

CHP Corner



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

American Board of Health Physics

Nora Nicholson, CHP, ABHP Chair

The American Board of Health Physics (ABHP) held its fall meeting in McLean, Virginia, 22–23 November 2013. Based on the exam results, the ABHP granted 34 new certifications in 2013 (see the “CHP Corner” in the [January 2014 Health Physics News](#), page 34).

During the fall meeting, the Board applauded panel members for the time and effort they contributed to the preparation and grading of the 2013 examinations. Special thanks to Bill Rhodes, Panel 1 chair, and Wayne Gaul, Panel 2 chair. Preparing the exams is a significant effort and we all must not lose sight of the extensive time the chairs spend on this process, which is on a volunteer basis. Their hard work is sincerely appreciated.

As a reminder to certified health physicists (CHPs), 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 bank. For those CHPs not on the panel who would like to develop 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 previously required.

The term expired for two members of the ABHP, Govind Rao and Sharon Dossett. Sincere thanks to Govind and Sharon for their work on the Board. Bob May and Jay Tarzia joined the Board as new members, effective 1 January 2014. The 2014 Board is composed of the following members:

Nora Nicholson, Chair	Mark (Andy) Miller, Member
Pat LaFrate, Vice Chair	Robert May, Member
George MacDurmon, Secretary	Charles (Gus) Potter, Member
Andy Karam, Parliamentarian	Jay Tarzia, Member

The Board’s sincerest appreciation goes to Nancy Johnson for all the work she does for ABHP and the certification process. Nancy truly makes the process run so well.

AAHP Appeals Committee

Cheryl Olson, CHP, Chair

The American Academy of Health Physics (AAHP) Appeals Committee evaluates appeals regarding American Board of Health Physics (ABHP) decisions on candidate applications, examinations, certifications, and/or certification renewals. Appeals may be filed with the executive secretary (Nancy Johnson, njohnson@burkinc.com) 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. In addition to my position as committee chair, the committee is made up of current members Jason Marsden and Duncan White.

Professional Standards and Ethics Committee

Timothy D. Taulbee, CHP, Chair

The American Academy of Health Physics (AAHP) Professional Standards and Ethics Committee is charged with defining the standards of professional responsibility for certified health physicists (CHPs) and reviewing all complaints about unethical practice referred to the committee by the Executive Committee. The standards of professional responsibility are in place and they have been reviewed.

The Professional Standards and Ethics Committee is a standing committee of the AAHP composed of five members of the Academy. Serving on the committee in 2014 in addition to the chair are Bruce Thomadsen, Danny Rice, Neill Stanford, and Robert Cherry.

It appears that all CHPs are continuing to conduct themselves in a professional and ethical manner as no complaints have been referred to the committee in the recent past. In fact, the committee has not received a complaint within the past three years, which really demonstrates the standards and ethics of the Academy. The committee also serves as a clearinghouse for professional standards and ethics questions from CHPs and others in the profession of health physics.

Another responsibility of the Professional Standards and Ethics Committee is the establishment of procedures for selecting, awarding, and announcing the Joyce P. Davis Memorial Award winners. The procedures have been reviewed and a call has been issued for nominations for the 2014 Joyce P. Davis Memorial Award. The information regarding the nomination process can be found in the December 2013 edition of the *CHP News* (attached to the [December 2013 issue of Health Physics News](#)). It can also be found on the AAHP website hps1.org/aahp/wp_awards.htm. We encourage you to nominate a CHP who has demonstrated an exceptional level of professional standards and ethics in his or her career. Previous recipients of the award include John Kelly, James Tarpinian, Carol Berger, Howard Dickson, and Frazier Bronson.

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