

CHP Corner



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

Professional Standards and Ethics Committee

Ruth E. McBurney, CHP, Chair

The purpose of the American Academy of Health Physics (AAHP) Professional Standards and Ethics Committee is to define the standards of professional responsibility for certified health physicists (CHPs) and to review all complaints about ethical practice referred to the committee by the Executive Committee. Since there have been no complaints about CHPs acting unethically, the committee has had a quiet year in this regard. This is a good sign that suggests that our colleagues continue to conduct themselves in a professional and ethical manner.

The committee is also responsible for selection of the Joyce P. Davis Memorial Award winners. This award is given in memory and honor of Joyce P. Davis in recognition of her dedication to the advancement of health physics and her humanitarian efforts to uphold the ethics of the profession.

At the AAHP Executive Committee meeting in January of this year, a modification to the criteria for the Davis Award was approved, which better mirrors the original intent of this award. The criteria for selection now includes the following: the candidate should be evaluated for excellence and distinction in his or her professional practice of health physics by having demonstrated open and honest communications, accepting and honoring agreements, including but not limited to service to the AAHP. Professional service may include scientific achievement, health physics education, and health physics administration. This award focuses more on professional work in health physics, whereas the William McAdams Award focuses more on service to the AAHP and the Board.

Although we received no nominations this year, a call for nominations for next year's Joyce P. Davis Award will be published in a later edition of the *CHP Corner*. I encourage all CHPs to begin thinking about those among our ranks who are deserving of this prestigious award.

The current Professional Standards and Ethics Committee members (in addition to the chair) are Tim Taulbee, Bruce Thomadsen, Danny Rice, and Neill Stanford.

AAHP Committee Appointments

Edgar D. Bailey, CHP, President-elect

One of my primary, and certainly most important, responsibilities as president-elect of the American Academy of Health Physics (AAHP) is to identify and recommend committee chairs and new committee members for those rotating off committees at the end of this year. This process begins prior to the annual meeting of the Health Physics Society (HPS) so that the incoming chairs and new committee members can be approved by the AAHP Executive Committee at its meeting held in connection with the HPS annual meeting. For the AAHP, terms of office, committee appointments, etc., are on a calendar-year basis, so those selected have about six months after their selections to prepare.

Each current committee chair was contacted and asked to recommend who should be the committee chair for 2014. Thanks to Nancy Johnson, our executive secretary, I was also able to provide each of the committee chairs with a spreadsheet listing the people who had volunteered on their dues statements to serve on AAHP committees and to ask for recommendations for new committee members to replace those who were due to rotate off committees at the end of 2013.

At the meeting of the AAHP Executive Committee on 7 July 2013 in Madison, Wisconsin, the following committee chairs were approved for 2014.

Committee*	2013 Chair	2014 Chair
Appeals	Cheryl Olson	Cheryl Olson (Reappointed)
Continuing Education	James S. Willison	James S. Willison (Reappointed)
Exam Site	Janine Katanic	Todd Baker
Nominating	Gary Kephart	Dale Thomas
Professional Development	Tom Johnson	Maya Keller
Professional Standards & Ethics	Ruth McBurney	Tim Taulbee
Title Protection/Professional Recognition	Charles Kent	Vicki Morris

*Chair and Membership of Finance Committee set by Bylaws.

At the same meeting, the following new committee members were also approved. Each of the new appointments is for a term running through 2016.

Committee	Appointment	Replacing
Appeals	Sarah Hoover	Jason Marsden
Continuing Education	Robert Sitsler	Brian Hinderliter
Exam Site	Christopher Graham Josip Zic Anthony Williams	Janine Katanic Kay Foster Darrell Liles
Nominating	Dale Thomas Bob Morris Earl Fordham (Vice Chair ABHP)	Gary Kephart Kurt Geber Glenn Sturchio Patrick LaFrate
Professional Development	Janet Johnson	Claude Wiblin
Professional Standards & Ethics	Tim Taulbee (Reappointed) Robert Cherry	Tim Taulbee Ruth McBurney
Title Protection/Professional Recognition	John Solini	Charles Kent

Activities of the American Board of Health Physics

Govind R. Rao, CHP, ABHP Chair

The American Board of Health Physics (ABHP) held its summer meeting on 6 July 2013 in Madison, Wisconsin. The Board members (with term expiration dates in parentheses) for calendar year 2014 are:

- Nora Nicholson (2014), Chair
- Pat LaFrate (2015), Vice-Chair
- George MacDurmon (2014), Secretary
- Andrew Karam (2017), Parliamentarian
- Charles (Gus) Potter (2015)
- Mark A. Miller (2016)
- Robert May (2018)
- Jay Tarzia (2018)

Congratulations to Robert May and Jay Tarzia, who were elected to serve on the Board starting in January 2014, replacing current Board members Govind R. Rao and Sharon Dossett, whose terms end in December 2013.

Exam panel officers for 2014 are:

- Part I Panel Chair, Cindy Flannery (2016)
- Part I Vice-Chair, Paul Jones (2016)
- Part II Panel Chair, Curtis Kwasniewski (2014)
- Part II Panel Vice-Chair, Richard Adams (2013; Board extended term to 2015)

One of the primary missions of the Board is the preparation, administration, and grading of the certification examination each year. The task can be accomplished only because of the dedicated work of Part I and Part II Exam Panel members and their respective chairs and vice-chairs: Bill Rhodes (2013 Part I Panel chair), Cindy Flannery (2013 Part I Panel vice-chair), Wayne Gaul (2013 Part II Panel chair), and Curtis Kwasniewski (2013 Part II Panel vice-chair). The Exam Panels did an excellent job in preparing fair and balanced exams in a very timely manner. I would like to acknowledge their contributions and express my sincere gratitude for their hard work. I would also like to thank all Board members for their part in reviewing exam questions.

The Board implemented a new protocol for the preparation of this year's Part II exam. The new protocol separates the development of questions from the assemblage and preparation of the exam, thereby affording the panel chair some relief from the intense time pressures associated with this task. The chair assembles the exam by selecting an appropriate mix of previously vetted questions from a closed bank.

The ABHP certification exams (Parts I and II) were offered in Madison, Wisconsin, and at 17 other sites on 8 July 2013. Of the 306 applicants (307 in 2012), 156 candidates took the Part I exam and 95 candidates took the Part II exam.

I want to personally thank all the certified health physicists (CHPs) who volunteered their time to proctor the exams at the various sites. Without their support, it would not have been possible to host the exams at the various sites, and many candidates would have had to travel to Madison at their own expense to take the exam. Very special thanks are due to Nancy Johnson, executive secretary and program director, for her leadership and unwavering support in organizing all exam-related activities, which went very smoothly.

Working on the exam panels is a very rich and rewarding experience. In addition to the benefits of networking with experienced CHPs and exchanging ideas on current topics, it also awards a very generous portion of the continuing education credits needed for recertification. I strongly urge all CHPs, if they have not already done so, to seriously consider volunteering to serve on one of the exam panels.

The following CHPs have been added as replacements for outgoing panel members:

Part I Panel: Janine Katanic and Michael Whalen

Part II Panel: Richard Adams (term extended by two years), Allen Mabry, William McCarthy, Henry Lynn, Jeff Chapman, and Tom Hansen

The Board adopted a new policy (approved by the AAHP Executive Committee in February 2013) with regard to low-scoring candidates on the Part II exam. **Starting with the 2014 Part II exam**, candidates who fail to receive a minimum of 300 points (out of 700 available points) will be required to wait one year before being allowed to retake the Part II exam. This requirement will not apply to candidates in their sixth and final year of eligibility since passing the Part I exam. A candidate may request an exemption from the Board if the candidate believes that he or she had extenuating circumstances. This is intended to encourage candidates to take more time and prepare better the second time. It will also reduce the time wasted by volunteer graders in grading exams of candidates who are just not prepared. A notice to this effect has been added to the ABHP website. All applicants for 2014 and beyond will be reminded of the policy in the application acceptance letter.

Each year the Secretariat receives many requests from individuals who are interested in obtaining ABHP certification but are unsure if their education or work experience qualifies them. While the Board can provide general advice, it is only through a thorough evaluation of a fully completed application that a proper determination can be made. I would like to encourage all prospective candidates to carefully read through the ABHP Prospectus, which can be found at www.hps1.org/aaahp/boardweb/prospectus.html.

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