

CHP Corner



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

ABHP Part I Panel of Examiners Activities

Cindy Flannery, CHP, Chair

Each year in November, the American Board of Health Physics (ABHP) Part I Examination Panel meets for two days in McLean, Virginia, to review the performance of the current year's exam and prepare a new exam for the following year. In 2013, the panel held its annual meeting 24–25 November. The panel comprises 12 certified health physicists (CHPs) from locations throughout the United States with expertise in different areas, including academic/research applications, accelerators, dosimetry, environmental and fundamental health physics, fuel cycle/waste management, power reactors, and regulations. These experienced and well-qualified CHPs work in a variety of settings, such as medical facilities, universities, nuclear power facilities, regulatory agencies, and Department of Energy facilities. Panel members are appointed by the ABHP for a four-year term.

Prior to each meeting, the results of exam-question performance from the current year are tabulated in a report for review by the committee. To prepare for the meeting, members review the report and develop recommendations for changes to the exam bank within their area of expertise. Recommended changes can include modifications to existing questions, the removal of poorly performing or outdated questions, and the addition of new questions. During the meeting, the members submit their recommendations to the panel for review. The proposed modifications and new questions are reviewed and, if approved by the panel, are added to a bank of existing questions for possible use on future exams.

More specifically for the 2013 meeting, the panel made revisions to the Part I exam to increase emphasis on medical health physics. Also, members worked on updating the Part I questions on the ABHP Examination Preparation Guide. These revisions must be approved by the ABHP before it can be posted on the website and made available to exam candidates.

The Part I Panel's work is a significant part of the accreditation process for health physicists and has proven to be a rewarding experience for CHPs who have volunteered for this important job. Because the terms of panel members are staggered, there are frequent opportunities for new members to join.



2013 fall meeting, left to right, Jackson Ellis, Karen Brown, Jim Willison, ABHP member Andy Miller, Paul Jones, 2013 Panel Vice Chair Cindy Flannery, Cheryl Antonio, Pat McDermott, 2013 Panel Chair William Rhodes, William Barley, Beth Hilt, and 2013 Past Panel Chair Jay Tarzia

If you are interested in contributing to our profession and enjoy working in a collegial atmosphere with fellow CHPs, please indicate your interest in serving on the Part I Examination Panel when you submit your ABHP annual dues. You may also contact panel Chair Cindy Flannery (cindy.flannery@nrc.gov) or Vice Chair Paul Jones (paul.jones@npo.doe.gov) at any time. It is a rewarding experience and an opportunity to work with some of the best in the field of health physics. Although not a requirement for membership, Hawaiian shirts are always welcome.

Continuing Education Committee

Jim Willison, CHP, Chair

On behalf of the Continuing Education Committee, I wish to extend a welcome to all the new certified health physicists (CHPs). Welcome to the wonderful world of continuing education credits (CECs). To remain certified, each of you must accrue a total of 64 CECs over the next four years, starting now. You can find information on the types of activities that qualify for credits on the American Academy of Health Physics (AAHP) website at the link titled [Recertification Info](#).

For the 2014 Health Physics Society (HPS) Midyear Meeting in Baton Rouge, the Continuing Education Committee has arranged for two eight-hour courses. Course 1 is "Radiation Protection Considerations for Alpha Emitters at Nuclear Power Plants," to be put on by John R. Frazier and Michael Littleton. Course 2 is an eight-hour hazardous waste operations (HAZWOPER) refresher course put on by Wayne Gaul. Each of these courses will be held on 8 February, the Saturday prior to the start of the midyear meeting, and each is worth 16 CECs.

The Continuing Education Committee is currently soliciting ideas for the three AAHP eight-hour courses for the Saturday before the 2014 HPS Annual Meeting in Baltimore. Instructors receive a \$1,000 honorarium and 20 CECs for their troubles as well as the opportunity to share their knowledge with their colleagues. If you would like to be considered to present one of these courses, please contact us at aahpcec@burkinc.com.

Professional Development Committee Update

Maya Keller, CHP, Chair

The Professional Development Committee (PDC) is tasked with expanding and enhancing standards for American Board of Health Physics (ABHP) certification, evaluating the standards for recertification, assisting certified health physicists (CHPs) in improving their knowledge, publicizing the benefits of certification, and fostering recognition of ABHP certification.

Our current members are Maya Keller, chair; Tom Johnson, former chair; and Carl Paperiello, Claude Wimblin, and Richard Granberg.

The PDC met at the 2013 Health Physics Society (HPS) Annual Meeting in Madison, Wisconsin, where we discussed several ideas to increase exam participation and assist with exam preparation. The meeting was followed up with an email in mid-August to reiterate our goals and assign specific duties. Another round of email exchanges in mid-September served as a progress report. The details of the ideas/projects we are working on this year are explained below.

An informative pamphlet to hand out at the booth that the PDC staffs at the HPS annual meeting has been created. We now need the ABHP Board to approve the pamphlet and then arrange for printing.

Along with the pamphlet, we hope to make more students aware of the exam and the eligibility requirements by directly contacting the leaders of all the HPS student branches and providing them with information on how, when, and where to apply, as well as suggesting various ways to study for the exam. Most students are eligible to take the exam after completing their bachelor's degree, and the sooner they take Part I, the more likely they are to eventually become fully certified. One problem for some students may be that they do not know any CHPs who can provide letters of recom-

mentation for them. Being involved in a mentoring program could potentially resolve this problem. We have discussed the possibility of creating a mentoring program for potential exam takers to give advice on how and what to study and to provide help with specific topics. However, the Student Support Committee already runs a mentoring program through the HPS website, so Paperiello agreed to investigate whether or not it would be feasible to include specific items important to exam takers in pairing mentors and mentees. Some other difficulties that individuals may encounter with the existing mentoring program are that one must be an HPS member to access the site (often not the case for exam takers) and the site is somewhat difficult to find. A more robust and well-advertised mentoring program could be very beneficial to potential exam takers.

Call for 2014 McAdams Award Nominations

Pat LaFrate, CHP, ABHP Vice Chair

Nominations for the William A. McAdams Outstanding Service Award are due by **3 March 2014**. This award is presented annually by the American Board of Health Physics (ABHP) and the American Academy of Health Physics (AAHP) to honor a certified health physicist who has made a significant contribution toward the advancement of professionalism in health physics and toward the certification process. Any member of the AAHP may submit a nomination. More details and information on the history of the McAdams Award may be found at hps1.org/aahp/boardweb/awards/mcadams.html. The nomination form may be found at hps1.org/aahp/boardweb/forms/McAdamsNomination.pdf.

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