Chapter Origins: The Rocky Mountain Chapter was formed about 1970 by Bill Hendee, Paul Carson and Ed Chaney. Both were in their first professional position as assistant professors at the University of Colorado. Paul was hired by Bill to develop a graduate program in medical physics in the department of radiology at the University. Ed was hired to develop an innovative educational program for radiologists and radiologic technicians. Geoff Ibbot, Paul Carson and Ed Chaney were the core physicists working under Bill Hendee's direction. Medical physicists were so scarce in that geographical area that the chapter had to include several surrounding states to meet the minimum number of physicists in a chapter required by AAPM.

Original Chapter area: Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming, although there were no physicists in the last state at the time.

Quiet years: There was little activity in the early years, but there was an informal organization called DAMP (Denver Area Medical Physicists) that would meet occasionally organized by someone at the University of Colorado or Gordon Kenny from Presbyterian Hospital. Dave Taylor and Gordon Kenny worked to keep the chapter alive calling meetings from time to time, in which mostly Colorado-based physicists would meet in the back of Bennett's BBQ house.

Origins of an ACR standard: At one DAMP meeting, and years before ACR addressed the issue of creating a standard, the group decided to use a 4.5 cm lucite phantom and report the mid breast dose for a 50/50 composition using the Rosenstein method. This eventually (after some modification) became the national standard.