



American Academy of Health Physics
American Board of Health Physics
Website: <http://www.aahp-abhp.org>

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Continuing Education Committee

Jim Willison, CHP, Chair

For the Sacramento Health Physics Society (HPS) annual meeting in July, the Continuing Education Committee arranged for three eight-hour courses. These courses all took place on the Saturday preceding the meeting. Attendance at the three courses was improved over past years, which I hope indicates that CHPs are appreciating the choices they have been given and the value for the cost.

Course 1—"Response to Radiological Weapons" was taught by Victor Anderson. This course covered the use of radioactive material as weapons and how to respond to these types of attacks.

Course 2—"Nonionizing Radiation" was taught by Scott Nichelson. Scott's course covered the basics and effects of laser and radiofrequency devices and how to perform risk assessments.

Course 3—"Responses to Fukushima" was more of a group effort. This course was organized by Patricia Milligan and had a number of speakers on various aspects of organizational responses to the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami damage to the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Station in Japan. The speakers included representatives from several different U.S. agencies, as well as a representative from Tokyo Electric Power Company. The slides from the Course 3 presentations are available in the Public Library section of the [American Academy of Health Physics \(AAHP\) website](http://www.aahp.org).

Now, of course, it is time for the committee to find new courses to offer for the upcoming midyear meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona (courses on 26 January 2013) and the annual HPS meeting in Madison, Wisconsin (courses on 6 July 2013). We offer two of these eight-hour courses at the midyear meeting and three at the annual meeting. We already have one course lined up for Madison, but are seeking interested instructors to step forward and put something together that might be of interest to their fellow CHPs. Instructors will receive a \$1,000 honorarium for putting on a course, along with receiving 20 continuing education credits in addition to sharing their knowledge with others. Interested instructors should contact us at the committee email address (aahpcec@burkinc.com).

Apart from the courses, the main function of the committee is to evaluate activities for continuing education credit. We get, on average, about one submittal a day. All CHPs are encouraged to send in their requests electronically through the committee email account (aahpcec@burkinc.com) or by using the web form available on the [AAHP website](http://www.aahp.org) (it all goes to the same place). ■

AAHP Special Session at the Sacramento 2012 HPS Annual Meeting

Kathy Shingleton, CHP, AAHP Past President

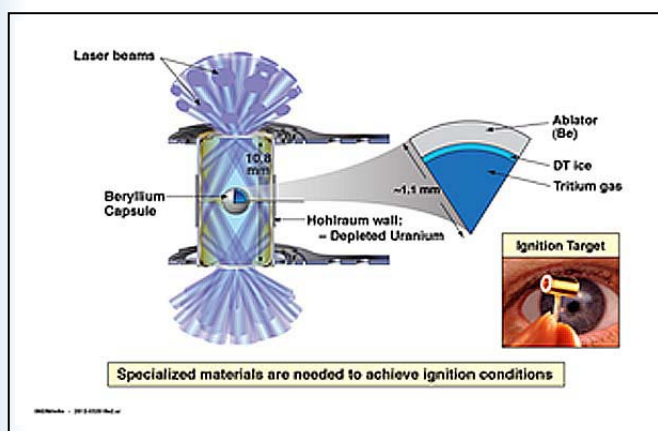
The American Academy of Health Physics (AAHP) sponsored a full-day technical session at the 2012 Health Physics Society (HPS) Annual Meeting titled “The National Ignition Facility (NIF): Bringing Star Power to Earth.” The session consisted of 10 talks on the NIF, the world’s largest and most energetic laser system for inertial confinement fusion (ICF) and experiments studying high-energy-density science.

The NIF is located at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Fifty HPS members participated in a technical tour of the facility on Thursday. The talks provided a comprehensive picture of the NIF, including an overview of the facility, its missions, radiological program challenges, and systems in place to address these challenges.

Notable in the talks was a video of how the lasers interact with the tritium-filled target to produce fusion (okay, it was a computer-generated movie, but it was still VERY cool! Hot, actually)! Another video (a REAL one this time, taken with x rays) showed the formation of the tritium ice layer within the tiny target capsule. Imagine a 5 μm diameter fill tube connected to the tiny target capsule, chilling it down to 17 degrees K, and then using the heat of tritium beta decay to melt any imperfections and create a perfectly uniform ice layer! The scope and scale of the facility (large and small) is truly mind-boggling. The last talk of the day covered “the next generation” of inertial fusion energy. Presuming that NIF is able to achieve “ignition” (which is a self-sustaining reaction wherein most or all of the fuel in the target is consumed), this talk addressed how we might turn this technology into a commercial power source.

While the goal of NIF is to produce little stars on Earth, it is also helping produce some big stars (the Hollywood types), and you will be able to see the facility in an upcoming, big-screen, family friendly science fiction movie. Hollywood aside, the presenters and their colleagues who built and operate the facility are the real stars of NIF, and we were fortunate to have them present this technical session at the HPS annual meeting.

At the AAHP awards luncheon, NIF Deputy Operations Manager Sandra Brereton was awarded with the National Service Award for making this session possible.



Overview of the NIF target chamber



Visitors touring the NIF

This work performed under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Energy by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory under Contract DE-AC52-07NA27344

The State of AAHP Finances

Andrew H. Thatcher, CHP, Treasurer

The American Academy of Health Physics (AAHP) investments have experienced a decrease in the portfolio value over the past year. Using the end of May 2012 as compared to the same period in 2011, the total value of long-, intermediate-, and short-term securities is \$689,181 and represents a \$96,837 decrease from the prior year. The past year's valuation has shown some sizeable variation from quarter to quarter, reflecting the equally large fluctuations in the market.

A \$50,000 transfer was made from securities to the operating budget. This necessary transfer should support the operating budget for a number of years to come.

At the July 2012 Health Physics Society Annual Meeting in Sacramento, California, the Executive Committee adopted the FY2012/2013 operating budget, as proposed by the Finance Committee. This budget estimates \$217,546 for expenses of the Academy and the American Board of Health Physics (ABHP) and \$177,100 for income. While such a budget is obviously lopsided on the expense side, we have two things working in our favor. First, the expenditures of the officers and committees of the AAHP and ABHP have historically been significantly less than projected. Second, we have the enviable position of being able to utilize the AAHP investments to cover any differences. For example, the 2010/2011 expenses exceeded revenue by only \$2,800. A similar shortfall is expected for the 2011/2012 year. The use of the investments for operational costs has allowed us to maintain our current budget without the need to raise our annual dues. If you have a question related to the investments or the budget, please email me at thatcher.drew@comcast.net. ■