

CHP Corner



American Academy of Health Physics
American Board of Health Physics
Website: www.aahp-abhp.org

A Note From AAHP President Frazier 10 January 2013

John Frazier, CHP, President

As I come to the end of my term as president of the American Academy of Health Physics, I have been reflecting on the observations I made during this past year. One observation that stands out in my mind is the recognition that there are some certified health physicists (CHP) who are not members of the Health Physics Society (HPS). This observation really surprised me.

There are many benefits associated with HPS membership and these are summarized on the HPS website (www.hps.org). In my opinion, the most important benefit is the professional network afforded each HPS member. I am convinced that active, plenary membership in the HPS by every CHP is in the best interest of each CHP, the HPS, and the health physics profession. I sincerely encourage each CHP who is not currently an HPS member to carefully consider joining (or rejoining, if that is the case) the HPS. I believe that CHPs can make a greater impact as health physicists and be more effective in our various radiation safety and radiation protection activities by being a part of the HPS.

AAHP Appeals Committee

Cheryl Olsen, CHP, Chair

The American Academy of Health Physics (AAHP) Appeals Committee evaluates appeals regarding American Board of Health Physics (ABHP or Board) decisions on candidate applications, examinations, certifications, and/or certification renewals. Appeals may be filed with the Executive Secretary by any individual who is denied:

- Eligibility for any part of the examination,
- Part I or Part II passing,
- Certification for any reason, or
- Renewal of certification.

The Appeals Committee determines whether or not the policies and procedures of the Board were properly followed. The committee reports its findings to the appellant, the ABHP chair, the AAHP president, and the AAHP program director. Current members of the committee are Jason Marsden and Duncan White.

American Board of Health Physics

Gus Potter, CHP, Past Chair

The American Board of Health Physics (ABHP) held its fall meeting in McLean, Virginia, 16–17 November 2012. Based on the exam results ([see the January 2013 "CHP Corner"](#)), the ABHP granted 15 new certifications in 2012.

The Board applauded panel members for the time and effort they contributed to the preparation and grading of the examinations. Special thanks were given to Jay Tarzia and Glenn Sturchio for chairing the Part I and Part II Exam Panels, respectively. Preparing the exams is a significant effort and

we all must not lose sight of the fact that the extensive time that the chairs spend is on a volunteer basis. Their hard work is sincerely appreciated.

This year the Board recognized the passing of a current member, Rob Forrest. Past Board member Nora Nicholson was nominated to the AAHP for completion of Rob's term, and the nomination was accepted. We thank Nora for doing this in addition to her representation of the ABHP to the Council of Engineering and Scientific Specialty Boards, the ABHP's accreditation body.

Those who have served on the Part II panel are familiar with the exam-development process, which has included development of questions followed by balloting of those questions for inclusion on the exam. The Board has now separated the processes of question development and exam preparation so that the Part II vice chair leads the process to develop questions for the Exam Bank and the Part II chair focuses on preparing the exam completely from the Exam Bank. For those outside of the panel interested in developing questions for the exam, receiving recertification points will now require their question to be entered into the bank, as opposed to actually being a part of the exam as was required previously.

The term expired for one member of the ABHP, Jack Higgenbotham; Andy Karam joins the Board as a new member (effective 1 January 2013). The 2013 Board is comprised of Chair Govind Rao, Vice Chair Patrick LaFrate, Secretary George MacDurmon, Parliamentarian Sharon Dossett, and members Nora Nicholson, Andy Karam, Mark Miller, and Gus Potter.

On a personal note, I'd like to add to the annual tradition of offering my thanks to Nancy Johnson for all of the work she does. She truly makes the certification process run. I'd also like to thank Kent Lambert for all of the advice and help he's given me this year.