

Reported by (Name):	Michael Taylor, MS
Organization:	Medical Dosimetry Certification Board (MDCB)
Position Title:	AAPM Representative (Liaison)
Activity:	Test development, test preparation, scoring analysis; Other misc. Board business.
Meeting Dates:	August 16-17, 2013 Portland, OR November 8-9, 2013 Pittsburgh, PA January 10-11, 2014 San Diego, CA April 4-5, 2014 Washington, DC
Meeting Location:	San Diego, CA Washington, DC
Payment \$:	No costs to AAPM; MDCB covers expenses
Reasons for Attending or not Attending	Attended all meetings.
Issues from Previous Meetings or Year:	CARE bill work. Expansion of computerized testing and exam item bank. Improvements to new database for CE collection. Electronic exam review.
General Description of Activities of the Organization and/or Meeting:	Outlined below
Issues for AAPM:	Pursue a way to get CMD access to educational materials.
Budget Request (\$):	None

AAPM Board Liaison Report from MDCB
Submitted by AAPM Liaison: Michael Taylor
July 2014

I am proud to be reporting on yet another successful and productive year for the Medical Dosimetry Certification Board (MDCB). We have had many positive changes and overseen many new initiatives. This is my fourth year serving both on the MDCB and as the AAPM liaison. Below are some highlights and accomplishments which the MDCB has undertaken this past year.

CMD Exam

With Computer Based Testing (CBT), the MDCB has continued to offer the exam multiple times per year to meet the needs of the dosimetry community, particularly as they relate to the varied graduation dates of the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) accredited programs. Our goal is to continue to improve the exam by providing the latest innovations in the testing industry. To this end, new types of questions will be incorporated into the exam for the first time, as pre-test items on the August 2014 exam. In order to familiarize applicants with the new item types, the exam tutorial posted on the MDCB website is being updated to incorporate samples of these item types. Once statistics are gathered on the new item types, they will be incorporated into the exam. For the immediate future, the majority of questions on the exam will continue to be multiple choice single response questions. In the CBT format, the exam continues to be delivered in well over 100 sites in the United States, Canada, the Far East, the Middle East, Australia and Europe.

The results of the January/February 2014 indicate the pass rate for the January/February exam is at 64%, 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. Nearly 50% percent of January/February candidates were Route 1 candidates, graduates of formal JRCERT accredited dosimetry programs. Twenty-seven percent of the candidates were re-applicants and twenty-four percent were Route 2 applicants.

Scholarship Fund

The MDCB continues to support the AAMD Foundation and has voted to support the AAMD Founders Scholarship with an annual donation of \$2,000. We support the foundation's effort to award a scholarship to an outstanding student attending formal JRCERT dosimetry programs. We look forward to the AAMD sharing with us the name of the recipient of the 2014 scholarship in order that we may offer our congratulations.

Learning Builder

In December of 2010, the MDCB rolled out the first phase of functionality of the new CE Center with CMD certification renewal. We continue to work with our vendor to improve functionality for the CMD community. Learning Builder has proven to be an invaluable tool integrating our eligibility, maintenance of certification and CE evaluation process.

Through collaboration with the AAMD, all AAMD activities completed by CMDs including directed journal readings, webinars, and conferences both regional and annual are uploaded on a regular basis to learning plans. We have similarly been able to provide this service to our CMDs for other 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). Vendor providers and other institutions are also using this functionality. Since November of 2013, the American Society of Radiation Technologists (ASRT) has also been providing this service for the CMD community, with monthly uploads.

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. 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 (NCCA). Just as the JRCERT provides programmatic accreditation to medical dosimetry schools, ICE provides the same program evaluation for certification exams. NCCA accreditation confirms adherence to strict test development and administration standards. 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. We have engaged a well-respected international lobbyist firm and are working closely with them to build awareness about the role of the dosimetrist in radiation therapy and MDCB's role in certification. In early spring, members of the MDCB Board visited Capitol Hill.

During our Hill visits, MDCB leadership met with staffers of both House and Senate Supporters of the bill and members of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, Pension Committee and the House Energy & Commerce Subcommittee where the bills have been referred. Following the meetings, Hill staffers in the offices of Senator Mike Enzi of Wyoming and Senator Tom Harkin of Iowa reiterated their commitment to bring the CARE Bill to markup or to a Health, Education, Labor, Pension (HELP) Committee executive session in the near future. Senator Enzi introduced the bill in the Senate. Both Senators Enzi and Harkin serve on the HELP Committee, where Senator Harkin is the committee chair.

Job Task Analysis

The 2014 Job Task Analysis (JTA), also known as a role delineation study has been completed. We are currently working with our exam vendor to update the item bank accordingly. MDCB conducts a JTA every five years to assure the certification exam maintains relevance to current medical dosimetry practice. The JTA is a recognized standard in the test development field to ensure exam reliability and validity. Survey results will be shared in the MDCB Fall Newsletter.

Study Guide Initiative

The MDCB has undertaken a major initiative in 2014 to develop new study guides. When the board met in November 2013 an extra day was added to the meeting to review and update study guides. To date two new sets of study guides have been made available. A study guide subcommittee, dedicated to continuous review and development of study guides, has been formed.

Website

In 2014, the MDCB unveiled a new website. The new site provides an updated design and superior navigation. Among the new features of the website are “Meet a Dosimetry Student,” which highlights dosimetry students attending Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) programs who have been identified by their program directors for outstanding performance.

Strategic Planning

To continue providing the best possible exam, a Strategic Planning session with our test vendor, Prometric, to determine the next steps in the evolution of the CMD exam was conducted. Additionally, a review of our governance strategic plan conducted in 2010 was 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 our certificate members and the medical dosimetry field.

We will continue to strive toward our 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.
- Evaluate and improve minimum standards for medical dosimetry.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Taylor, MS