The Radiological and Medical Physics Society of New York
RAMPS 1948 – 2019
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 quantities of radiolucency in solutions and 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, strontium-90, etc.) were being actively explored and agreed upon 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 Momes Berman, Hanson Blatt, Carl Braestrup, Giacchino Falla, Serge Felsitberg, Elizabeth Focht, Hiram Hart, Lillian Jacobson, Robert Lowinger, Leo Marinelli, Eleanor Ostny, Edith Quimby, Edward Siegel, Aaron Yalow, Rosalyn Yalow, and others. This group established the first set of professional functions. A constitution was written in 1954 by Y. Yalow 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.


25th Anniversary, NY Academy of Sciences

Major Awards to RAMPS Members
AAPM Cloidale Award
John S. Laughlin 1974
Edith H. Quimby 1977
Lowell L. Anderson 2000
C. Clifton Ling 2004

AAPM Quints Lifetime Achievement Award
Lawrence N. Rothenberg 2007
James M. Gahn 2008
Lawrence C. Reinstein 2009
Howard L. Amols 2014
Edward L. Nicklisch 2014
Wendell R. Laidlaw 2016

Mary N. and William Profesional Achievement Award
John S. Laughlin 1992
Edward L. Nicklisch 2008
Jean M. St. Germain 2015
Christopher H. Marshall 2015

AAPM Officers from RAMPS

President
John S. Laughlin 1968
Lawrence N. Rothenberg 1998
Howard L. Amols 2005
Jean M. St. Germain 1985

President Elect
Richard J. Laing 1968
Elizabeth Goodwin 1971
Mark L. Solomon 1979
John B. Blatz 1989
L. Nicklisch 2014
Mara N. Rich 2015

Secretary
Susan Barish 1968
Elizabeth Goodwin 1969
John B. Blatz 1989
Richard J. Laing 1968

American Association of Physicists in Medicine was established 10 years later

In 1968, in order to assist the training of residents in the various radiological specialties, RAMPS appointed a committee to prepare an examination on radiological physics. This examination was administered on a voluntary basis to radiological residents in the New York City area at a session held at the New York Academy of Medicine with the cooperation of the New York Roentgen Ray Society. The response was so enthusiastic that this examination has become an annual event. It is now being used throughout the United States through the courtesy of RAMPS and the AAPM. In recent years, separate examinations for Diagnostic Radiology and Radiation Oncology have been produced. This has always been an important activity of the medical physicist in his/his institution and the establishment of this examination procedure was a method of assisting the education of residents in the physical aspects of radiology.

RAMPs Vacuum 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 believed to have made the best presentation is provided funding to attend an AAPM national meeting. Recent winners are:

1st Place
Peter Slattery* Paul Bloch* Jan Zhang* 2018
Sadah Gooyand* Hadi Haghighian* Ian Zhang* 2017
John Song* Bosky Bashevkin* Yong Hong Xu* 2015
Michael Liu* Louise Fancher* Xin Wang* 2014
Eric Wilmore* Xin Wang* G. Cukier-Manoylov* 2013

2nd Place
Russell Korsch* Paul Bloch* Tim Lui* 2012

3rd Place
Marianne Allen Imaging Center: Columbia University/ C. Barbyman Medical Center/ Lawrence Medical Center/ Cornell University

RAMPs Membership

American Association of Physicists in Medicine

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