



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF HEALTH PHYSICS email: [AAHP@burkinc.com](mailto:AAHP@burkinc.com)

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## Continuing Education Committee Update

*Jim Willison, CHP, Chair*

This is just a short note to tell you about some of the American Academy of Health Physics (AAHP) courses at the 2016 Health Physics Society (HPS) Midyear Meeting in Austin, to solicit courses for the 2016 HPS Annual Meeting in Spokane, and to clarify the new requirements for recertification.

Two AAHP courses are being offered at the midyear meeting, on 30 January 2016 (Saturday). Our first course is "Cavity Ionization in Theory and Experiment," taught by Art Lucas. Our second course is "Radiation Shielding for Medical Facilities," taught by Brian Methé.

The committee is also soliciting eight-hour courses for the annual meeting. Instructors receive an honorarium of \$1,000 for the course and 20 continuing education credits (CECs) for their efforts. If you would like to try your hand at presenting an interesting topic, please contact the committee at [aahpcec@burkinc.com](mailto:aahpcec@burkinc.com).

There seemed to be some confusion at the last annual meeting regarding the new rules for recertification. Additional clarification seems to be needed, so here goes:

1. The number of credits required to recertify is 64 for the four-year period ending in 2015. After that, 80 CEC per four years are required to recertify. The revised criteria for determining credits are in effect now and are retroactive.

2. The basic policy of the AAHP is that no more than one-half of the total credits can come from a single activity. Since the number of required credits has increased from 64 to 80, the cap on credits for a single activity has also increased from 32 to 40. Activities posted online back through 2013 have been reevaluated in accordance with the new criteria and adjusted as needed.
3. Credits associated with attendance at scientific meetings now accrue at one credit per contact hour of technical content. This is considered separate from professional enrichment programs (PEPs), continuing education lectures (CELs), and AAHP courses.

As an example, say an enterprising certified health physicist attended the following at an annual meeting:

- One eight-hour AAHP course (16 CECs)
- Two two-hour PEPs (four CECs each)
- Two CELs (two CECs each), and
- 14 hours of technical sessions (one CEC per hour)

The grand total for this week of learning would be 42 CECs.

I hope this clears up any questions. If not, again you can contact the committee at [aahpcec@burkinc.com](mailto:aahpcec@burkinc.com).

## Call for 2016 McAdams Award Nominations

*Andy Miller, CHP, ABHP Vice-Chair*

Nominations for the William A. McAdams Outstanding Service Award are due by **2 March 2016**.



**William McAdams**

The McAdams 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 to the certification process. Any member of the AAHP may submit a nomination.

More details and information on the history of the McAdams Award, as well as a list of past recipients, may be found [here](#). The nomination form may be found [here](#).

## ABHP Part I Panel of Examiners Activities

*Christopher Martel, CHP, Vice-Chair*

Each year in November, the American Board of Health Physics (ABHP) Part I 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. The panel held its annual meeting on 22–23 November 2015.

The panel is composed of 12 certified health physicists (CHPs) with expertise in different areas including academic/research applications, medical health physics, accelerators, dosimetry, environmental and fundamental health physics, fuel cycle/waste management, power reactors, and regulations. 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 poor-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. During the meeting, the panel reviewed about 24% of the questions from the 2015 exam. The panel also reviewed two new questions for inclusion in future exams.

Candidates are reminded that this is a comprehensive exam and that all domains of practice discussed in the preparation guide should be reviewed thoroughly prior to sitting for the exam.

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.

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 Panel of Examiners when you submit your ABHP annual dues. You may also contact panel [Chair Paul Jones](#) or [Vice-Chair Chris Martel](#) at any time.

Serving on the Part I Panel of Examiners is a rewarding experience and an opportunity to work with some of the best in the field of health physics.

## Professional Development Committee Activities

*Janet Johnson, CHP, Chair*

The purpose of the Professional Development Committee is to promote certification and recertification by the American Board of Health Physics (ABHP). Towards that goal, the committee refreshed the American Academy of Health Physics (AAHP) booth, which is displayed at annual meetings, and is in the process of editing the brochure explaining the process of certification and its benefits. Certified health physicists (CHPs) from across all fields sent us pictures of health physicists in action and personal statements about the importance of certification in their professional careers. It was gratifying to read and display those testimonials. In 2016 the committee will continue this upgrade.

Based on the statements that we received from CHPs, it is clear that certification continues to be important to the profession of health physics. However, the most common reason we hear why people have not applied for certification is that they see only the hard work of preparation, with no discernable benefit. Their employers do not reward that professional credential. The challenge to the committee is to foster recognition of the importance of ABHP certification both within and outside of the profession.

The recently-released National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) document, [Where Are the Radiation Professionals \(WARP\)?](#) (NCRP Statement No. 12, 17 December 2015), includes a strong warning about the deficit in health physics professionals that could impact public health in the future. The potential shortage is particularly acute in the federal and state regulatory programs, with a large percentage of technical staff expected to retire in the next two to ten years. One of the recommendations in the NCRP statement is to "establish basic and advanced competency profiles to serve as guidance upon which to base the education, training, qualification and appropriate use of radiation professionals." The Professional Development Committee will hold a conference call this winter to discuss how the AAHP can be a part of the effort to address this significant issue for our profession.

Thanks to retiring committee members Richard Granberg, Tom Johnson, and Maya Keller, as well as to the new and continuing committee members Dennis Clum, Jim Herrold, Balwan Hooda, Jeff Kotsch, and Allison Wilding!