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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*Carol D. Berger, CHP
President, AAHP*

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For those of you who were unable to attend the open meeting of the American Academy of Health Physics in Boston, I would like to take this opportunity to tell you a little bit about what you missed and review what the Academy has been up to. Academy year 1995 has definitely been a busy one!

De-incorporation of the ABHP

First, the de-incorporation of the ABHP is complete as of the end of July. The ABHP now operates as a body within the corporate structure of the AAHP. As a result, changes to the bylaws are necessary. An *ad hoc* committee, comprised of George Vargo and Jerry Thomas, is putting the finishing touches on the final version of the ballot that will be sent to you in early spring of 1996.

Legal Counsel

The AAHP Executive Committee secured the services of legal counsel for Academy activities. Tom Esslinger, Esq., of the firm Schmeltzer, Aptaker and Shepard, was asked to serve as General Counsel to the Academy. Mr. Esslinger has already proven his worth by providing important and insightful input on the proposed bylaws, the draft "Standards of Professional Responsibility for Certified Health Physicists," and other operational issues. We are benefiting from his participation.

Feedback Survey

In January, a survey was published in the *CHP News* to solicit your input on issues that were under consideration by the Executive Committee. The responses we received were summarized by Jerry Martin and published in a subsequent edition of the "CHP Corner." During the AAHP Executive Committee meeting in Boston, these comments were given serious review. Many triggered new action items that will be reported upon in the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

Investment Policy

The AAHP Treasurer and Finance Committee have successfully implemented a financial plan for the funds of the Academy. Smith Barney has been selected to serve as the Financial Advisor to the Academy, and accounts in the name of the Academy have been opened. The need for and the smooth implementation of this financial strategy is a reflection of how the Academy has matured over the years.

Committee Activities

The Academy's committees have been quite active since January of 1995. The Professional Development Committee has been investigating the Academy's participation in the National Organization of Competency Assurance. They are also pursuing development of Standards of Practice for the Professional Health Physicist. We're

looking forward to their findings and recommendations at the next Executive Committee Meeting.

The Professional Standards and Ethics Committee has been facing the difficult task of upgrading what was formerly known as the Code of Ethics. [See the October 1995 Special Edition of the *CHP News* for a copy of the draft "Standards of Professional Responsibility for Certified Health Physicists" and associated guidance documents.] Included in their efforts are changes to the procedures for dealing with ethics complaints. A lot (and I mean a lot) of work has gone into this difficult task. You will have the opportunity to vote on the fruits of their labors in the early spring of 1996.

The Continuing Education Committee's activities were evident in the quality and professional value of the Academy's Continuing Education Courses offered at the Boston meeting. I have received nothing but positive feedback from attendees. We look forward to even greater contributions next year.

As reported in the last edition of the "CHP Corner," the Exam Site Selection Committee arranged for sites for 674 applicants to take the 1995 Certification Exam. Even a few last minute curve balls thrown to a couple of proctors were handled successfully.

"Faux" CHP

In a previous edition of the "CHP Corner," an interesting, but frustrating, circumstance was reported, whereby an individual attempted to falsify certification status. Also, the Executive Committee has heard reports of individuals who put "Certified Health Physicist" on their business cards and

resumes because they have received a "certificate" of attendance from some introductory training program. These are unfortunate demonstrations of the value of the CHP credential in the professional community. The Academy's consciousness has been heightened with regard to these types of issues, and the Executive Committee intends to take action whenever such cases come to light. Please don't hesitate to give the Executive Committee a call if you become aware of any cases of "creative certification."

Strategic Planning

The activities and function of the Academy have matured to the point where strategic plans for guiding its actions and direction over the short, intermediate, and long term are necessary. Bob Casey is arranging a strategic planning workshop for the Executive Committee, which will be held in conjunction with the 1996 HPS Mid-year Meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona. You will be hearing more on this issue in months to come.

Agreement with Burk & Associates

For many years, the Academy has retained the services of Burk and Associates Inc. to provide program management for the Academy. While the relationship between our two organizations has been excellent, we were operating without a formal agreement between us regarding what was expected and what would be provided. Dick Burk kindly provided the Executive Committee with a proposed contract. With the help of Brian Kelly, an Academy member with years of experience in reviewing both commercial and government contracts, and after input from the Academy's General Counsel, the contract was finalized and signed. We look forward to a long and mutually-beneficial working

relationship with Burk and Associates Inc.

Wrap-up

Although you will be hearing from me again in a few more editions of the "CHP Corner," this will be my last opportunity to address you as AAHP President in 1995. It appears that there are never enough hours in the year, and one always wishes that even more could have been accomplished during the time available. However, when I look at what the Academy has achieved since January, and the aggressive pace it has set for itself in the months to come, I am both pleased and excited.

I want to express my appreciation for the hard work of the few that has resulted in great benefit for the many. First, let me recognize the efforts of the ABHP and the exam panel members. These dedicated individuals put in hundreds of hours each year qualifying candidates and administering, preparing, delivering, defending, and grading exams. They are truly the backbone of the AAHP.

It is through its committees that much of the work of the AAHP is accomplished. The AAHP has been fortunate in the talent and commitment of its committee members. I've already mentioned some of the highlights of their work.

The Academy is continuously grateful for the help and hard work put forth by members such as Nancy Daugherty, Editor of the *CHP News* and "CHP Corner." In that "highly paid" (i.e., strictly voluntary) position of hers, she always goes beyond the call of duty to encourage communications. And she even strikes up a bit of controversy now and then. (You have to admit, some recent editions have been smokin'!) We are in her debt.

As Program Director, Nancy Johnson and her staff at Burk and Associates Inc. provide the support services and continuity in performance that are critical to the smooth functioning of the Academy. Nancy's interests in the Academy's activities go beyond merely the professional. She has been and continues to be an active and important player in Academy functions and the font of our institutional knowledge.

To each and every one of you that has joined a committee, served as a proctor, attended a Special Session or an Open or Executive Committee Meeting, contributed to the *CHP News* or "CHP Corner," completed and returned a survey form, took a stand on a technical issue of interest to the Academy, served as an instructor in an AAHP Continuing Education Course, or just dropped us a line when something interesting or important came up, I am most grateful. Please don't stop there.

Finally I wish all Academy members the happiest of holidays and extend my best wishes to each of you and your families for 1996. Thank you again for the honor of serving you as AAHP President for 1995. I look forward to hearing from you. ■

FROM THE CHAIR DECEMBER 1995

*E. Scott Medling, CHP
Chair, ABHP, 1995*

Certification Renewal

One of the duties of the American Board of Health Physics (ABHP) is to sponsor a Certification Renewal Program, including issuance of recertifications. One of the requirements for recertification is that

the CHP be "engaged substantially and currently" in professional health physics. "Substantially and currently" has been held to mean that the CHP had to be working at least 25% of the time in professional health physics at the time of recertification application.

This interpretation causes a problem for CHPs who find themselves temporarily out of health physics, or in short- or long-term positions in which it is a "stretch" to claim that the job is "professional health physics." It is not the intent of the Board that such persons be prevented from recertifying or to cause people to have to "stretch" to recertify.

To ensure consistency, the ABHP has approved a policy that the "25%" test would be applied as an AVERAGE over the preceding four-year interval, rather than, "at the time of application."

As a further improvement, the Board is now also considering whether "employment" should be a hard requirement for recertification. Specifically, the question is: "Should a CHP be able to maintain certification solely by earning a specified number of Continuing Education Credits (CECs), with a certain number of CECs being awarded for active employment?"

As an example, the current recertification Continuing Education requirement is 64 CECs. Perhaps the requirement could be raised to 128 CECs, with an allowance of up to 64 CECs for four years of full-time professional employment. Such a program would enable the person who is not currently employed to remain certified, if he/she were willing to complete a sufficient number of CE creditable activities.

I'm sure the Board would be receptive to comments from CHPs

relative to this issue. Any comments sent to me by E-mail at medlines@songs.sce.com would be submitted to the ABHP for consideration. ■

COMMITTEE UPDATES

CONTINUING EDUCATION

*David D. Snellings, CHP
Chair*

1995 activities of the AAHP Continuing Education Committee include:

- ✓ Sponsored five refresher training courses at the HPS Annual and Mid-year meetings on a variety of topics. These courses are very well received by attendees and will continue to be offered in the future. (See page 7 for descriptions of the Scottsdale courses.)
 - ✓ Evaluated applications for Continuing Education Credits (CECs) from CHPs for application toward the recertification requirements. The evaluation process has been significantly improved, with a resulting reduction in the required review time.
 - ✓ Revised the Continuing Education Policy to allow awarding CECs to CHPs for college credits taken to complete requirements for an advanced degree.
- The Committee is currently developing the following draft Policy revisions to present to the AAHP Executive Committee for approval in 1996:
- ✓ Provide expanded criteria and detailed guidance for CHPs to apply for CECs for self-study programs.

✓ Provide for reducing the pre-approval requirements for training courses from an annual basis to a four-year basis.

✓ Provide for awarding CECs for work experience.

Anyone having questions or comments on these initiatives, please contact a Continuing Education Committee member. ■

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

*Joseph P. Ring, CHP
Chair*

The AAHP Professional Development Committee is currently pursuing the following activities:

✓ Developing a brochure describing the health physics profession. This pamphlet will provide information for the prospective health physicist and will be available for use by the health physics community in general. Some of the topics that will be addressed in the brochure include courses of study, types of work (e.g., in research, power reactor, university, hospital, and industrial health physics), and work environments.

✓ Drafting a suggested process for developing professional standards of practice. Such standards could address issues of the professional roles and expertise required for specific practices of health physics. The Committee will be providing suggested topics for standards to the AAHP Executive Committee.

✓ Evaluating potential membership of the AAHP in the National Organization for Competency Assurance (NOCA). NOCA assists

member organizations in the certification process and provides an arena for discussion of issues related to certification. A related organization, the National Commission of Certifying Agencies (NCCA), serves as a "certifier of certifiers." ■

CHP CODE OF ETHICS: FOR DISCUSSION

[Following are excerpts from a lively discussion on the RADSAFE listserver. We wanted to broaden the audience and are repeating some of the material here. Please join in!]

George J. Vargo, Jr., CHP:

The latest version of the CHP Standards for Professional Conduct showed up in my mailbox recently. [See October 1995 *CHP News*.] I think you could safely substitute "CHP" with just about any other profession or title, and they would be entirely applicable. They are very basic; however, the area of real, potential, or apparent conflict of interest is likely to spark some interesting discussion.

Just to warm things up, I'd like to throw out a "straw person" scenario. ANY RESEMBLANCE TO PERSONS LIVING OR DECEASED IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL - THIS IS A FICTIONAL CASE:

As a well-known CHP, you are frequently called to serve as an expert witness in radiation litigation cases. An attorney for a plaintiff contacts you and asks for your assistance as an expert witness. The agreement proposed is that contingent on a favorable verdict you would receive 10% of all monies awarded to the plaintiff. Which of the following responses is appropriate:

a. Refuse the offer because it is in violation of the Standards

for Professional Conduct for CHPs.

- b. Refuse and counter offer for an amount equal to half of the attorney's contingency fee.
- c. Accept the offer - it's a fair deal.
- d. Refuse the offer because it is unethical and counter to accept the work for an hourly rate or fixed fee.

Based on your reading of the Standards for Professional Conduct, are any of these four responses unethical? ■

*Lester A. Slaback, Jr.,
CHP:*

In [*The Synergist*, September 1995] is an exchange of letters regarding the suspension of ethics enforcement by the AIHA. Part of the AIHA response to the letter commenting on this suspension states "...Few professional societies other than those whose members operate under state licensing actually carry out enforcement of their ethics code, primarily because enforcement is very expensive. Some societies have actually been forced to raise dues substantially to cover legal expenses involved in their enforcement attempts. Because of the high costs, most societies rely on federal or state governments to carry out enforcement using... licensing and registration regulations. In AIHA's experience, ethics enforcement by the association itself is costly and results have been unsatisfactory or inconclusive. Pursuant to its fiscal responsibility to the membership, AIHA's Board of Directors has temporarily suspended actual enforcement while it studies the many perspectives of the issue."

In some ways the impracticality of enforcement simplifies the issue. You can write the standard to simply reflect the common expectation of behavior, and presume self enforcement (ritual suicide?) on the part of transgressors. ■

George Vargo, responding to Les Slaback:

Remember that the AIHA is to the CIH as the HPS is to the CHP. The AIHA does not certify, nor does the HPS; both are professional societies. Yes, most CIHs are members of the AIHA, and most CHPs are members of the HPS.

It appears that the AIHA has changed its policy to act in the same manner as the HPS with respect to enforcement of its code of ethics. In neither case is membership in the professional society a prerequisite for certification. The two should not be confused.

Has the HPS ever taken action against a member for a violation of its Code of Ethics?

1996 CHP SALARY SURVEY

Gary L. Lautenschlager, member of the Midwest Chapter of the HPS and the author of the 1995 CHP salary survey, is looking ahead to a similar survey for 1996. Please contact him if you have suggestions for additional information or other changes you'd like to see included in the survey.

Gary L. Lautenschlager
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LETTERS:

The Rest of the Story?

Joseph P. Shuman, CHP

June 16, 1995

As a newly certified HP, who did it "the old fashioned way," I was quite interested in the story regarding the mischievous recertification incident.

There is in my mind, however, one final question: Does the current (1994-1995) membership directory of Active CHPs contain this individual's name? If so, does the AAHP plan to issue a "corrected" list prior to the next issue of the directory?

My concern is simple: A common use of the listing is to confirm professional credentials. If this individual's name appears on the list, then misrepresentation of the individual's qualifications are still an issue. (I recognize that the Academy will provide this information if an inquiry is made about the individual. But not knowing specifically who the "non CHP" is would then require verification of anyone in the current listing, if an uncertified person is listed therein.)

Thanks for your time. I sincerely appreciate the effort of the Academy to protect the integrity of certification. ■

[Response: The inappropriateness of the claim of the "faux CHP" was discovered in sufficient time that the name was never entered into the list of active CHPs in the membership handbook (the *Radiation Protection Professional's Directory & Handbook*).

As Carol Berger discusses in her President's Report, this incident was both unexpected and resolved satisfactorily. However, the AAHP Executive Committee may give further attention to establishing more formal guidelines for dealing with such a circumstance. Should more serious censure be applied to those who intentionally misrepresent themselves as CHPs? If so, in what form? Would publishing the name of the person be appropriate, regardless of any retraction of the claim to certification? - nancy d ■]

FROM THE EDITOR:

Nancy M. Daugherty, CHP

Visibility for Certification: A Bigger Target?

At the time I was appointed newsletter editor for the AAHP there was considerable interest among the AAHP Executive Committee members in increasing the visibility of ABHP certification. The following actions were taken to further this objective:

Adopting a CHP logo for easy recognition and identification with the AAHP. The logo (designed by Keith Schiager) is used on AAHP publications and has been incorporated into lapel pins given to CHPs.

Publishing the semi-annual CHP News, and co-distributing it with the HPS Newsletter in June and December. Although the co-distribution results in higher printing and mailing costs, the AAHP Executive Committee believes that the expense is justified by the wide audience of prospective certification candidates among the HPS membership.

Publication of the monthly "CHP Corner" in the HPS Newsletter. It was quickly recognized that a semi-annual CHP News schedule was too infrequent to allow timely presentation of some issues and of reminders of approaching deadlines. The monthly "CHP Corner" fills the need for more current information.

Higher visibility for individual CHPs in the Radiation Protection Professional's Directory & Handbook.

The HPS membership handbook features the CHP logo on its cover,

identifies those HPS members who are Certified, lists ABHP and AAHP Officers, Examination Panel Members, and Committee Members, and provides a list of active CHPs and Associate Members of the AAHP.

Identification of CHPs on nametags for the Annual and Mid-year HPS Meetings. This identification allows those who are interested in learning more about ABHP certification to recognize and talk to those who have been through the process.

Along with the higher visibility has come greater controversy and criticism: The AAHP has faced its first known incident of an apparent attempt to obtain the CHP credential under false pretence; the Standards and Ethics Committee is wrestling with defining standards of professional responsibility and a means of enforcement; and as the importance of certification increases, there is a corresponding increase in the fear of a perceived or actual elitist attitude associated with the CHP designation - an attitude that would divide, rather than promote, the profession of health physics.

There are many ways of both acquiring and demonstrating professional competency. Certification is only one of them, and none is a guarantee. Pursuing ABHP certification is an enriching experience for the individual and for the profession, and increased visibility for the certification process encourages this pursuit. However, I hope that we take to heart Bob Casey's remarks in his acceptance of the McAdams Award (page 9) and remember that it is the quality of practice and of professionalism of individual CHPs that defines the value of certification; it is not certification that defines the value of the individual. ■

STIRRING THE POT

*Lester A. Slaback, Jr.,
CHP*

Jean St. Germain's review [see "CHP Corner," July 1995] of the American Board of Medical Physics (ABMP) certification process raises a number of interesting issues, the first of which concerns specialty certification. Within the health physics community it is easy to identify a long list of areas where a specialty certification would be useful, and attractive, to a subset of the HPS membership. The ABHP experience with the Power Reactor HP specialty was instructive in terms of the effort and resources needed to conduct the certification process, as well as in terms of its market size. But the existence of the ABMP demonstrates that specialty exams are viable, albeit for a group approaching the size of that certified by the ABMP (400 going on 700). If the ABHP is going to continue to serve the needs of the HP community, should those HPs desiring a specialty certification have to form another organization to achieve their objective? Are there adequate forums within the AAHP to explore such needs? With the ABHP and the ABMP conducting very similar, and expensive, processes, cannot there be some sharing of resources?

Another issue that comes to mind is that of oral exams. The ABHP removed this option in the certification process in the mid-80s, primarily because of its subjective nature, the difficulty in defending the process to outside review, and the difficulty in managing the process for the increasing number of candidates taking that option (20 - 25 each year in the last few years). However,

having served on a few of the panels I can attest to their effectiveness and to the benefit to the overall certification process. I (and many others) can also attest to the difficulty in preparation and the anxiety associated with conducting the exams. The ABMP apparently has solved these problems, since they require all candidates to go through an oral examination. Should the ABHP reconsider the oral exam?

A third issue concerns the reason for opting for the ABMP specialty certification. Jean offers as reasons for this the higher recognition in the medical community, the lack of specialty depth in the comprehensive ABHP exam, and the lack of experience of the ABMP candidates in other HP fields, e.g., environmental monitoring and power reactor health physics. But as a current member of the ABHP, Jean is well aware that these are in fact the strengths of the ABHP process and the reason why so many power reactor health physicists opted for comprehensive certification over the specialty certification. So where are we failing? (Or are we?) Should we be making more of an effort for "recognition" among other professional groups? Should we be doing more to convince HPs that knowing something about areas other than their specialty area makes them better HPs (It does, doesn't it)? Or is medical health physics the proverbial exception - i.e., a specialty that has unique needs - that proves the rule that comprehensive certification best meets the needs of society?

If no one responds to these questions, then presumably the AAHP can assume that these are not issues of interest among the AAHP community. ■

CONGRATULATIONS, HARTMAN ORATORS!



Ronald L. Kathren, Gail D. Adams, and Paul W. Frame representing the AAHP, the AAPM, and the HPS, respectively, as the Glen W. Hartman Orators at the Joint Annual Meeting of the Health Physics Society and the American Association of Physicists in Medicine, July 1995. Photograph courtesy of Gail A. Magenis.

AAHP CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES
Saturday, January 6, 1996 - 8 AM-5 PM
Each Course is worth 16 CECs

Course 1 - Continuing Developments in Radiation Litigation.

David Wiedis, Jose & Wiedis

This course will begin with a discussion of basic legal concepts which are fundamental to understanding radiation litigation. Among the topics covered will be how lawyers investigate and defend a radiation case, how the case proceeds from the incident through the discovery process, preparation for trial and trial. Practical examples from cases will include strategy developed for depositions and trial. We will also examine issues currently being litigated in this field. Those issues include: the role of the federal dose standards, the role of ALARA, expert testimony and "junk science," what constitutes a compensable injury, and what is adequate proof of causation. Finally, emphasis will be placed on how to avoid litigation, the role of good recordkeeping, and what to do in the event you are sued.

Course 2-NORM Contamination — An Emerging Environmental Problem.

Peter R. Gray, Publisher/Editor, The NORM Report

This course provides a rigorous foundation for understanding NORM contamination — an emerging environmental problem for several affected industries. All soils and rocks contain radioactive materials, and many industrial activities concentrate them to levels significantly above their natural abundance and may potentially create a health hazard to workers and the public. In addition to the mining and processing of uranium and thorium, NORM contamination has been confirmed in such diverse industries as phosphate/phosphogypsum, oil and natural gas production and processing, mineral extraction and refining (including coal), geothermal energy and water treatment wastes. Topics to be discussed in the course include an introduction to NORM, its origins and properties, a survey of industrial NORM contamination, the options for the handling and disposal of NORM wastes, federal and state regulations for the control of NORM, program suggestions for controlling NORM contamination, recommended procedures for industrial hygiene when working in contaminated facilities, and NORM litigation and minimization. Course attendees will receive a copy of the course material.

1995 CITATION
WILLIAM B. McADAMS OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

Presented to William R. Casey, CHP

The William B. McAdams Outstanding Service Award is presented each year by the American Board of Health Physics (ABHP) to recognize those individuals who have made important contributions to advancing the profession of health physics by encouraging its study through the certification process. The Award was established in 1989 in honor of one of the Board's founders, William McAdams. William McAdams provided leadership, energy, and vision to the Board during its formation. He was a member of the 1958 Certification Committee formed by the Health Physics Society to investigate the need for a Board. He then served as the Chair of the temporary ABHP formed in November, 1958, and as the first Chair of the inaugural Board when it was formed in October 1959. Today's recipient, and past recipients of the Award, have made similar noteworthy and significant contributions to the advancement of our profession and the certification process.

The award was first presented in 1989 on the 30th anniversary of the ABHP. The six health physicists who have previously received the William McAdams Award are

Jack Healy - 1989
Les Slaback - 1992

H. Wade Patterson - 1990
Ken Skrabale - 1993

Richard Bowers - 1991
Lee Booth - 1994.

We are very pleased to announce that William R. Casey is the recipient of the seventh William B. McAdams Outstanding Service Award. In making this award, the Board recognizes Bob Casey for his continuing and dedicated efforts in advancing the profession of health physics through certification. Bob's contributions to the certification process have a close parallel to those of William McAdams, as Bob provided dedicated and visionary leadership in another important formative period which led to the establishment of the American Academy of Health Physics.

Bob became a Certified Health Physicist in 1974. He became active in the certification process shortly afterwards, joining the Comprehensive Panel of Examiners in 1976 and becoming Chair of that Panel in 1981. After completing his tenure with the Panel, he became a member of the Board and served on the Board from 1982 - 1986. He was the Chairman of the Board in 1986, having served as Vice Chair in 1985 and as the Board's first Parliamentarian in 1984. He was a member of the Board during a very significant time in its history, when the American Academy of Health Physics was being formed and when the roles and responsibilities of the two organizations were being defined. Bob was the Chair of the Steering Committee for the formation of the AAHP in 1985 and 1986.

Bob continues to be very active in the certification process. He became President-Elect of the American Academy of Health Physics in 1993, served as President in 1994, and is currently Past President of the Academy. As President of the Academy, he was very instrumental in the successful final merging of the ABHP and the AAHP.

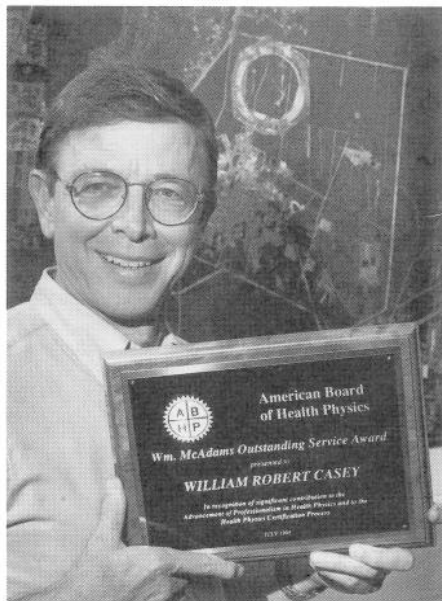
Bob's accomplishments in other areas of health physics are equally impressive. He is currently the Director of the Environment, Safety, and Health Division at Brookhaven National Laboratory. He has served on several NCRP committees, ANSI Working Groups, and DOE, NRC, and EPA advisory panels. His professional interests include operational health physics - especially accelerator health physics - and emergency planning. Bob was a member of the Working Group that wrote the "Health Physics Manual of Good Practices for Accelerator Facilities," and was a member of the DOE Advisory Panel on Accelerator Radiation Safety. He has been a Lecturer for a short course at Harvard University on planning for nuclear emergencies.

Bob is a leader in his professionalism and dedication to health physics and its practice. In appreciation and recognition of Bob's many significant contributions to the certification process and the advancement of our profession, we take great pride in presenting to him today the William B. McAdams Outstanding Service Award.

Thomas E. Buhl, Chair, ABHP Awards Committee, Vice Chair, ABHP
E. Scott Medling, Chair, ABHP
Carol D. Berger, President, AAHP ■

1995 WILLIAM B. McADAMS OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD ACCEPTANCE

William R. Casey, CHP



I thank the Board for this honor. Certification has always been an important issue to me. Receiving an award that recognizes my efforts in the certification program makes me feel proud and humble at the same time.

My participation with the Board's certification programs would not have been possible without the support and encouragement of many people. I particularly want to thank several CHPs who helped in big ways: Charles Meinhold always urged me to achieve certification, and once I accomplished it, asked me to work with him on the Part I exam. Wade Patterson asked me to join the Part II Panel of Examiners. Later, Roscoe Hall asked me to be his Vice-Chair of the Panel of Examiners. I greatly value the role of each of these CHPs in my certification career.

When I started my professional career as a health physicist at Brookhaven National Laboratory in 1965, I recognized immediately that certification would be important for me to achieve. I was often encouraged to become certified by the BNL health physicists, and it was clear to me that the plaque on the wall from the ABHP was valued at BNL. As a result, I wanted to achieve that same level of accomplishment and distinction. I was very proud when I became a CHP in 1974.

My prior knowledge that I would receive this award at the Academy Open Meeting made me more aware than usual of the certification activities at the HPS Annual Meeting. As I walked to the opening session on Monday morning, I passed the room where a long line of health physicists nervously awaited entrance to the exam. It made me remember my preparation and anticipation many years ago. Later that evening, we were joined at dinner by a young health physicist who had that Annual Meeting "Monday evening look." You know what I mean, the look of the person who had just completed the Part II exam - drained, tired, and slightly disoriented. I talked with him and asked for his opinion of the exam and his views about how he did. His answers were the same that I often hear: The exam was hard; it was long. He thought he had done okay, but he wouldn't be surprised if he failed. He thought the exam was fair. He noted that if he didn't pass, he would take it again next year. He said that the CHP was more important to his career than the PhD he was also working on.

Do you find that attitude as important as I do? Are you amazed that more than 35 years after the certification program was started that more people than ever are lining up to take the exam? Can you think of any program that has contributed more to the elevation of the practice of health physics than certification? Every person that I have ever talked to about the exam has stated that they were a better health physicist as the result of preparing for the exam. And it is true!

Why do people line up for that exam? I believe they do because the title CHP has been recognized by many individuals and organizations as a title of considerable value. A CHP has demonstrated a substantial knowledge of health physics. The body of work performed by CHPs has been recognized as highly competent and credible. These factors create greater opportunities for CHPs and high respect from the health physics community in general. Yet, the perceived value of being a CHP is due to the individual actions of each CHP.

Each of us is now a keeper of the same flame that sparked you and me to seek certification and that continues to spark health physicists today. It is up to each of us to keep the flame alive for the future. Never take for granted the effort and the responsibility that this nurturing requires.

There are several elements in this responsibility that we should keep in mind:

1. Live up to the Professional Standards of Certified Health physicists - Take a good look at the new draft standards, and make sure that you understand what they mean. Do not take them for granted and do not under-estimate the commitment that they take!
2. Encourage young (and old) health physicists to achieve certification. Your comments may make a significant impact in the decision-making process of a health physicist who is considering the commitment.
3. Participate in the activities of the Board and support it in the conduct of its mission. I hope that members of the Academy will never forget that the Board's efforts are among the most demanding and time-consuming that we ask any CHP to voluntarily undertake. Our efforts should always be to make the Board's work easier - not more difficult.

Years ago I fell into the health physics profession because of a graduate fellowship that was offered me. I wasn't sure what a health physicist was, and I didn't really know if it was a career that I would enjoy; but it sure seemed to beat the unemployment line. What a fortunate bit of serendipity for me! I am thankful for what my career has brought me, and I look forward to what it will bring me in the future. I specifically look forward to continued involvement with the ABHP and the AAHP.

Thank you again for this wonderful honor. ■

WILLIAM B. McADAMS AWARD

The William B. McAdams Outstanding Service Award is made annually by the ABHP and the AAHP to honor a Certified Health Physicist who has made a significant contribution toward the advancement of professionalism in health physics and to the certification process. Nominees shall be CHPs who have served the health physics community through outstanding and extended work on the AAHP, ABHP, teaching or other areas that enhance the professionalism of health physics. All CHPs, whether currently active or not, are eligible, and posthumous awards are permitted.

All AAHP members are encouraged to submit nominations. Present your nominations in a letter to the Awards Committee chairperson for 1996, Roger C. Brown, ABHP Vice Chair '96, detailing the rationale for your nomination and giving background information on your nominee. Other Committee members will include Thomas E. Buhl (ABHP Chair, '96) and Carol D. Berger (AAHP Past President '96). Nominations should be sent to the McAdams Award Committee Chairperson by March 1, 1996, to be considered for the 1996 award. Address your nomination letter to:
Roger C. Brown, CHP
Rte 1, Box 1629
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(509)588-5910 H ■

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