

Report from CLA to TPC, 17-18th April 2012

Membership

Two members - Mark Rivard and Jeff Siebers – rolled off the CLA at the end of 2011. However, they remain on the CLAX due to a different appointment process (different parent committees). It is the intention to formally link the two committees during 2012. An advertisement for new CLA members in March 2012 attracted 11 applications (a very encouraging number) and we are presently reviewing the applicants. As a number of members roll off at the end of 2012 we will likely identify appointments for 2013 as well from this pool.

Proficiency Tests

Tests for mammography, LDR and HDR (due 2010) have been completed (2011), with all labs within specification. The technical competence of the three ADCLs continues to be impressive and the results of these tests underpin the calibrations provided to AAPM members.

Tests for Co-60 $N_{D,w}$ and N_K (due 2011) have been initiated but are delayed due to access to NIST facilities and lengthy admin procedures.

Site visits

A re-accreditation visit to the K&S ADCL was carried out 1-3 November 2011. One notable difference from typical site visits was that an external assessor (from the accreditation organization A2LA) was used to review the management components of the lab's Quality System. There are extra costs associated with external assessors but these are recovered from the applicant laboratory (assessment activities are designed to be revenue-neutral).

The report has been received by the CLAX and will be reviewed in 2012.

Criteria documentation

The technical appendices to the AAPM Criteria for accreditation of laboratories (covering how the laboratories should carry out calibration procedures) are being rewritten by the CLA to make them consistent and bring them up to date with current best calibration practices.

Working Groups

WGDCPB

A report on static fields only is in preparation by the IAEA working group. The AAPM WG is in regular contact with the IAEA group and will discuss the IAEA draft in detail at the AAPM meeting in Charlotte. The final report will be a joint IAEA/AAPM document and there is a target (from the IAEA) of the end of 2012 for publication.

Note – this is an IAEA-led initiative but the WG is working hard to ensure that the AAPM's perspective is properly represented.

WGTG51

A revised draft of the photon addendum to TG-51 is currently with TPC for review and approval for submission to Medical Physics. A CE session on the addendum is scheduled for the AAPM meeting in Charlotte.

Work proceeds on an electron addendum. The focus to date is calculating k_Q factors using Monte-Carlo and comparing these with experimental $N_{D,w}$ factors from primary standards laboratories.

Submitted 13th April 2012

Malcolm McEwen, CLA Chair