



Liaison Report: AAMD Annual Meeting 2017

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American Association of Physicists in Medicine
Medical Physics Education of Allied Health Professionals
c/o Steven de Boer, Committee Chair
1631 Prince Street
Alexandria VA 22314

Dear Steve and the committee members:

I just returned from an edifying two-day trip for the beginning of the AAMD Annual Meeting in Indianapolis, IN. In addition to attending several excellent presentations from a variety of professionals, I was honored to speak during an early Sunday timeslot on *Guidelines for Managing Radiotherapy Patients with Cardiac Implantable Electronic Devices*. I also met with the Board of Directors on Monday morning, June 12.

My discussion with the Board focused mainly on four topics:

1. I reminded them of the \$1k scholarship funds available annually through the AAPM for the AAMD Education & Research Foundation.
 - a. I will continue communication with the appropriate AAPM members and the AAMDERF concerning the earmarking and transition of these annual funds
 - b. The AAMD board was enthusiastically receptive of allowing the AAPM liaison to present the scholarship at the annual AAMD meeting, agreeing that this is an excellent forum in which to remind the attending AAMD members of the AAPM's support.
2. We discussed AAPM participation in the ongoing effort to update the AAMD Curriculum Guide.



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- a. The Board agreed to pursue the idea of having a small committee of 3-4 AAPM members review the draft of the Curriculum Guide and make edits/suggestions. It would be useful to have the “AAPM stance” on the Curriculum Guide.
 - b. I will pursue this option with Steve de Boer and Walter Tang.
3. There was much discussion and many concerns voiced about the AAPM stance on “medical physics extenders” and “medical physicist assistants”
 - a. I passed on the information that the TG-276 report was submitted to the Medical Physics Education of Allied Health Professionals committee, and that finalization of the TG-259 report is on hold (per the Executive Committee) until the Scope of Practice for medical physicists is completed (expected in Fall 2018).
 - b. The Board reiterated their concerns that the pursuit of Medical Physicist Assistants might in some way displace certified medical dosimetrists from open dosimetry positions.
 - c. I reiterated firstly that the AAPM has a profound respect for the role of the CMD in clinical practice and no interest whatsoever in causing such displacement; and, in addition, the Medical Physicist Assistant track is not at all equivalent to or in danger of intersection with the track of the CMD.
 - d. The Board requested that a blurb or interview – possibly with the AAPM liaison – be published in their newsletter on this topic to mitigate some of these concerns shared by members of the AAMD.
 - e. I would appreciate feedback on this topic and suggestions for their newsletter request.
4. I commended to them the IAEA Safety and Quality in Radiotherapy online course.
 - a. This course was recommended to me by Peter Dunscombe, and he was correct in predicting that it would be of interest to members of the AAMD.
 - b. When and if an interview for the newsletter comes to fruition, I would like to also spotlight this important resource.

I appreciate the support of the AAPM to attend the annual AAMD meeting, and look forward to my continued participation in the important effort of maintaining good communication and cooperation between the two professional societies.

Best Regards,

Dan