alignment with our core values, in partnership, and in commitment both as individuals and as a collective of clinician-scientists from all walks of life toward our common mission to "Advance medicine through excellence in the science, education, and professional practice of medical physics."³

Let's continue to foster excellence in medical physics and remain guided by our Association's strategic priorities, including to "Improve equitable access to health care by addressing the growth, development, and training of the medical physics workforce."³

The work of the AAPM EDIC and associated subcommittees is integral to achieving this aim, in part by fostering and sustaining programming

designed to ensure every medical physicist in AAPM is seen, valued, heard and feels like they belong.

Finally, as we contemplate the road ahead, we applaud AIP for funding member participation as well as AAPM for encouraging senior staff leadership, Justin Stewart, to join us. This is notable and demonstrates the values and core commitment of our society to equity and inclusion. Within EDIC, we ask that AAPM continues to show strong support of the great work we have started within our organization and not lose heart due to shifting societal agendas. We all need to acknowledge that some of our members are disproportionately coping with distress due to the loss of civil rights, personal dignity and fear as to what may come next in this current political landscape. In this moment of uncertainty, let's be certain of the following: that we will unabashedly see the humanity in all and devote ourselves to ensuring that we remain the premiere medical physics society in the world. That it is inclusive to all. That we will address biases and barriers and do our best to make our medical physics society the best place for anyone to join, learn and grow into a qualified medical physicist. ■

¹<https://ww2.aip.org/federation>

²<https://ww2.aip.org/aip>

³<https://w3.aapm.org/org/objectives.php>

Special Interest Feature: Women's Professional Subcommittee

BOOK REVIEW: *THE ROSE CODE* BY KATE QUINN

Irena Dragojevic, PhD | University of California, San Diego

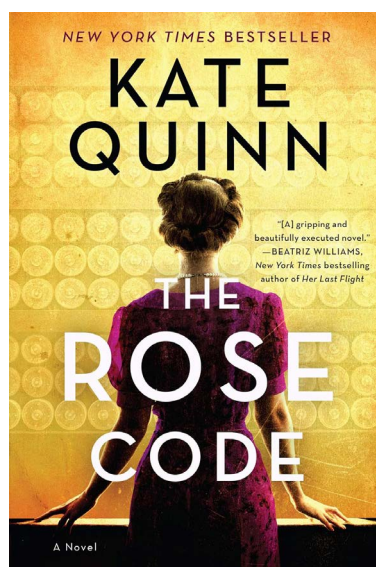
The book is a World War II era historical fiction about British citizens recruited to a remote mansion, Bletchley Park, to try to break the Nazi encrypted messages. Typically, when Bletchley Park is talked about, the stories are centered on Alan Turing and the bombe — the decryption device he used to crack the Enigma codes. However, *The Rose Code* takes a different approach and shines a spotlight on the unsung heroines of World War II — women of Bletchley Park who used their intellect, determination, and resilience to break the Nazi Enigma-machine-encrypted messages.

As both a scientist and a self-proclaimed history buff, I'm often drawn to historical novels that have an intriguing science topic at their core. Kate Quinn's *The Rose Code* skillfully combines both of these ingredients. This novel is a powerful tribute to female achievement in the face of systemic underestimation. Women were given a chance to prove themselves, but only as a last resort because the men were out fighting on the front lines. The book highlights what can happen when someone is given a chance.

At its core, *The Rose Code* is a tale of three very different women who converge at Bletchley Park, the nerve center of Britain's top-secret codebreaking efforts. Osla Kendall is a glamorous debutante with a sharp wit, fluent German, and a desire to prove she's more than just a socialite. Mab, a working-class woman from London, is



fiercely ambitious and determined to rise above her circumstances to build a better life for herself and her family. Then there's Beth Finch, a painfully shy and sheltered woman whose brilliance as a cryptanalyst is unlocked when she's finally given the opportunity to



escape her oppressive home life.

Set against the backdrop of World War II, the novel alternates between two timelines: the war years, when Osla, Mab, and Beth forge a deep bond while working at Bletchley Park, and

1947, when the trio is estranged and grappling with the fallout of betrayal, heartbreak, and secrets. The latter timeline is driven by a desperate mission to solve one final code and expose a traitor who had infiltrated Bletchley during the war. This dual narrative structure creates a sense of urgency and suspense, while also allowing Quinn to explore the long-term personal and societal impact of the war on these women.

As someone who works in a STEM field, I was particularly struck by how Quinn captures the intellectual rigor and complexity of the work at Bletchley Park. The codebreaking process is described in fascinating detail, revealing the sheer mental effort and creativity required to crack the German Enigma machine and other ciphers. This is no dry history lesson, though — Quinn brings the work to life by showing its human side. The characters' triumphs are hard-won, often accompanied by exhaustion, frustration, and the emotional toll of knowing that lives hang in the balance. It's a reminder of how critical women's contributions were to the war effort, even though they were often dismissed or overlooked at the time.

Quinn also does a remarkable job of situating her characters within the broader historical and social context of the time. From the rigid class system to the limited career opportunities available to women, *The Rose Code* is as much about the battle for equality and recognition as it is about the fight against the Axis powers. Even in the

BOOK REVIEW: *THE ROSE CODE* BY KATE QUINN, Cont.

face of sexism and condescension, these women rise to the occasion, proving time and again that their abilities are equal to (and often greater than) those of their male counterparts.

The novel is not without its flaws; some may describe it as unnecessarily long,

with several less than compelling subplots. However, these are minor quibbles in an otherwise gripping and emotionally resonant story.

What I appreciated most about *The Rose Code* was its celebration of the power of women's intellect, collaboration, and courage. While

the events of the story take place in the 1940s, the themes remain relevant today. Women in STEM and other fields still face challenges, but novels like this remind us of the incredible achievements of those who came before us — and inspire us to continue breaking barriers. ■

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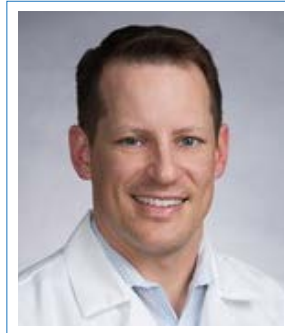
Special Interest Feature: Women's Professional Subcommittee

GUIDING FORCES: WOMEN IN MEDICAL PHYSICS ON THE POWER OF MENTORSHIP

Jeremy Hoisak, PhD | University of California San Diego
Elizabeth Hilliard, MS | Radformation Inc.

Speed Mentoring returns this summer to the AAPM Annual Meeting in Washington DC! The event will take place on Monday, July 28 from 4:30 – 6:00 pm. Look for sign-up information when you register for the conference! Seating is limited!

The Professional Mentorship Working Group ([PMWG](#)) and its parent committees (New Professionals Sub-Committee and Professional Services Committee) consists of many volunteers dedicated to advancing professional mentorship initiatives and opportunities within the AAPM including the AAPM Mentorship Program. For this special issue of the Newsletter, we wanted to highlight some of our female members and discuss the role of mentorship in shaping their careers, fostering success, and developing their own skills as mentors. Participating in the discussion are **Amy Shu-Jung Yu, PhD**, Associate Professor at Stanford



University, **Young Lee-Bartlett, PhD**, Principal Medical Physicist at Elekta, **Christine Gnaster, MS**, VP of Product at Radformation, **Chelsea Page-Robertson, MS**, Medical Physicist at CommonSpirit Health, and **Elizabeth Hilliard, MS**, Physicist at Radformation.

1. Can you share a pivotal moment in your career where mentorship played a crucial role in your growth as a physicist?

Young: In my early career, I thought a mentor had to be a person who was much older, in a "high" medical physics position with a fairly direct career path that I can perhaps



emulate. However, around 2020 (well into my career and whilst pursuing my Executive MBA) my definition of "mentorship" evolved significantly and I realized that I had many female peer-mentors around me who had had huge influences throughout my career, including many who were not even medical physicists! This revelation led my mentorship journey to evolve a lot including becoming a very different type of mentor myself to my mentees.

Elizabeth: The last year of graduate school when I was working towards my M.S. was incredibly difficult for me. A faculty mentor was able to help me see that while I was having a hard time, this didn't make me a bad student and in fact it would eventually make me a better physicist, and that the stress of finishing my thesis was temporary. Having a mentor who was much further along in their career who



Participants, left to right: Christine Gnaster, MS, Elizabeth Hilliard, MS, Young Lee-Bartlett, PhD, Chelsea Page-Robertson, MS, and Amy Shu-Jung Yu, PhD

GUIDING FORCES: WOMEN IN MEDICAL PHYSICS ON THE POWER OF MENTORSHIP, Cont.

could both understand my struggles and help me see the bigger picture was essential.

Chelsea: A pivotal moment in my career was transitioning into my first job after residency. Having a mentor during this time was invaluable — they provided guidance on clinical decision making and building confidence in my expertise. Their support helped me navigate the transition and reinforced the importance of continuous learning and professional growth.

2. What are some of the unique challenges you've faced as a woman in medical physics, and how has mentorship helped you navigate them?

Christine: Becoming a mother while trying to manage my career was something that took a while to work through — heck, I still am trying to this day. As a mother and professional, I find that I have been working to find this perfection in both and really it is more about being what you need when those around you need it. There is no perfection — which is difficult for this physicist to handle some days! Talking to others about their parenthood has helped me recognize that this is normal - we're all doing the best we can and some days are easier (or more difficult!) than others. We just need to support each other!

Chelsea: Being a woman in a room full of men can sometimes lead to feeling like you have to prove yourself more than your colleagues.

Mentorship has provided me with perspective and strategies to advocate for myself.

Young: I remember early in my career having to apply for a more senior position outside of my department to be considered for a promotion within the department. Then, when I did achieve getting a promotion, my manager automatically promoted a male colleague of mine to the same level. As he didn't have to apply, he was grateful to me and told me he would buy me a beer as a thank you. The realization that I am treated differently hit me hard as everyone in the department knew this happened and many didn't think much of it. Though I recall some of the therapists (as all therapists I was working with at the time were female!) being upset for me and in many ways that really helped me through that period and validated my feelings of unfair treatment and helped me grow.

3. Have you had both male and female mentors, and do you think gender influences the mentorship experience in STEM fields?

Amy: Female mentors often provide insights into navigating gender-specific challenges, while male mentors can offer different networking opportunities and perspectives on leadership. I believe that gender can influence the mentorship experience, as it shapes the dynamics of communication and understanding. However, the most important factor is the mentor's ability to support and guide their mentee, regardless of gender.

Christine: I have found that the strength of those I was fortunate enough to have as a mentor throughout my career have been enlightening and empowering regardless of gender. Each has something to offer — a new view point, a new struggle to work through they share, an experience they went through that was unique to them. Starting with both my mother and father as my first mentors, who believed I could be whatever I wanted and fostered my love of the sciences, I have been fortunate to find strength in STEM from both male and female mentors in my professional career as well.

Chelsea: I have had both male and female mentors and I have found both instrumental in different ways. Gender can influence perspective but the most important factor is having mentors that are invested in you and willing to provide honest guidance.

4. What advice would you give to young women in medical physics who are looking for a mentor but don't know where to start?

Amy: For young women in medical physics looking for a mentor, I recommend starting by identifying individuals whose work you admire or who have a career path you aspire to follow. Attend conferences, workshops, and networking events to meet potential mentors. Don't hesitate to reach out via email or social media; many professionals are open to mentoring and sharing their experiences.

Young: Before even looking for a mentor, I would advise young

GUIDING FORCES: WOMEN IN MEDICAL PHYSICS ON THE POWER OF MENTORSHIP, Cont.

women in medical physics to initially ask questions as to what it is that she wants to gain out of the mentor-mentee relationship. If it is something very specific, such as how do I get into a leadership position in my department, then I would most likely advise the mentee to look for the right mentor within their department (I would probably explore this with them). However, in many cases, the questions to be answered are not straightforward, for example, how would I become more satisfied with my career or how do I get a better work-life balance? With those more “open-ended” questions, more exploration would be needed to find the right mentors that can help them grow.

Elizabeth: To offer a shameless plug, I would start with the AAPM Mentorship Program! The Mentorship Program website can help you pair up with a mentor from outside of your current education or work institution, which is something

that I have come to realize is incredibly helpful.

5. How can institutions and senior leadership better support mentorship programs to ensure the success of women in medical physics?

Christine: Mentorship should play a larger role in degree programs and/or residency than it does currently. There should be some component that provides the background and discusses the importance of both finding a mentor as well as recognizing when you may become the mentor yourself. Being prepared and having some awareness of the process makes it easier to recognize and foster once an opportunity presents itself!

Elizabeth: I would love to see more leaders recognize mentorship as an essential part of any career and therefore an essential part of any medical physics job. I think it's also worth senior leadership specifically

asking staff, especially new staff, if they have mentors and if not, helping them find people who are further along on whatever trajectory that staff member wants to follow.

Amy: Pair early-career professionals with experienced mentors and foster an inclusive culture that values diversity in mentorship to help ensure that women in medical physics feel supported.

If you would like to learn more about the AAPM Mentorship Program, visit: <https://www.aapm.org/memb/mentorship>



to sign up. The program is on-demand, free to all AAPM members and matching is user-driven! Create a profile, look through available mentors for a potential match, or serve as a mentor and share your wisdom experience with fellow members of the AAPM! ■

Our Condolences

Lucas B. Beentjes, DSc • [David J. Goodenough, PhD](#) • [Lan Kobe, MS](#)
Daniel M. Navarro, MS • J. Donald Russell, MS

Our deepest sympathies go out to the families. We will all feel the loss in the Medical Physics community.

If you have information on the passing of members, please inform HQ ASAP so that these members can be remembered appropriately. We respectfully request the notification via email to: 2025.aapm@aapm.org
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POWV Residency Rotation Initiative Gains Momentum

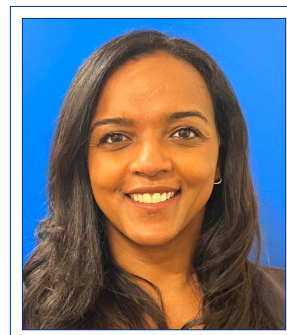
CHAPTER REPORT

Written on behalf of the Penn-Ohio-West Virginia Chapter

The AAPM POWV chapter has successfully launched a multi-institutional residency rotation initiative aimed at broadening educational exposure for medical physics residents in the region. This collaborative effort brings together residents and program leadership from several training institutions and offers them unique opportunities to engage with advanced modalities not available at their home programs. Two successful rotations have already taken place in 2025, each offering valuable hands-on learning and professional networking.

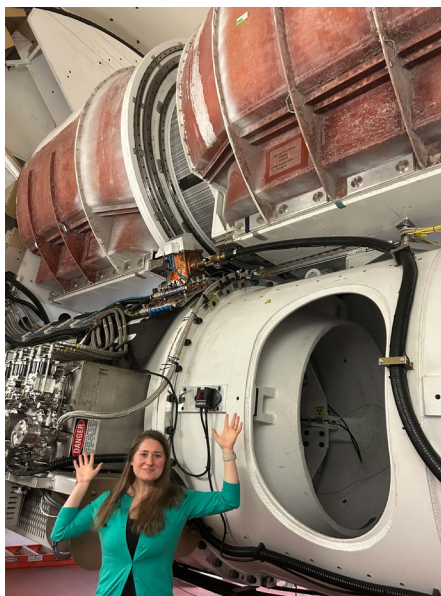
The first rotation occurred in January 2025 and was hosted by University Hospitals (UH) in Cleveland, Ohio. Residents and program directors from University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC), Allegheny Health Network (AHN), and Cleveland Clinic participated in the 1.5-day experience. The highlight of this rotation was an in-depth tour of the proton therapy facility at UH, a modality not currently available at the other participating centers. In addition to the clinical tour, the program included structured didactic lectures and a hands-on quality assurance (QA) session, giving residents a well-rounded and immersive educational experience.

The second rotation took place in March 2025 at UPMC in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This session focused on the Reflexion system, a novel biology-guided radiotherapy modality. Once again, residents from neighboring



Sarah Ashmeg, PhD
UPMC

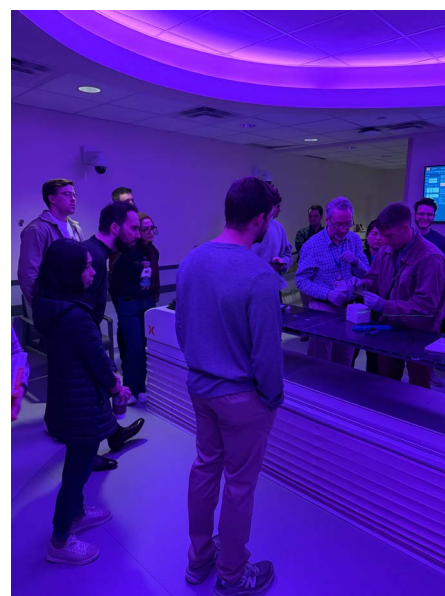
Special thanks to **Frederick (Rick) Jesseph** at University Hospitals and **Ron Lalonde** and **Jina Chang** at UPMC.



Denisa Goia (UPMC's senior resident) at UH's cyclotron



Rick Jesseph setting up for QA



Setting up for QA, with Ron Lalonde

CHAPTER REPORT, Cont.

institutions traveled to participate in this 1.5-day rotation, which offered detailed lectures on the principles and operation of Reflexion, as well as interactive demonstrations and QA-focused training. This rotation allowed residents to explore a cutting-edge technology that is currently unique to the UPMC center within this network.

These rotations reflect the POWV chapter's ongoing commitment to enhancing resident education through collaboration and resource sharing. They also serve as a model for regional partnerships that can supplement training in a way that is practical, innovative, and cost-effective.

We are deeply grateful to the educators and clinical staff who volunteered their time and expertise to teach

our residents during these rotations. Their dedication to advancing medical physics education plays a critical role in the success of this initiative. Special thanks go to the teams at UH and UPMC for hosting and organizing the events.

Plans are underway for future rotations, and we welcome additional program participation. If your institution is interested in joining or hosting a future session, please reach out to the POWV subcommittee.

The POWV residency rotation initiative continues to demonstrate the power of regional collaboration in medical physics education. We look forward to growing this program and expanding access to advanced training opportunities for all our residents. ■



Dinner in Cleveland, supported by UH group



Dinner in Pittsburgh, supported by Reflexion Medical

Volunteers Drive the Work of the American Board of Radiology

ABR UPDATE

To candidates for certification and even many diplomates, the ABR might appear to be a black box from which exams, requirements, and rules appear and decisions are handed down, and to which, of course, payments must be made. However, nothing could be further from the truth.

While the ABR has almost 100 full-time employees who perform valuable administrative, editorial, and IT functions, much of the work that most directly affects candidates and diplomates is performed by volunteers. Most of the ABR's approximately 1,300 volunteers are members of committees that prepare, evaluate, and administer exams to more than 4,000 candidates for Initial Certification each year in the four disciplines. They also write and evaluate OLA questions that are distributed to the 37,000 diplomates who are enrolled in Continuing Certification.

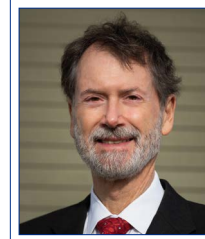
Most medical physicists begin their journey to certification by taking the Part 1 General Physics Qualifying Exam. The items that make up the exam are written by individual members of the Part 1 General Physics Committee. After an editorial review, the items are reviewed by the committee during several virtual meetings and assembled into a complete exam at an in-person meeting. The exam then undergoes a final review by one of the Medical Physics Trustees. Each of the exams (including Part 1 Clinical, Part 2 Qualifying and Part 3 Oral Certifying) given to medical physicists every year is assembled through essentially the same procedure.

Higher-level decisions about admission requirements, exam administration, and other matters related to candidates and diplomates are made by the 21-member [Board of Trustees](#). This board, which includes three medical physicists, is composed entirely of volunteers who generally have served on one or more committees and are senior members of their professions. The exam-development committees are supervised by Trustees who attend most committee meetings and are in close contact with the committee chairs.

Decisions about policy, finances, and future priorities are made by the [Board of Governors](#), who are also volunteers and often have served as Trustees.

Both Boards adhere to term limits to ensure that the membership is continually refreshed.

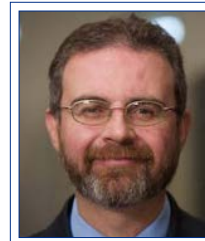
Any diplomate in good standing can become an ABR volunteer. Continuing Certification participation is required, even for diplomates with lifetime certificates that were obtained before 2002 (for medical physicists). The application process is straightforward: the volunteer link in myABR leads to an application form. Diplomates must confirm their contact information, enter details about their interests in volunteering, identify two people to serve as references, attach a CV, and complete a conflict-of-interest disclosure.



Geoffrey Ibbott, PhD
ABR Associate
Executive Director
for Medical Physics



Kalpana Kanal, PhD
ABR Board of
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Matthew Podgorsak, PhD
ABR Board of
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Jennifer Stickel, PhD
ABR Board of Trustees
Colorado Associates
in Medical Physics

Volunteers are essential to the work of the ABR. Diplomates are encouraged to consider volunteering. [Volunteering](#) is an opportunity to contribute to the ABR's mission.

ABR UPDATE, Cont.

Completed applications are reviewed by the discipline's Associate Executive Director. Approved diplomates are added to the pool of available volunteers. When vacancies on committees occur, the committee chairs and the corresponding Trustee review the pool of applicants in the discipline and specialty to select replacement members appropriate for the committee. Practice type, geographic location, and gender are also taken into consideration when selecting new volunteers for a committee to ensure a diverse membership.

Each of the 12 medical physics committees (excluding advisory committees) has 10 members, including the chair and associate chair (selected during the last year

of the chair's term). Terms are three years and may be renewed once, and except in unusual circumstances, volunteers may serve on only one committee at a time. Consequently, the number of vacancies each year is not large.

But for the smaller specialties (diagnostic medical physics and especially nuclear medical physics), the pool of potential volunteers is limited. We sometimes struggle to find qualified volunteers to fill vacancies on the committees of these specialties. [If you've been certified by the ABR for at least a year and are looking for a way to contribute to the profession, please consider volunteering.](#) ■

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Defining the Medical Physics Practice Guideline

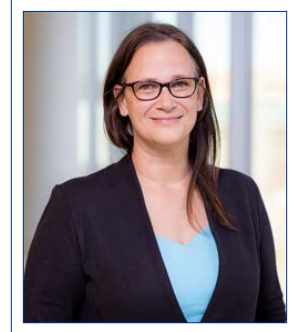
MPPG UPDATE

What is an [MPPG](#)? Why do they exist? Are they just a rebranding of Task Group (TG) reports? Even the most dedicated AAPM member is likely to throw up their arms in frustration trying to find answers to these questions. While this article may not alleviate all of your MPPG-related woes it should shed some light on why they exist and their intended role in the overall landscape of AAPM.

The MPPG was born out of a need to create practical guidance on clinical topics. The first MPPG (appropriately designated MPPG 1) was published in 2012 and outlined the management and review of CT protocols. While the details of CT dose metrics and dosimetry had been developed and discussed in various TG reports (Reports [111](#), [204](#), [220](#), and [293](#)) accreditation bodies had started requiring medical physicists be involved in reviewing CT protocols, creating a need for practical guidance in how this review ought to be carried out. Similarly, in the therapy world, accrediting bodies and regulators were requiring strict adherence to [TG-142](#) in its entirety, which was never the intent (and even stated in the document itself!). Using TG-142 as a starting point, MPPGs 2 and 8 provided much-needed clarification of the actual minimum testing required to ensure quality care. Over the past decade, MPPGs have provided similar guidance in other areas of medical physics. (A full list of MPPGs can be found [here](#).)

Main characteristics of MPPGs include:

- MPPGs are developed and approved by the *Subcommittee on Practice Guidelines (SPG)* under AAPM's Professional Council, which is responsible for overseeing professional and practice-related aspects of medical physics. The council ensures that medical physicists are well-equipped to meet professional standards, advocates for the field, and provides guidance on workforce development, accreditation, ethics, and clinical practice.
- MPPGs describe the recommended minimum level of practice, i.e., the tasks that are necessary and sufficient to appropriately mitigate risks, while providing high-quality, economically-feasible medical imaging and delivery of therapeutic radiation.
- Each MPPG represents a policy statement by the AAPM.
As another AAPM member once said, MPPGs are reviewed by about 8,000 of our closest medical physicist colleagues. While this might be *slight* hyperbole, the sentiment isn't lip-service, as in addition to review at several levels of the AAPM committee structure, each MPPG undergoes a month of member comments. Unlike TGs, members not only can comment on these documents, but each and every comment is reviewed and considered and a written response is provided as part of the final AAPM review process before submission to the journal. While the review process is robust, there are continued efforts to streamline the process without compromising the integrity of the review.



Rebecca Milman, PhD
University of Colorado School of
Medicine

"One intended role of the MPPG is to inform regulatory and accreditation groups on appropriate practice requirements."

MPPG UPDATE, Cont.

- *MPPGs use “must/should” to indicate whether the recommendation is considered necessary (must) or if there are potential exceptions that may sometimes be appropriate (should).*
A group of medical physicists could spend days debating whether certain tasks fall in the “must” or “should” bin, but the wording of the MPPG represents the official stance of the AAPM. Factors such as safety, risk, and available resources are considered when determining whether “should” or “must” is the appropriate auxiliary verb for a specific task. (A guidance rubric has been developed improve consistency.)
- *MPPGs must be reviewed at or before five years following publication.*
This ensures that MPPGs remain accurate and relevant rather than retaining information about how often to change x-ray film developer. This not only provides QMPs with up-to-date guidelines but also allows accrediting bodies and regulators to adopt an MPPG by reference, knowing it will stay current.
- *MPPG numbering remains consistent for a given topic.*
For example, updates to MPPG 8.a were published as MPPG 8.b. This makes it easier for clinicians, regulators, and surveyors to identify updates to MPPGs.
- *MPPGs are not a substitute for Failure Mode and Effects Analysis (FMEA).* While MPPGs provide minimum guidelines, they are not “one-size-fits-all” documents. Many clinics that utilize specialized equipment or perform complex procedures likely need to tailor their processes to ensure adequate performance of non-standard equipment or clinical services. Therefore, MPPGs serve as a starting point before FMEA is accomplished or as a floor for FMEA to ensure a clinic's own analysis results in testing that is at least as robust as the pertinent MPPG.

What is the role of MPPGs in determining regulatory and accreditation standards?

MPPGs have no inherent regulatory standing. They serve as guidance documents. However, one intended role of the MPPG is to inform regulatory and accreditation groups on appropriate practice requirements. Defining a minimum level of practice may seem like a straightforward task but can be incredibly nuanced and complex.

One must consider the environment and resources of facilities across the country, from the small town of Lynch, Nebraska, to bustling healthcare facilities in New York City. Smaller facilities — especially those located far from metropolitan areas — often have fewer resources for acquiring state-of-the-art equipment and less availability of physicists to support such equipment. Minimum practice guidelines do not define the ideal practice but rather those tasks that are *necessary and sufficient* for mitigating risk from medical imaging exams and the delivery of therapeutic radiation.

Some MPPGs are stand-alone documents, grown out of an identified need for practice guidance. Others act as a link between the vast scientific resources within a TG report and clinical practice by distilling the science to, as said above, what is necessary and sufficient for mitigating risk. As an example of how these two document formats differ and how they coexist in harmony, we can look to the most fascinating topic in all of medical physics – display performance.

TG Reports [18](#) and [270](#) provide extensive information about the technology and performance of displays used for interpretation of radiographic images. They describe the science behind display calibration, the effect of the human visual system on perception of imaging information, and test patterns used for quality management. These TGs also describe how to perform various tests, expected performance standards, and even recommended pass/fail criteria for these tests. TG18 was based on the technology used at the time; TG 270 was prompted by the change in technology, namely the disappearance of cathode ray tube displays and the emergence of the LED backlight. This document is expected to be relevant until this technology becomes obsolete.

[MPPG 17](#) is a more succinct document that provides recommendations for quality management for mammography displays. The scope of this document is smaller, and it is written to reflect not only the current technology but how this technology is currently used in clinical practice. The MPPG 17 working group spent hours considering the clinical impact of each component of display quality management and evaluated the impact on quality, safety, and practicality. This included not only what tests were performed but the qualifications necessary for individuals performing these tasks.

MPPG UPDATE, Cont.

In summary, while TG reports are intended as guidance documents for medical physicists, they are not intended to guide regulatory standards. The tasks outlined in MPPGs are those that are considered necessary and sufficient to ensure the safety of patients and personnel. MPPGs, as position statements of the AAPM, are appropriate guideposts for regulatory and accreditation groups in defining their own minimum practice standards, while also

serving as the closest thing the AAPM has ever produced to embodying the elusive “what do I really need to do?” documents.

This article was written on behalf of a joint Science Council, Professional Council, and Subcommittee on Practice Guidelines group seeking to clarify the roles of their respective documents. ■

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STATE CHAMPIONS serve as local advocates who monitor state-level activities, build relationships with regulators and legislators, and ensure medical physicists have a voice in policy discussions. The program aims to have several Champions per state representing different medical physics disciplines. As a State Champion (CHAMPSC), you and the other State Champs from your state (where you live and/or work) will play a vital role in advocating at the local level for the practice of medical physics!

**Learn more
and apply here**



For further information, please contact
CHAMPSC Chair, Dr. Sook Kien Ng
or staff member Emily Townley



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
of PHYSICISTS IN MEDICINE

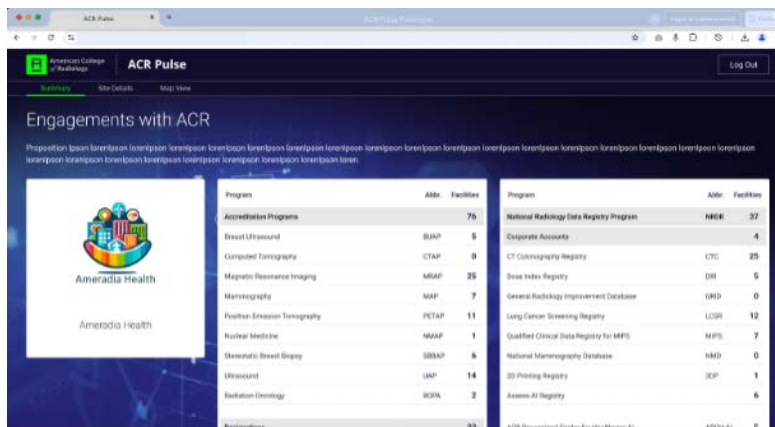
ACR Accreditation & More: Info for Medical Physicists

UPDATES FROM ACR HQ

Renew your Pledge to Image Wisely!

Announcing ACR Pulse

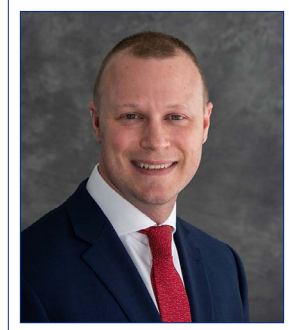
Many healthcare organizations have multiple touchpoints with ACR that are disparately managed. Based on feedback from some leaders of large organizations, we have created ACR Pulse, which is a 360-degree view of the enterprise's engagement with ACR. The long-term goal of ACR Pulse is to create a unified interface for all interactions with ACR, simplifying and enriching the organizational experience. The initial launch will focus on authorized primary contacts securely logging in to an online portal to view and download engagement details tied to various programs including accreditation, registries, ARCH-AI, and Assess-AI. At the time I'm submitting this column to AAPM, the ACR Pulse landing page has not been created, but it should be live by the time this AAPM Newsletter is published in early May; please visit www.acr.org and search for ACR Pulse for more details. A sample screenshot with dummy data is below to give you an idea of how it will look. I hope you tell your client and/or organizational leadership teams about ACR Pulse to help them visualize and be more efficient in their interactions with ACR.



Program	Addr	Facilities
Accreditation Programs		75
Breast Ultrasound	BUSP	5
Computed Tomography	CTAP	9
Magnetic Resonance Imaging	MRAP	25
Mammography	MAP	7
Positron Emission Tomography	PETAP	11
Nuclear Medicine	NMAP	1
Diagnostic Breast Imaging	DBIAP	6
Ultrasound	USAP	14
Radiation Oncology	ROAP	2
Registrations		23
National Radiology Data Registry Program		NRDR
Corporate Accounts		4
CT Colonography Registry	CTC	25
Breast Index Registry	BIR	5
General Radiology Improvement Database	GRID	0
Lung Cancer Screening Registry	LCSP	12
Qualified Clinical Data Registry for MIPIS	MIPIS	7
National Mammography Database	NMD	0
3D Printing Registry	3DP	1
Assess-AI Registry		6
ACR Document Center for Ultrasound AI	AI/CH AI	5

Focus Groups to Tell ACR What You Think

Earlier this year ACR's accreditation team invited cohorts of administrators, technologists, radiologists, and medical physicists to participate in focus groups on ACR accreditation. We invited 22 physicists, a mix of ACR members and nonmembers: half opened the email, six clicked through to the registration form, four completed the registration, and three physicists ultimately participated in the focus groups. I was surprised we didn't have a better rate of participation. I'm working with ACR's strategy management team to have focus groups and/or one-on-one conversations with our strategy management team during AAPM in DC so medical physicists, both ACR members and nonmembers, can share the good, bad, and ugly about ACR. Please keep an eye out for sign-up details closer to AAPM 2025. ■



Dustin A. Gress, MS
Senior Advisor for Medical Physics
ACR Quality and Safety, Reston, VA

In each issue of this newsletter, I present information of particular importance or relevance for medical physicists. You may also check out the [ACR's accreditation support page](#) for more accreditation information and QC forms. **Thank You** to all the other staff that keep ACR programs running and assist with creating the content in this column. This page has forms and quick links for all ACR accreditation programs.

At the AAPM Annual Meeting in Washington, DC this summer the familiar "ACR Updates for Imaging Physicists" session will be Sunday, July 27 from 4:30–6:00 pm. On Monday morning I will moderate back-to-back sessions on the ACR's Data Science Institute's ARCH-AI and Assess-AI programs, featuring physician presenters who are active in ACR volunteer work. I hope you'll plan to attend these sessions.

AAPM CAREER SERVICES

CONNECTING medical physicists with the finest JOBS

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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
of PHYSICISTS IN MEDICINE

Ohio Facility's Journey through APEx Accreditation and Reaccreditation

ASTRO QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

An interview with (L) Kathleen Hintenlang, PhD, FAAPM, FACR, FASTRO and (R) Kelsey Riffle, MPH, RT(T)



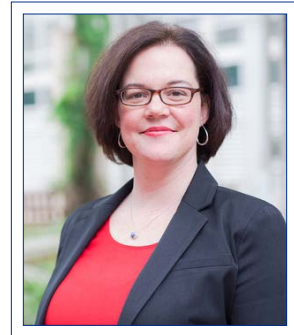
From understanding the updated requirements to streamlining workflows, **Kathleen Hintenlang, PhD, FAAPM, FACR, FASTRO**, and Kelsey Riffle MPH, RT(T), quality and safety leaders at the Ohio State University, share valuable insights for any practice preparing for the APEx accreditation process. The conversation highlights the evolving standards, improvements in processes and the benefits that radiation oncology practices realize through APEx.

Randi Kudner: Thank you for joining us today. As Ohio has undergone both initial accreditation and reaccreditation with APEx, we'd love to hear your insights into the updated APEx portal and standards. Let's start at the beginning: Why did your facility originally choose to become APEx accredited, and what motivated your decision to pursue reaccreditation?

Kathleen Hintenlang: Our decision to seek APEx accreditation was largely influenced by Doug Martin, MD, FASTRO, one of our radiation oncologists, who was an ASTRO charter member for the implementation of the APEx program. His role as a surveyor made it a natural educational progression for both Monica Fullenkamp, our Director of Business Operations, and me to also become surveyors. Given Dr. Martin's current role as chair of the ASTRO Clinical Affairs and Quality Council and as a member of the ASTRO Board of Directors, it was a natural extension for us to pursue reaccreditation. Additionally, we had opened a new facility that included proton therapy, and we were eager to add that modality to our accreditation.

RK: That makes sense. How would you describe your overall experience with the updated APEx platform compared to the previous version?

Kelsey Riffle: The new platform is much more user-friendly. We appreciated that it clearly displayed our progress throughout the process and allowed



Randi Kudner
Assistant Director of Quality Improvement
ASTRO

Learn more about ASTRO accreditation!
Contact APExSupport@ASTRO.org or visit
www.astro.org/APEx-Physics to discover
how your practice can get started.

ASTRO QUALITY IMPROVEMENT, Cont.

us to save our work for later. It also provided submission timestamps, eliminating any uncertainty about the status of our application. Additionally, the feedback feature within the portal is particularly useful. We could easily review and respond to comments, re-upload documents and keep all correspondence in one place.

RK: That's great to hear. Were there any specific improvements that stood out to you in the new platform?

KH: One major improvement was the integration of AAPM's Medical Physics Practice Guidelines (MPPGs) into the task group reports and resources. It was exciting to see APEX adopt this so quickly, making it the first accrediting body we're aware of to incorporate them. This addition was particularly beneficial to our team.

RK: Were there any aspects of the previous platform that you preferred or found clearer?

KR: Honestly, nothing significant stands out from the previous platform that we felt was missing in this update. The new version is intuitive and made the process smoother overall.

RK: Now, regarding the updated APEX standards, how do they compare to the previous version in terms of clarity and applicability?

KH: The new standards are clear and very applicable. One notable change is the additional requirements related to radioactive materials (RAM). Given that RAM is already well-regulated by the NRC and corresponding agreement states, incorporating our Radiation Safety Officer and radiation safety team into the accreditation process was a welcome enhancement. It reinforced a more integrated team approach.

RK: Were there any challenges presented by the new or revised standards during your accreditation cycle?

KH: The biggest takeaway was the realization that our standard operating procedures (SOPs) needed to be more dynamic. As an academic center, our practice evolves rapidly, so SOPs can no longer be static documents reviewed every few years. Accreditation made us recognize the need for continuously updating our SOPs in real time, integrating dashboards and new technologies to maintain live, adaptable workflows.

RK: That's an interesting point. Given this shift, how do you think accrediting bodies can encourage and support this change?

KH: The accreditation process should not require facilities to revert to outdated documentation methods. For example, in our initial accreditation, we demonstrated our workflows electronically rather than providing static documents. Our team strongly believes that accreditation should reflect modern practices, incorporating real-time workflows rather than simply checking boxes. Involving vendors in these discussions has also been instrumental in bridging clinical needs, regulatory requirements and accreditation expectations.

RK: That's a great perspective. Do you feel the new standards better align with industry best practices compared to previous versions?

KH: Yes. Dr. Martin has been actively involved in initiatives like mCODE, which standardizes end-of-treatment notes in hospital EMRs. He emphasized that accreditation should drive meaningful results, not just add extra steps for compliance. The goal should be interoperability, ensuring information is seamlessly shared between systems rather than just being stored passively.

RK: Has the update made the accreditation process easier, more complex, or about the same?

KR: One notable feature was the ability to click on a standard reference within the application and immediately view its details. This made navigation much more efficient. However, the removal of Level 1 and Level 2 indicators was surprising. While it didn't impact us significantly, it was helpful in the past to know which standards APEX prioritized. That said, we understand the shift toward a more objective approach where all standards are viewed as equally important.

RK: That change has certainly sparked discussion. Moving on to the updated resources, how did they compare to previous versions?

KR: The standards guide remained an invaluable resource, especially for training and process improvement. The addition of in-depth explanations was particularly helpful in aligning team members who may have different interpretations of the standards. This was critical in ensuring

ASTRO QUALITY IMPROVEMENT, Cont.

convergence across our growing staff, including new physicians and locum therapists who benefit from the structure of an accredited facility.

RK: That's an important point. Have you taken advantage of other APEx resources, such as virtual discussion sessions or one-on-one meetings with APEx staff?

KH: Absolutely. We attended both in-person and virtual sessions, and the ASTRO Annual Meeting session, which proved invaluable. Right before our site visit, we had to make a significant pivot, and those resources helped us navigate the situation smoothly. Additionally, the responsiveness of the APEx staff was phenomenal — having direct and timely communication made a huge difference.

RK: It's great to hear that those resources were useful. Lastly, any final thoughts on how APEx accreditation has impacted your facility?

KH: Beyond the formal accreditation, the process has reinforced our commitment to quality improvement and adaptability. The structure provided by APEx ensures that

we remain proactive rather than reactive in our clinical and operational practices. As the industry evolves, so should accreditation, and we appreciate APEx's efforts to align with modern practices and facilitate meaningful discussions within radiation oncology.

Also, we know there are staffing issues, like the therapist shortage. We have a lot of locums in several roles. I think it's helpful for them to know that they're coming into a facility that's accredited. It shows them that we've put the time and effort in to make sure that we are operating at a high standard.

RK: Thank you for sharing your experience. It's valuable to hear firsthand how the accreditation process is evolving and impacting facilities like yours.

APEx, through its evolving standards and user-friendly platform, continues to play a pivotal role in advancing excellence in radiation oncology practices. APEx's updated program ensures that the standards align closely with clinical realities and industry best practices, ultimately improving patient care. ■

Attention Volunteer Members!

Volunteer Handbook

Created by AAPM Headquarters, this guide provides essential information for volunteers during their service to the Association. Key features include:

- **HQ Staff Support:** Get the help you need.
- **Governance & Policies:** Links to AAPM Policies, Position Statements, By-Laws, and Rules.
- **Budget Process:** Guidance on accessing committee-specific financial details.
- **Scheduling Meetings:** Tools for Zoom, F2F meetings, templates, and minutes.
- **Committee Rosters:** Tips for filling positions with the "Committee Classifieds" system.
- **New Group Creation:** Includes the *New Group Creation Form*.
- **Task Groups:** Sunsetting policies and progress reporting tools.
- **AAPM Reports:** Step-by-step guidance on how to get started and navigate the reporting process.

Explore the [Volunteer Handbook](#) today to make the most of your volunteer experience!

Leadership Handbook

Brought to you by the **Medical Physics Leadership Academy (MPLA)**, this handbook is designed to equip medical physicists stepping into leadership roles. It offers:

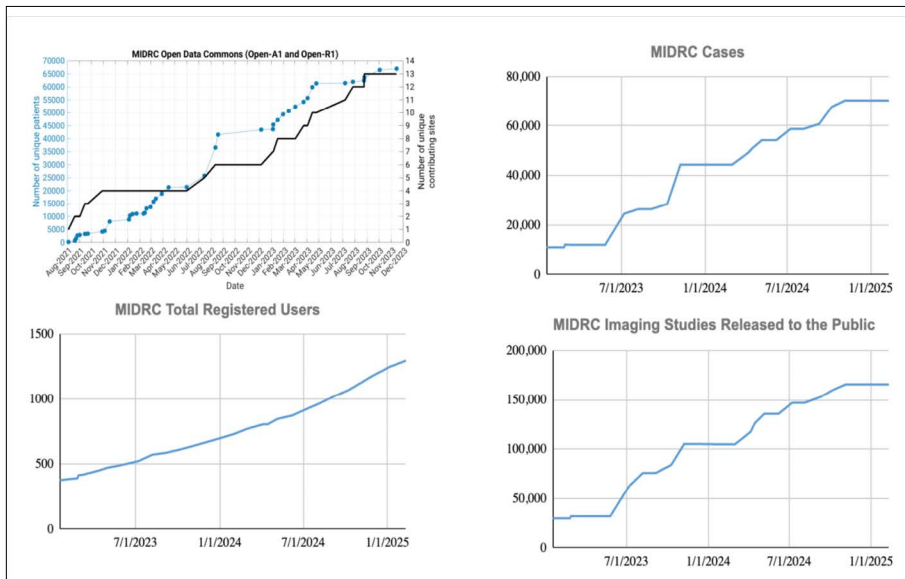
- **Practical Tools:** Set up AAPM Zoom calls, manage committee tasks, and more.
- **Professional Guidance:** Learn how to review applications and fulfill leadership responsibilities.
- **Personal Development:** Assess and refine your leadership style.

View the [Leadership Handbook](#) to take your leadership to the next level!

Report from the Medical Imaging and Data Resource Center (MIDRC)

AAPM-MIDRC SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Now in its fifth funded year, MIDRC continues to chart new territory in its journey to shape the future of AI in medical imaging, providing researchers with easy access to its open, diverse, curated collection of medical imaging data and metadata.



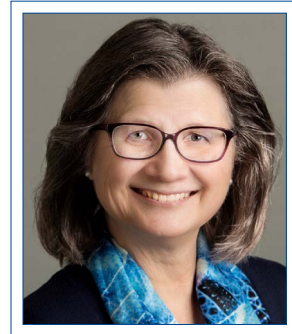
Snapshot of MIDRC's growth as of January 2025

MIDRC in the Spotlight

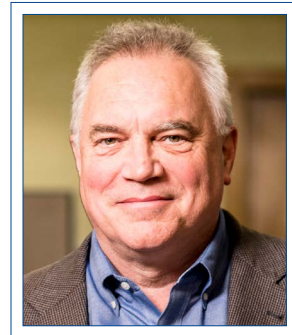
MIDRC continues to present open, free and live informational monthly Seminar discussions as an important service to the scientific community at-large. Most recently, AAPM members **Dr. Jordan Fuhrman** and **Dr. Hui Li** (both, University of Chicago) presented on [Navigating MIDRC's Data and Tools](#). All past Seminar recordings are available [here](#) and [registration](#) is open to all.

MIDRC also maintains a large presence at various important scientific convenings and symposia. Members of the MIDRC team were privileged to be part of:

- The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Annual Meeting 2025, where MIDRC investigators presented on the critical issue of mathematical bias in machine learning (ML) and artificial intelligence (AI) systems used for medical imaging, with a focus on diagnosing cancer, traumatic brain injury, and other diseases.



Maryellen Giger, PhD
University of Chicago



Paul Kinahan, PhD
University of Washington

Please direct inquiries to:

Maryellen Giger, PhD, **FAAPM**,
Paul Kinahan, PhD, **FAAPM**, or
Emily Townley, **AAPM MIDRC Program Manager**

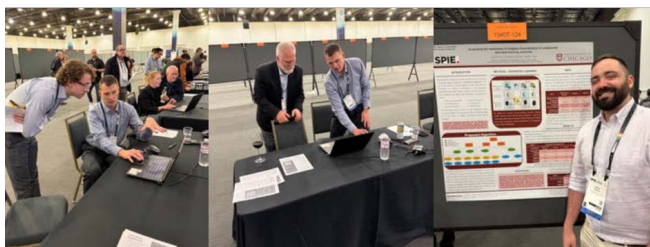


AAPM-MIDRC SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT, Cont.



MIDRC team members (l to r) Dr. Judy Gichoya (Emory Univ.), Dr. Jayashree Kalpathy-Cramer (Univ. of Colorado), Dr. Karen Drukker (Univ. Of Chicago) and Dr. Maryellen Giger (Univ. of Chicago) at AAAS 2025

- The SPIE Medical Imaging Symposium 2025, where the MIDRC team presented on a variety of topics, including a session on improving AI models, data analysis, and image annotation for better diagnostic accuracy and efficiency, a presentation on the importance of stratified sampling in creating representative datasets for training and testing AI models, and a presentation of an AI-powered tool capable of efficiently labeling over 450,000 chest X-ray images, demonstrating the potential for large-scale automation in clinical settings.

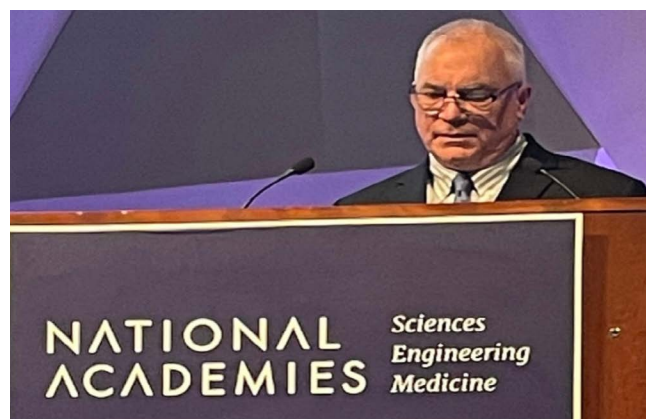


MIDRC Investigators Dr. Rob Tomek and Dr. Jordan Fuhrman (both, Univ of Chicago) demo MIDRC resources at SPIE

- The NIH PRIMED-AI Strategic Planning Workshop: AI for Precision Medicine: Integrating Clinical Imaging with Multimodal Data, held March 11-12, 2025, where MIDRC contact PI Dr. Maryellen Giger (University of Chicago, AAPM member) was a panelist in the lively discussion-

based session led by another MIDRC PI, Dr. Curt Langlotz (Stanford University).

- The Gilbert W. Beebe Symposium on Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Applications, where MIDRC investigators Dr. Paul Kinahan and Dr. Daniel Sullivan presented on "Data Collection/Curation – Reliable radiomics and imaging" and "Centralized Imaging Collaborations for AI Readiness", respectively.



MIDRC Co-PI Dr. Paul Kinahan (Univ. of Washington) presents on MIDRC during the Beebe Symposium

- The Academy's March 2025 MedTech Showcase on Capitol Hill and Medical Imaging Research RoundTable at the National Press Club (please note, AAPM is a founding member society of the [Academy](#)).
- Be sure to visit the AAPM-MIDRC team members and learn about our most recent advances at the MIDRC booth in the Exhibit Hall at the upcoming [AAPM 67th Annual Meeting & Exhibition](#) in Washington, D.C.!

"Science, by itself, provides no panacea. It can be effective in the national welfare only as a member of a team"

— Vannevar Bush, PhD, engineer, inventor, first presidential science advisor

AAPM-MIDRC SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT, Cont.



MIDRC Co-PIs Dr. Adam Flanders (Thomas Jefferson Univ.) and AAPM's Dr. Paul Kinahan attend the Academy RoundTable at the Nat'l Press Club

We remain grateful for the support of AAPM leadership and members in this truly [collaborative](#) effort between AAPM, ACR, RSNA, and many academic institutions and

government agencies around the country, as well as for the continued financial backing of NIH's National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB), the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H), and NSF's National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource Pilot.

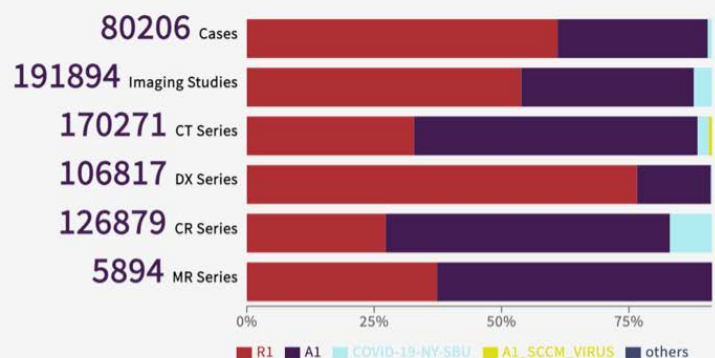
You can become involved in MIDRC's mission by:

- enabling a [data contribution](#) from your institution, as MIDRC is now accepting imaging and metadata of multiple diseases and varied modalities.
- indexing your data without making a contribution by becoming part of MIDRC's new [BDF Imaging Hub \(BIH\)](#), an indexing tool for open and restricted datasets, enabling interoperability with imaging and other data (including data from local sites, cancer trials, and cancer centers).
- exploring the algorithms posted to MIDRC's open [GitHub repository](#).
- reaching out to any member of the [AAPM MIDRC subcommittee](#) to discuss further.

See you at the AAPM Annual Meeting and stay tuned for more updates as MIDRC continues to push the boundaries of innovation! ■

MIDRC Data Commons

The Medical Imaging & Data Resource Center (MIDRC) Data Commons supports the management, analysis and sharing of medical imaging data for the improvement of patient outcomes. The data in MIDRC are open access in order to foster machine learning innovation through data sharing and include in addition to imaging files, patient demographic data, COVID-19 test results and other clinical data, harmonized study descriptions utilizing the LOINC playbook, and image DICOM tags for purposes of data filtering and selecting cohorts for analysis.



MIDRC data publication as of March 2025

AAPM 2025

JULY 27–30 | WASHINGTON, DC
67TH ANNUAL MEETING & EXHIBITION



COMING TOGETHER TO FORGE AHEAD IN MEDICAL PHYSICS

NEW PROFESSIONAL SYMPOSIUM

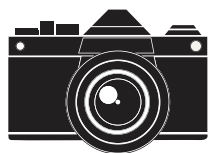
Tuesday, July 29, 2025 | 4:30–6:00 pm

Room 201 (Level 2), Walter E. Washington Convention Center

As a new member of AAPM, it is easy to feel overwhelmed by the size and complexity of the association and to be unaware of the benefits and opportunities available to members. At this year's AAPM Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, we will host a New Professional Symposium where you can learn more about the organization, member resources, opportunities to get involved, and about topics of particular interest to new professionals. We encourage you to take advantage of this great opportunity to learn valuable information and to grow your professional network.

Registered attendees will receive a raffle ticket. Enter to win a complimentary registration for the 2026 Annual Meeting & Exhibition in Vancouver, BC!

In addition, all new members who register for the Symposium will receive a drink ticket, good for one complimentary soda or beer served after the Professional Symposium during the social with committee chairs from five AAPM Councils: Science, Education, Professional, Administrative, and International.



Get Your Picture Taken.

A Headshot Lounge will be available in the Exhibit Hall to have a professional photo taken for your AAPM Member Directory profile.



aapm.me/annual

Science Council Specialty Meeting

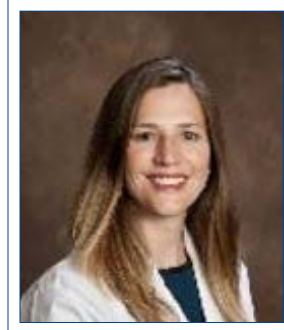
REPORT ON THE INNOVATIONS IN QA SPECIALTY MEETING

This meeting convened a group of medical physicists from the clinic, industry, and FDA environments to discuss transforming routine QA procedures by incorporating innovative techniques, automation, and enhanced communication between vendors and physicists.

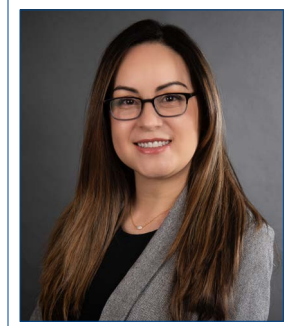
The AAPM [Innovations in QA Specialty Meeting](#) was held virtually on October 28-29, 2024. With the support of the Working Group on External Beam Quality Assurance (WGEBQA), Koren Smith and Angélica Pérez-Andújar convened a group of medical physicists from the clinic, industry, and FDA environments to discuss transforming routine QA procedures by incorporating innovative techniques, automation, and enhanced communication between vendors and physicists. The speakers shared their knowledge and experience in simplifying complex QA processes, implementing automated tools, integrating 3rd party and vendor-provided QA tools, and making the most use out of existing QA tools. Medical physicists from industry shared their experiences in the vendor environment and how they think about the development and use of tools in the next generation of QA equipment. To wrap up the meeting, vendor colleagues and FDA medical physicists spoke about the process of reviewing and approving new radiotherapy equipment including QA tools. Break-out sessions were conducted throughout the meeting to support thoughtful ideas and concerns about transforming QA practices.

The meeting was joined by 163 participants from diverse practices. Physicists from academic centers, private and government practices, and the industry joined, with most attendees from the USA. The meeting also had international participants with expertise in the field, going from 0-2 years up to 20 years or more. After the meeting, participants were asked to complete an evaluation of the meeting that included the usual questions sent to participants of AAPM-sponsored meetings but had a few extra questions to better understand the environment in which the participants work. We wanted to learn what aspects guide the participants' decision-making process when designing their machine QA programs and what impact this type of meeting has on their future practice. Some of the questions asked were related to the components of the machine QA program that take most of their time. We also asked what percentage of their institution's machine QA process is automated and what factors might be preventing that automation from happening. We also wanted to understand how much the physicists use vendor-provided tools for their machine QA program and how this meeting will impact their future practice. In this last subject, 19 out of the 24 participants who answered this question replied that they would change their machine QA practice after this meeting.

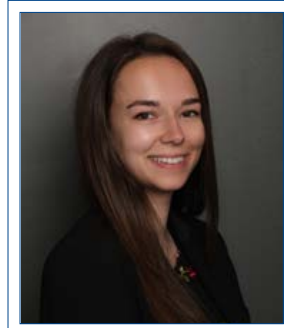
The AAPM Specialty Meetings are a great resource to the membership because they provide a unique opportunity to explore focused medical physics topics in a collaborative setting, whether in person or virtually. The



Koren Smith, MS
UMass Chan Medical School/IROC
Rhode Island QA Center



Angélica Pérez-Andújar, PhD
Memorial Sloan Kettering



Payton Brown
AAPM

REPORT ON THE INNOVATIONS IN QA SPECIALTY MEETING, Cont.

AAPM Specialty Meetings began in 2008, and to this day, there have been 28 of these; many focused on technical topics, including QA, safety, and AI, but others on teaching, residency, mentorship, and the advancement of women and minority physicists. Any member can submit a proposal for a specialty meeting. If you have a specialized

subject you'd like to present, you can propose a meeting through the Specialty Meeting Oversight Subcommittee ([SMOSC](#)). To start, obtain concept approval from an AAPM council or committee, then submit a completed request form for review. Take the initiative and bring your expertise to the AAPM community! ■



UPCOMING AAPM WEBINARS 2025

MAY

20

12:00 – 1:00 PM | ET

**A Day in the Life of a Medical
Physicist in Low-to-Middle-
Income-Countries Eastern
Europe**

JUNE

5

12:00 – 2:00 PM | ET

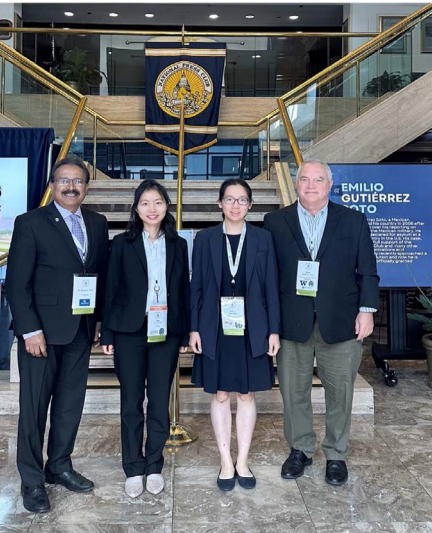
**Global Research and Scientific
Innovation Committee: School
on Research Excellence
How to Start a Lab/Research
Program**

Register for
these events at
[https://
aapm.me/webinars](https://aapm.me/webinars)

Early Career Investigator in Imaging (CECI²) Travel Award Recipients Advocacy Experiences

REPORT FROM ACADEMY 2025 CECI² MEMBERS, SPONSORED BY AAPM-RESEARCH COMMITTEE

In March, the Academy for Radiology and Biomedical Imaging Research (the Academy) facilitated Congressional office visits as part of its annual [Academy Spring events](#), an advocacy initiative which brings members of the Council of Early Career Investigators in Imaging (CECI²), Academy leadership, and industry partners face-to-face with federal policymakers. AAPM is a founding Society member of the Academy and sponsors two early-career physicists each year to travel to Washington, DC and participate in the Academy's Spring meetings and events. This year, AAPM's [Research Committee](#) sponsored two exceptional early career scientists, **Dr. Qihui Lyu** and **Dr. Jun Hong**, who represented the critical role of medical physicists in advancing imaging research and improving patient care.



Attending the Academy/RSNA Research Roundtable discussion. From left to right: AAPM President Mahesh, MS, PhD, Jun Hong, PhD, Qihui Lyu, PhD, former Academy Board member and former AAPM RSRCH Chair, Paul Kinahan, PhD.

Dr. Lyu's highlighted research used 3D printing and a miniaturized light bulb to illustrate her work in brachytherapy, by showing how the light from the bulb changed with position and effectively demonstrating how advances in imaging technology enhance the accuracy and precision of treatment delivery. She said, "Through scheduled meetings with House and Senate offices, Academy participants shared their research stories and emphasized federal policies crucial to the future of biomedical science. Key topics included sustainable NIH funding, the importance of facilities and administrative (F&A) costs, the role of innovation in patient care, and the collaborative value of academia-industry partnerships.

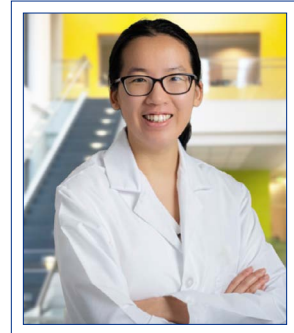
A highlight of the week was the Academy's MedTech Showcase, held

in the Rayburn House Office Building. Thirty CECI² participants presented their research in a forum designed to engage policymakers, Congressional staff, and committee members. The event created a unique opportunity to communicate the value of imaging research in plain language."

Dr. Hong, whose work focuses on computational modeling using fundamental physics principles in tumor mechanobiology, and image segmentation and image registrations in assisting image-guided cancer therapy, said



Jun Hong, PhD
University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center



Qihui Lyu, PhD
University of California, San Francisco



REPORT FROM ACADEMY 2025 CECI² MEMBERS, SPONSORED BY AAPM-RESEARCH COMMITTEE , Cont.

"This year's event was especially significant due to the uncertainty surrounding NIH funding for imaging research, which is impacting talent recruitment and making it more challenging for early-career investigators. We had the opportunity to meet primarily with staffers from both House and Senate representatives, where we voiced our concerns about the current funding situation and its potential impact on our field and careers, with the hope of garnering support for funding policies.

At the MedTech event in DC, I participated in discussions on the emerging evolution of the radiology field with radiologists from across the country. I also interacted with patient representatives who shared their personal stories about how imaging research and early clinical trials have helped cure their diseases and influenced their life choices in patient advocacy. These conversations were incredibly motivating and reinforced my commitment to advancing research and innovation."



CECI²s outside of Congressman Salud Carbajal's office.
From left to right: Sanna Herwald, MD, PhD, Jun Hong, PhD,
Michael Germuska, PhD, Wenhui Zhu, MD, PhD.

Previous AAPM-sponsored Academy CECI² members are:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| • Hao Zhang, PhD | 2023-24 |
| • Megan Jacobsen, PhD | 2022-23 |
| • Megan Lipford, PhD | 2020-21 |
| • Adam Wang, PhD | 2020-21 |
| • Brian Taylor, PhD | 2019-20 |
| • Emily Marshall, PhD | 2019-20 |

As Dr. Lyu notes, "AAPM's involvement in the CECI² program reflects a broader commitment to advocacy and policy engagement. As part of this commitment, AAPM will host its own Advocacy Day immediately following the 2025 Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. This initiative will provide members with the opportunity to engage directly with legislators, advocate for the profession, and highlight the essential role of medical physicists in science and healthcare." ([Learn more and register to participate in AAPM's Advocacy Day here](#)).

Congratulations again to Dr. Hong and Dr. Lyu, and thank you for so ably representing AAPM at this important peer Society event and championing medical physics! ■



Dr. Lyu in the Rayburn House Office Building on Capitol Hill,
Washington, DC.

Saiful Huq Receives a 2024 IDMP Award

PERSON IN THE NEWS



Each year, the IOMP (International Organization of Medical Physics) seeks nominations for the International Day of Medical Physics (IDMP) Award. This award recognizes excellence in medical physics with a particular emphasis on promoting medical physics to a larger audience and highlighting the impact of medical physicists on patient care. The 2024 IDMP Awards were announced on Nov 6, one day before the International Day of Medical Physics on Nov 7, the date of Marie Curie's birth. There were six IDMP Awards

given in 2024, and one recipient was **M. Saiful Huq, PhD, FAAPM**. Among his many accomplishments and achievements, Dr. Huq was elected as AAPM President for 2020 and received the William D. Coolidge Gold Medal award in 2023. Previous AAPM-member recipients of the IDMP Award include **Geoffrey S. Ibbott** in 2022, **Stephan Balter** in 2021, **Robert Jeraj** in 2020, **Jacob van Dyk** in 2019, and **Caridad Borrás** in 2018. Congratulations to Dr. Huq and all previous winners of this award! ■



Jennifer Pursley, PhD
Mayo Clinic





1631 Prince Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 | p. 571-298-1300 • f. 571-298-1301 | aapm.org