

CHP Corner



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

Title Protection and Professional Recognition Committee

Charles E. Kent, Jr., Chair

The purpose of the Title Protection and Professional Recognition Committee is to obtain formal protection from federal, state, and/or local governments for the titles “Certified Health Physicist” and “CHP” and recognition for the profession of health physics as it applies to certified health physicists. The committee is a standing committee of the American Academy of Health Physics (AAHP) and its organization is given by the AAHP bylaws.

The committee is composed of six members of the academy, nominated by the president and approved by the Executive Committee. Committee activities are guided by procedure SOP 2.8.1, Rev 0, Title Protection and Professional Recognition. The committee is currently comprised of the following academy members: Chair Charles Kent, Robert Gallagher, Carmine Plott, Travis Beard, Steven Frey, and Victoria Morris.

The committee’s current responsibilities include:

- Implementing AAHP responsibilities in the Tri-Partite Agreement among the AAHP, the Health Physics Society (HPS), and the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA). This provides for a joint program to obtain title protection and professional recognition (TP-PR) for the professions represented by these three organizations.
- Coordinating the participation of the AAHP and the local HPS and AAHP membership in states where TP-PR legislation is being considered by actively supporting the proposed legislation and providing testimony.
- Preparing materials that may be used in testimony before legislative committees to support TP-PR.
- Maintaining the trademark registration for the CHP title and logo.

Thus far this year, the committee has supported submission of the renewal application for our title protection and trademark registration, reviewed a National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements draft guide, and initiated a proposal for improvements to the websites.

The website project is designed to improve visibility of “CHP” and “professional health physicist” on the web. The desired outcome of the website project is to increase awareness of health physics and the role of the CHP in the profession of radiation safety to the general public. This project was initiated in response to a review of a member question related to the difficulty of finding “CHP” on the web.

The committee relies heavily on input from academy members and HPS local chapters for information regarding title protection activities. Please contact one of the committee members if you learn of issues that need to be addressed.

Title Protection and Professional Recognition Committee contact information:

Chair Charles Kent, Jr. (c.e.kent@comcast.net), Robert Gallagher (gallagher@aol.com), Carmine M. Plott (cmplott@novanthealth.org), Travis Beard (texan63@comcast.net), Steven Frey (steven-frey@aol.com), Victoria Morris (morrisvr@ucmail.uc.edu)

Part II Examination Panel

Wayne C. Gaul, Chair

Is your work-a-day world as a CHP stuck in a rut of doing the same thing on a routine basis? Have you perfected that task? You can make sure others benefit from your knowledge and learn more by volunteering for a four-year adventure on the Part II Exam Panel. You can write questions testing others to the knowledge level you would desire of your peers as professionals. You can also go to Health Physics Society (HPS) meetings and enjoy a FREE breakfast and lunch (or two) while working with a great group of professionals to make an exam that tests the knowledge of potential CHPs. Participation on the panel is a very rewarding (and sometimes humbling) experience, although it involves a significant commitment from each panel member. In exchange for your hard work, you obtain a substantial number of recertification points and may receive travel support to attend the panel workshop during the annual meeting. The following is a synopsis of the typical Part II Panel year, for those few and proud willing to serve.

In the late summer, you will start by grading the exam just taken with a team of panel members. Typically it involves a 50-point question and a 100-point question and needs to be done by early fall. After the first of the year, the panel chair makes question assignments for each panel member. Typically, each member works to develop two questions: one 50-point question from one of the core topics of health physics (personnel dosimetry, shielding and activation, measurements and instrumentation, and biological effects of radiation) and one 100-point question from one of topical areas (accelerators, environmental, fuel cycle, medical, nonionizing, power reactors, university, and general health physics). These questions are submitted to the chair in time for formatting for the panel workshop.

The panel workshop will be held on 7 and 8 July 2013 in Madison, Wisconsin, at the 2013 HPS Annual Meeting. A group of panel members will attend the workshop along with the American Board of Health Physics (ABHP) chair. The panel workshop is an intense two-day period of review and improvement to develop questions and stock solutions from each of the submitted questions. This is where your knowledge will be tested to improve the process. At the end of the workshop, the top three choices for each core question and each topical-area question are selected for further consideration. The panel chair takes these questions and prepares them for a balloting round.

A few weeks after the workshop, the balloting round begins. Each panel and ABHP Board member ranks the 12 core questions and the three questions for each topical portion of the exam. The panel chair tallies the results and begins the final Part II exam development process. This ends the panel member duties until exam grading begins.

After the examination is given (in conjunction with the HPS annual meeting), grading activities begin. Panel members and ABHP Board members work in teams of three to grade each of the questions as assigned by the panel chair. A panel member typically grades one core question, which all candidates are required to take, and one topical question, which a candidate elects to complete. The team leader compiles the results for the team and ensures that grades from each of the three graders are consistent. This process is usually completed by the early fall.

A great big THANK YOU to the entire panel for taking time out of their busy schedules to volunteer for this important task: Vice Chair Curtis Kwasnowski, Past Chair Glenn Sturchio, Erik Abkemeier, Richard Adams, Matthew Arno, Kelly Ausbrooks, John Bliss, Wes Boyd, Kathleen Dinnel-Jones, Derek Favret, Robert Ford, Jerry George, Shawn Googins, Don Haes, Sarah Hoover, Greg Jones, Chris Kessler, Bryan Lemieux, Allen Mabry, Bill Maguire, Hans Oldewage, Dennis Quinn, Steve Rademacher, Pat Roach, Betsy Ullrich, Tosh Ushino, and Wei-Hsung Wang. In addition, we thank Nancy Johnson from Burk and Associates for her valuable support and guidance for involvement in the question-writing process.

If you are interested in participating on the panel, please indicate your interest when you submit your AAHP annual dues or email me at wwgaul@gmail.com.

From the Archives

Jim Willison, CHP, History Committee Chair



In recent years, the American Board of Health Physics has encouraged certified health physicists at the Health Physics Society (HPS) annual meeting to wear festive tropical shirts on Monday when health physicists are taking the certification exams. This is as a sign of solidarity with those who have studied hard for that day and also adds a bit of color to the atmosphere of the meeting. In this picture from the 2011 HPS Annual Meeting in West Palm Beach, Florida, Ed Bailey and Kent Lambert also show school spirit by wearing their competing university shirts. It is presumed however, that Kent will be wearing something a bit more serious at the American Academy of Health Physics luncheon on Tuesday of the Madison meeting when he will receive the William McAdams Outstanding Service Award.

This is one of many pictures in the HPS photo archive. A sampling of these treasures of the Society are located online at the [HPS website](#). Take some time and see if you can find yourself or people you know among the gems. More are being added from time to time.