

<b>Reported by (Name):</b>	<b>Michael Taylor, MS</b>
<b>Organization:</b>	<b>Medical Dosimetry Certification Board (MDCB)</b>
<b>Position Title:</b>	<b>AAPM Representative (Liaison)</b>
<b>Activity:</b>	<b>Test development, test preparation, scoring analysis; Other misc. Board business.</b>
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	<b>January 11-12, 2013                  Austin, TX March 15-16, 2013                  Miami, FL April 28-29, 2013                  Washington, DC</b>
<b>Meeting Location:</b>	<b>Austin, TX                          Miami, FL</b>
<b>Payment \$:</b>	<b>No costs to AAPM; MDCB covers expenses</b>
<b>Reasons for Attending or not Attending</b>	<b>Attended Austin, TX meeting and congressional meetings in Washington DC. Did not attend Miami, FL meeting</b>
<b>Issues from Previous Meetings or Year:</b>	<b>CARE bill work. Expansion of computerized testing and exam item bank. Improvements to new database for CE collection. Electronic exam review.</b>
<b>General Description of Activities of the Organization and/or Meeting:</b>	<b>Outlined below</b>
<b>Issues for AAPM:</b>	<b>New: Physicists to serve as item writers, reviewers and editors for exam items. Continuing: MDCB should be considered the sole accredited entity for certification of Medical Dosimetrists. Physicists to serve as item writers, reviewers and editors for exam items.</b>
<b>Budget Request (\$):</b>	<b>None</b>

As noted from the introduction on the MDCB website, "The MDCB exists to promote excellence in cancer care by advancing the profession of medical dosimetry. The MDCB has therefore developed and maintains an ethical framework and formal mechanism for medical dosimetrists to gain certification and demonstrate continuing competency. This process has been achieved through on-going collaboration with representatives from several related radiation oncology disciplines. With respect to the common goal of the health care team who strive to provide exemplary care to patients who have cancer, the concept of acknowledging the distinct abilities of the medical dosimetrist emerged and continues to define the role of the MDCB." (www.mdcb.org)

As of July 2013, there have been two of four scheduled face to face meetings of the MDCB. There are two additional meetings scheduled for 2013 and I plan to attend both.

There were several accomplishments from the MDCB that should be acknowledged:

### **CMD Exam**

With Computer Based Testing (CBT), the MDCB has continued to work toward the goal of offering the exam multiple times per year. After conducting a survey distributed to JRCERT Program Directors in the spring of 2012, dates for the 2013 exam were determined. Exam dates for 2013 are January 31st - February 2nd and August 22nd - August 24th. Additionally in 2013 all K-type questions were eliminated from the test. In the CBT format, the exam has been delivered in well over 100 sites in the United States, Canada, the Far East, the Middle East, Australia and Europe. As the MDCB prepares for the 2014 exam, new types of questions, now available as a result of CBT will be incorporated. Initially these questions will be non-operational and not affect candidate scores. Once statistics are gathered, new question types will be incorporated into the exam.

The results of the January/February 2013 indicate the pass rate for the January/February exam is at 59%, an increase over the normal average pass rate of the exam of approximately 50%. The greater pass rate can be attributed to the applicant pool. More than 48% percent of January/February candidates were Route 1 candidates, graduates of formal JRCERT accredited dosimetry programs. Forty-one percent of the candidates were re-applicants.

### **Bentel Scholarship Fund**

The MDCB continues to support the AAMD Foundation and Bentel Scholarship fund by contributing a percentage of proceeds from the sale of the MDCB study guides.

### **Learning Builder**

In December of 2010, the MDCB rolled out the first phase of functionality of the new CE Center with CMD certification renewal. MDCB continues to work with the vendor to improve functionality for the CMD community.

All pertinent activities completed by CMDs including directed journal readings, webinars, and conferences both regional and annual are uploaded monthly to learning plans. MDCB has also been able to provide this service to the CMD community for additional conferences including those provided by the American Society

of Radiation Oncology (ASTRO), the American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM) and the American Brachytherapy Society (ABS).

### **Institute for Credentialing Excellence Update**

The MDCB continues to maintain the accreditation granted in the fall of 2010. Each year in the spring an annual report is filed and every five years, a new application must be submitted. In 2009 the MDCB applied to be accredited by Institute for Credentialing Excellence (ICE) accrediting body, the National Commission for Certifying Agencies. Just as the JRCERT provides programmatic accreditation to medical dosimetry schools, ICE provides the same program evaluation for certification exams. This accreditation had been a strategic goal for many years.

### **CARE Bill Support**

The MDCB continues to support efforts for passage of the CARE Bill. To that end, the MDCB has engaged a well-respected international lobbyist firm and is working closely with them to build awareness about the role of the dosimetrist in radiation therapy as well as MDCB's role in certification. In late spring members of the MDCB Board were accompanied by lobbyists for meetings with key Members of Congress on Capitol Hill. Additionally, the MDCB and its lobbyists, who work both in the House and in the Senate, also attended the Alliance for Quality Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy (AQMIRT) meeting in June. At the meeting, Alliance members voted to change CARE Bill draft language to better reflect the medical dosimetry community.

### **Study Guide Initiative**

Members of the dosimetry community have voiced a need for new study guides. As a result the MDCB is undertaking a major initiative for the 2014 exam cycles. The new guides will include new and revised questions. In addition, sample test items will be provided that represent new types of questions that will be available as a result of computer based testing.

### **Item Writing Committee**

Growing the item bank continues to be a priority in order for MDCB to successfully address future challenges and the MDCB has developed an external item writing committee. An inaugural teleconference meeting of all volunteer items writers was conducted on May 1st, 2013. External item writers are subject to the strictest confidentiality to continue to maintain the integrity of the certification test and are subject to executing a Conflict of Interest, Confidentiality and Copyright Agreement.

### **Board Member Terms**

In order to maintain continuity on planned initiatives before current board members cycle off the board, the MDCB has developed a plan to stagger board member terms. Traditionally, CMD board member terms begin on September 1st. This year new CMD board member will attend their first meetings in March and November 2013 in addition to the usual first meeting in August.

### **Bylaws Revisions**

In 2012, the MDCB completed a major revision to the bylaws. Following assistance from legal counsel and many hours of hard work by the Ethics & Bylaws Committee the newly drafted bylaws were approved by all members of the board in July of 2012.

### **Policy Manual Revisions**

Similarly, the board conducted a complete review of the MDCB policy manual at the March board meeting. As a result the policy manual underwent a complete overhaul, eliminating outdated policies, fine tuning current policies and adopting new policies.

### **Strategic Planning**

To continue providing the best possible exam, plans are underway to again conduct a Strategic Planning session with the exam vendor, Prometric, to determine the next steps in the evolution of the CMD exam. Additionally, a review of the governing strategic plan conducted in 2010 will be reviewed.

These major activities of the MDCB Board of Directors, would not have been able to be completed without a dedicated board that continues to work diligently on behalf of the members and the medical dosimetry field.

MDCB continues to strive toward its Strategic Plan goals:

- To develop and maintain the gold standard in medical dosimetry testing providing an exam that is legally defensible and psychometrically sound and accurately measures dosimetrists' knowledge and experience.
- To evaluate and determine best structure for MDCB to be an efficient certifying board.
- To Evaluate and improve minimum standards for medical dosimetry.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Taylor, MS  
AAPM Liaison to the MDCB Board