The Radiological and Medical Physics Society of New York RAMPS 1948 – 2015
The Earliest Organization of Medical Physicists in the United States

History of RAMPS
During the mid 1940’s, physicists associated with medical institutions in the metropolitan New York City region commenced meetings to compare instrumentation and their measurements of the quantity of radioactivity in solutions in medical use. This was necessary for uniformity, and also for accuracy since the national standard available appeared to be inconsistent. This was just prior to the availability of megavoltage x rays and electrons, and the primary concern of the physicists was associated with the uses of radioactive nuclides. The clinical uses of iodine-131 and other radionuclides (phosphorus-32, yttrium-90, etc.) were being actively explored and agreement on the amount of activity being administered was essential. Such measurements led to the “New York Millicurie,” which served a vital purpose.

By 1948 the meetings of these medical physicists were on a scheduled basis with elected officers and records. Those initially active in RAMPS included Moses Berman, Hanson Blatz, Carl Braestrup, Giacchino Falla, Sergei Feinberg, Elizavet Focht, Hiram Hart, Julian Jacobson, Robert Lawinger, Leo Mandell, John Laughlin, Robert Schulz, and others. This group established the measurement procedure for the “New York Millicurie;” and their meetings served both scientific and professional functions. A constitution was written in 1954 by R. Yallow and J. Laughlin, and revised in 1957 by them. RAMPS has continued to grow from its modest beginning to a current membership of about 150 and conducts monthly meetings which are well attended. Their meetings usually include scientific presentations by a member or guest on physical aspects of treatment, diagnosis, nuclear medicine, or protection. Also, a symposium on a pertinent scientific topic is held annually. RAMPS welcomed the initiation of the AAPM and became a chapter in it.


RAMPS VACIRCA YOUNG INVESTIGATOR SYMPOSIUM
Each year RAMPS conducts a Young Investigators Symposium named in honor of Salvatore Vacirca, a past RAMPS President. Young Investigators are encouraged to submit abstracts for the competition. The speaker judged to have made the best presentation is provided funding to attend an AAPM national meeting. Recent winners are:

2015
President
John S. Laughlin 1992
Edward L. Nickoloff 2008
Jean M. St. German 2015
Christopher H. Marshall 2015
2nd Place
Hiroshi Furuhashi 2014
Jeffrey Hart 2012
3rd Place
Hans Straubes 2012
Matthew Miller 2011
Justin H. Shapiro 2010

Major Awards to RAMPS Members
AAPM Coolidge Award
Lawrence N. Rothenberg 2007
James M. Galvin 2008
Howard L. Amdrs 2014
Edward L. Nickoloff 2014

Maryl ND Wols Professional Achievement Award
John S. Laughlin 1992
Edward L. Nickoloff 2008
Jean M. St. German 2015
Christopher H. Marshall 2015

AAPM Quimby Lifetime Achievement Award
John S. Laughlin 1992
Edward L. Nickoloff 2008
Jean M. St. German 2015
Christopher H. Marshall 2015

AAPM Board Representative
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