Chapter Beginnings

What was to become the Florida AAPM chapter began in the early 1980s as Florida physicists met once or twice a year at the University of Florida for Nuclear Engineering lectures organized by Genevieve and Chuck Roessler. The lectures had a Health Physics emphasis, with medical physics represented by Lawrence Fitzgerald. By the mid-80s, attendees added Farmer chamber intercomparisons to the gathering using nearby Co-60 machines, and the meetings began to occur at regional hospitals and medical centers. In 1987, Daljit Saini and Bill Simon from Sun Nuclear hosted a full-day meeting at Holmes Medical Center in Melbourne, FL, the first meeting with vendor support (six vendors for that first meeting). By the late 1980s, the group had grown larger, and became an official AAPM chapter in 1990. The first formal Florida AAPM chapter meeting was held in Tampa, FL in 1991, with Bill Huff as President and Daljit Saini as President-Elect.

2000s

In 2001, a Fall meeting, held jointly with the Florida chapter of the Health Physics Society, was added to the chapter’s annual schedule. In 2003, the Chapter created the Walter Mauderli award for lifetime achievement in medical physics education, research, and service.

The licensing of Florida medical physicists included a requirement for 24 hours of continuing education during each two-year license cycle. Florida chapter meetings became a cost-effective way to earn all required credits needed for licensure. In the late 2000s, the state of Florida added requirements for an hour each of Medical Errors and HIV/AIDS training for each license cycle, making the Florida chapter meeting even more important for members. Changes in ABR board certification policies, especially Maintenance of Certification (MOC), compelled the Chapter to adapt. FLAAPM began to offer CAMPEP accreditation for its meetings in 2007.

2010s

The Florida chapter grew immensely in numbers and activity from its early self. The 1.5 day Spring chapter meeting became the main meeting event of the year, generally drawing 100+ attendees and 25 vendors. The student session was always well represented at each spring meeting and the Fitzgerald Award was given to the best student presentation. Mock ABR exams were held in certain years.

Early 2020s

The rapid spread of COVID-19 in early 2020 caused a major health safety concern worldwide. The FLAAPM board decided to hold the first ever virtual meeting in Fall 2020. Due to ongoing health concerns, the Spring 2021 and Fall 2021 meetings were also held virtually and resulted in record numbers of attendees. Due to the popularity of the virtual option, and in an effort to meet the needs of all members, the chapter has continued to hold a virtual meeting in the Fall and an in-person meeting in Orlando, FL in the Spring. In 2022 the virtual Fall meeting was expanded to 1.5 days and now includes 12 continuing education credits along with 1 hour of medical errors and 1 hour of HIV/AIDS training as needed for state medical physics licensure.

Social Events

Orlando, FL has been home to the Spring meeting for many years. The destination is known for its fun activities and events and the list below highlights some of the social activities sponsored by the Chapter over the years as part of Spring meeting.

- Golf outing
- NBA game – Orlando Magic
- Circus Soleil – La Nouba
- Sleuths Mystery Dinner Show
- Medieval Times
- SeaWorld Orlando
- B.B. King’s Blues Club
- Jimmy Buffet’s Margaritaville
- Casino Party USA
- Night-in dinner, drinks, and music