Ann E. Wright, Ph.D. (1922 – 2016)

- Ann was the first female:
  - Officer in the AAPM (Treasurer, 1974 – 1976)
  - President of the AAPM (in 1982)
  - Chair of the Board of Chancellors of the ACMP (in 1984)
  - Winner of the Marvin M. D. Williams Award (in 1991)

But it was not easy!

- She was outstanding at mathematics at high school but the physics teacher would not allow her to take his physics class
  - (girls couldn't do physics)
- The math teacher eventually persuaded him to allow her into his class
- But he said she could not do any practical lab classes involving electricity (too dangerous for girls)
- And, regardless of her record, he would fail her
- Ultimately, however, he softened and gave her a “D”!

Shell Oil Company

- Upon graduation she obtained a scholarship to study physics at the University of Houston
- Unfortunately, she had to go to work instead for family financial reasons
- She went to work for the Shell Oil Company doing clerical work but was soon promoted to work as an accountant
- Shell sent her on a course to study computer programming at IBM
  - This changed her life forever
- Since she would not be eligible for promotion without a degree, Shell gave her leave to pursue a B.S. degree in business at the University of Houston
University education

- While there, she took a physics course and did so well that her professor persuaded her to change her major to physics, even though she was just two courses short of graduating in business
- Her physics professor encouraged her to respond to a job opening at the MD Anderson to provide some additional income
- She was interviewed by Bob Shalek who, recognizing her unique talent in computer programming, offered her a part-time job while completing her B.S. studies
- She worked with Marilyn Stovall and helped her develop a database for brachytherapy data collection, analysis, and treatment planning calculations
- She completed her B.S. in physics in 1951 (aged 39)

Medical Physics career

- Bob Shalek offered her an NCI scholarship to complete her studies
- She ultimately completed an M.S. and Ph.D. in medical physics
- Subsequently, she began her illustrious career as a medical physicist in Houston and Galveston, and in the AAPM and ACMP
- To name just a few more of her roles, she served as:
  - Chair of the AAPM CRP Coordination Committee
  - AAPM Representative to the AIP Governing Board Executive Committee
  - Chair of the ACMP Licensure and Reimbursement Committees
  - Chair of the ACMP Professional Practice Commission

Ann Wright’s Legacy

- She will be remembered, not only as a great leader of the medical physics profession, but as a great role model for young women (and men!) entering our profession
- The medical physics profession is where it is today in large part due to her efforts
- Her influence will be felt for years to come
- Thank you Ann