Notable NEAAPM Events

- **1964 1st NEAAPM Constitution**
- **1975 Constitution Revised, NEAAPM merges with two older groups: NERPO and BMPG**
- **1981 AAPM Annual meeting held in Boston. First Physics ‘Phun Run’ held!**
- **1987 Connecticut declares independence!**
- **1975 Constitution Revised, NEAAPM merges with two other groups. The NEAAPM is somewhat unclear, though some members from this time period recall that all three groups co-existed.**

A Short History of the New England Chapter of the AAPM (NEAAPM)

New England has a history of professional medical physics activities going to the very early days of the AAPM. The greater Boston area, in particular, is home to a number of medical schools and affiliated teaching hospitals with a strong tradition of being at the forefront of technical innovation.

The details of the very early origins are somewhat fragmentary, though the original constitution which created the New England chapter has survived. The document, written in January 1964, states that the chapter would include the states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. It was signed on March 3rd, 1964 by then AAPM president Edward (Ted) Webster. Originally from England, Ted was also from the Boston Area. He came to MIT in 1949 for postdoctoral work in physics and engineering and during this time became involved in a 2-MV cancer treatment program with Boston’s Lahey clinic. He later joined the staff of the department of Radiology at Massachusetts General Hospital in 1953 in the newly created post of physicist. In 1959 he became a charter member of the AAPM and served as the 5th president for the organization in 1963. Dr. Webster would have a long and distinguished career at MGH, retiring in 2001 after 47 years of service. He passed away in December 2005.

While Ted Webster was from New England, his signature on the 1964 constitution was as AAPM President, and not as representative of a New England chapter per se. The signature for Secretary-Treasurer of the New England Chapter is that of William H. Elliott who appears to be the oldest documented member of the NEAAPM board. While not remembered specifically by older members still in New England today, he does appear on the 1959 list of charter members of the AAPM. A literature search reveals that in 1964 he was a physicist working at the Physics Research Laboratory at MGH. He appears on a number of publications from 1963-1968, including an article in the Journal Nature, all co-authored with well known physicist and research laboratory director Gordon Brownell. His last paper in 1991 gives his affiliation as the National Research Council, Washington, D.C.

After 1964, no records for the New England Chapter have surfaced which detail any activities or board members for almost a decade. However, two other New England medical physics groups were well known to exist at this time: the Boston Medical Physics Group (BMPG) and the New England Radiological Physics Organization (NERPO). The relationship between these groups and the NEAAPM is somewhat unclear, though some members from this time period recall that all three groups co-existed though NEAAPM was never active at the time. In any case, it is likely that there was a significant overlap in membership. The BMPG is remembered primarily for holding monthly scientific meetings at the MIT faculty club. NERPO was formed. Some members maintain ties to both groups.

- **1974-1975 board consisted of Ned Sternick as chair, the board consisted of Saul Aronow as secretary/treasurer, Bengt Bjärgard as AAPM board representative with John Cardarelli and Philip Judy as members at large.**

All of these original members ultimately went on to have long distinguished careers in medical physics in the New England region. Ned Sternick left New Hampshire for Boston in 1978 to come to Tufts-New England Medical Center to serve as the Director of the Medical Physics Division. In 1981 the AAPM annual meeting was held in Boston and Ned served as chairman for the local arrangements. He was also elected to serve as AAPM president in 1984.

Bengt Bjärgard became the Director of Physics and Engineering group at the Joint Center for Radiation Therapy (JCRT) which was established in 1968 to provide radiation oncology services to four of the Harvard Medical School teaching hospitals. Bengt was elected AAPM president in 1979. He would later be appointed a full Professor of Radiation Oncology at Harvard Medical School. Bengt recently passed away in January 2014.

One of the tasks before the 1974-1975 NEAAPM board was to update the original constitution. A letter from Ned Sternick to the members dated March 6, 1975 notes the hard work of Faridah Bagne, Joe Blinick, and Ken Wright at revising the constitution to make it "more responsive to the professional, scientific and educational needs of New England physicists." While no surviving copy of the 1975 constitution has been found, one obvious change of the new constitution was to redefine the officers of the board. The post of Chairman was replaced by President and the position of President-elect was added. The 1976-1977 board consisted of Joseph Blinick as president and Saul Aronow as President Elect. Herb Mower filled the position of secretary/treasurer while Bengt Bjärgard remained on as national board representative. There is no record of other members-at-large. Other than that and the fact that secretary/treasurer was one position this is similar to the board structure that is used today.

**1964 1st NEAAPM Constitution**

New England Chapter of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine

**Article I. Name.** The name of the chapter shall be the New England Chapter, and the chapter shall have the authority to conduct business as provided in the constitution.

**Article II. Jurisdiction.** The chapter headquarters shall be located in the vicinity of Boston, Mass., and the chapter shall have the authority to conduct business as provided in the constitution.

SIGNED此日：1964年3月6日

**NEAAPM Presidents**

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>President</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>President</th>
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<tr>
<td>1979-1980</td>
<td>Anthony Boyer</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Suresh Brahmsaw</td>
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<td>1983-1984</td>
<td>Karen Doppke</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Christopher</td>
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<td>1984-1985</td>
<td>Robert Zarnhov</td>
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<td>1985-1986</td>
<td>George King</td>
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<td>1986-1987</td>
<td>Bruce Curran</td>
<td>2002</td>
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<td>1987-1988</td>
<td>Bruce Curran</td>
<td>2003</td>
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<td>1988-1989</td>
<td>Lynn Vetter</td>
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<td>1989-1990</td>
<td>Stephen Moore</td>
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<td>1991-1992</td>
<td>Frank Ascoli</td>
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<td>1992-1993</td>
<td>Andrew Karelias</td>
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<td>1993-1994</td>
<td>Richard Behrman</td>
<td>2008</td>
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<td>1994-1995</td>
<td>David Gierga</td>
<td>2009</td>
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**The NEAAPM Today**

As of 2014 the NEAAPM has nearly 300 members. The Chapter holds four major meetings a year of scientific and professional talks. The winter and fall meetings are half day and the summer meeting is a full day. These meetings all feature invited speakers from both inside and outside New England. Our Spring meeting is a young investigators symposium.

**AAPM Fellows**

- Peter Biggs
- Joseph Blinick
- Suresh Brahmsaw
- Thomas Bortfeld
- George TY Chen
- Bruce Curran
- Karen Doppke
- Edward Epp
- Frederic Fahey
- Per Halvorsen
- Philip Judy
- Andrew Karelias
- Saul Aronow
- Ned Sternick
- Edward (Ted) Webster
- Bengt Bjärgard
- Herb Mower
- Harald Paganetti
- Mark Rivard
- William Roventine
- Douglas Shearer
- Edward Sternick
- Marcia Ure
- Robert Zamenhof
- Robert Zimmerman

**2014 NEAAPM Officers**

- President: 2014  Todd Hackett
- Immediate Past President: 2014  Richard Behrman
- President-Elect: 2014  Joseph Killoran
- President-Elect: 2014  Martin Fraser
- President-Elect: 2014  Gordon Brownell
- President-Elect: 2014  Philip Judy
- President-Elect: 2014  Karen Doppke
- President-Elect: 2014  Bruce Curran
- President-Elect: 2014  Mark Rivard
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Acknowledgements and Disclaimer

The historical information presented here on the early days of the NEAAPM was based on a small number of available documents and the recollections of members. An effort was made to be as accurate as possible, but some minor speculation was necessary to fill in the gaps. Please forgive any errors, particularly those of omission. Anyone with additional information or corrections is encouraged to bring it to the attention of the NEAAPM board. We would, in particular, like to include more photos of former board members. Special thanks to Phil Judy for locating many old documents, including the 1964 Constitution.

Additional thanks are due to Ned Sternick, who located the 1981 AAPM Photos, as well as Bengt Bjärgard, Joe Blinick, John & Gene Cardarelli and a number of others who contributed their recollections.

Once again, please forgive us for anyone we’ve forgotten!

The NEAAPM Board – 2014