

New England Chapter of the AAPM (NEAAPM)

Notable NEAAPM Events

- 1964 1st NEAAPM Constitution
- 1975 Constitution Revised, NEAAPM merges with two older groups: NERPO and BMPG
- 1981 AAPM Annual meeting held in Boston. First Physics 'Phun Run' held!
- 1987 Connecticut declares independence! CAMPS Chapter formed. Some members maintain ties to both groups.
- 1995 AAPM Annual Meeting held in Boston

A few of the Physicists from the early days of the NEAAPM



Edward (Ted) Webster
AAPM President 1963-1964



Edward (Ned) S. Sternick
NEAAPM Chairman 1974-1975
AAPM President 1984



Bengt Bjärngard
NEAAPM board Rep 1974-77
AAPM President 1979



Joseph Blinick
NEAAPM President 1976-1977



Saul Aronow, NEAAPM President 1978-1979, with Prof Gordon Brownell and an early positron brain scanner, MGH, circa 1955

1981 AAPM Annual Meeting: Boston MA

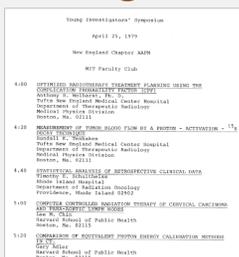


Ned Sternick, local arrangements chair, at the awards ceremony with Colin Orton at his right.



First "AAPM Fun Run:" runners assembled at the start, by the Charles River.

Young Investigator Symposium



1979 NEAAPM Young Investigators Symposium



2017 NEAAPM Young Investigators Symposium

A Short History of the New England Chapter of the AAPM (NEAAPM)

New England has a history of professional medical physics activities going to the very early days of the AAPM. The greater Boston area, in particular, is home to a number of medical schools and affiliated teaching hospitals with a strong tradition of being at the forefront of technical innovation.

The details of the very early origins are somewhat fragmentary, though the original constitution which created the New England chapter has survived. The document, written in January 1964, stated that the Chapter would include the states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. It was signed on March 3rd, 1964 by then AAPM president **Edward (Ted) Webster**. Originally from England, Ted was also from the Boston Area. He came to MIT in 1949 for postdoctoral work in nuclear physics and engineering and during this time became involved in a 2-MV cancer treatment program with Boston's Lahey clinic. He later joined the staff of the department of Radiology at Massachusetts General Hospital in 1953 in the newly created post of physicist. In 1959 he became a charter member of the AAPM and served as the 5th president for the organization in 1963. Dr. Webster would have a long and distinguished career at MGH, retiring in 2001 after 47 years of service. He passed away in December 2005.

While Ted Webster was from New England, his signature on the 1964 constitution was as AAPM President, and not as representative of the New England chapter per se. The signature for Secretary-Treasurer of the New England Chapter is that of **William H. Ellett** who appears to be the oldest documented member of the NEAAPM board. While not remembered specifically by older members still in New England today, he does appear on the 1959 list of charter members of the AAPM. A literature search reveals that in 1964 he was a physicist working at the Physics Research Laboratory at MGH. He appears on a number of publications from 1963-1968, including an article in the journal Nature, all co-authored with well known physicist and research laboratory director Gordon Brownell. His last paper in 1991 gives his affiliation as the National Research Council, Washington, D.C.

After 1964, no records for the New England Chapter have surfaced which detail any activities or board members for almost a decade. However, two other New England medical physics groups were well known to exist at this time: the Boston Medical Physics Group (BMPG) and the New England Radiological Physics Organization (NERPO). The relationship between these groups and the NEAAPM is somewhat unclear, though some members from this time period recall that all three groups co-existed though NEAAPM was not very active at the time. In any case, it is likely that there was a significant overlap in membership. The BMPG is remembered primarily for holding monthly scientific meetings at the MIT faculty club. NERPO was founded as a collaborative venture inspired by an effort by the NE governors to facilitate regional collaboration. NERPO is best remembered for organizing a program of dosimetric comparisons between Boston area hospitals as well as those in New Hampshire and Maine.

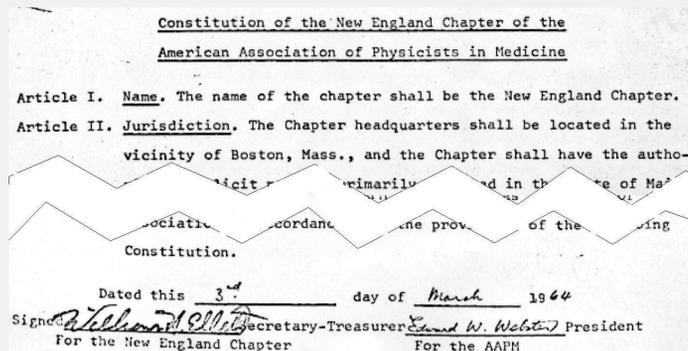
While working as a physicist at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in New Hampshire, **Edward (Ned) S Sternick** served on the executive board of NERPO starting in 1971. During the years 1971-1972 the board began to discuss evolving NERPO and the BMPG into the New England Chapter of the NEAAPM. Ned was ultimately elected to serve as Chairman to the new reconstituted NEAAPM board for 1974-1975. In addition to Ned as chair, the board consisted of **Saul Aronow** as secretary/treasurer, **Bengt Bjärngard** as AAPM board representative with **John Cardarelli** and **Philip Judy** as members at large.

All of these original members ultimately went on to have long distinguished careers in medical physics in the New England region. Ned Sternick left New Hampshire for Boston in 1978 to come to Tufts-New England Medical Center to serve as the Director of the Medical Physics Division. In 1981 the AAPM annual meeting was held in Boston and Ned served as chairman for the local arrangements. He was also elected to serve as AAPM president in 1984.

Bengt Bjärngard became the Director of Physics and Engineering group at the Joint Center for Radiation Therapy (JCRT) which was established in 1968 to provide radiation oncology services to four of the Harvard Medical School teaching hospitals. Bengt was elected AAPM president in 1979. He would later be appointed a full Professor of Radiation Oncology at Harvard Medical School. Bengt recently passed away in January 2014.

One of the tasks before the 1974-1975 NEAAPM board was to update the original constitution. A letter from Ned Sternick to the members dated March 6, 1975 notes the hard work of **Farideh Bagne**, **Joe Blinick**, and **Ken Wright** at revising the constitution to make it "more responsive to the professional, scientific, and educational needs of New England physicists". While no surviving copy of the 1975 constitution has been found, one obvious change of the new constitution was to redefine the officers of the board. The post of Chairman was replaced by President and the position of President-elect was added. The 1976-1977 board consisted of **Joseph Blinick** as president and **Saul Aronow** as President Elect. **Herb Mower** filled the position of secretary/treasurer while Bengt Bjärngard remained on as national board representative. There is no record of other members-at-large. Other than that and the fact that secretary/treasurer was one position this is similar to the board structure that is used today.

1964 1st NEAAPM Constitution



NEAAPM Presidents

| | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1974-1975 Edward Sternick | 1990-1991 Chris. Constantinou | 2005 Douglas Shearer |
| 1976-1977 Joseph Blinick | 1991-1992 Frank Ascoli | 2006 YC Lo |
| 1978-1979 Saul Aronow | 1992-1993 Andrew Karellas | 2007 Mark Rivard |
| 1979-1980 Arthur Boyer | 1993-1994 Marie Foley Kijewski | 2008 Gene Cardarelli |
| 1980-1981 Robert Zimmerman | 1994-1995 Richard Behrman | 2009 Robert Cormack |
| 1981-1982 Kenneth Kase | 1995-1996 Douglas Wagenaar | 2010 Georges El Fakhri |
| 1982-1983 Robert Wenstrup, Jr. | 1996-1997 Marcia Urie | 2011 Frederic Fahey |
| 1983-1984 Karen Doppke | 1997-1998 Martin Fraser | 2012 Joseph Killoran |
| 1984-1985 Robert Zamenhof | 1999 Suresh Brahmavar | 2013 Jessica Hiatt |
| 1985-1986 William Roventine | 2000 Paul Imbergamo | 2014 David Gierga |
| 1986-1987 Andrew Wu | 2001 Lee Chin | 2015 Ross Berbeco |
| 1987-1988 Bruce Curran | 2002 Charles Mayo | 2016 Carla Bradford |
| 1988-1989 Lynn Verhey | 2003 Eileen Cirino | 2017 Greg Sharp |
| 1989-1990 Stephen Moore | 2004 Peter Biggs | |

The NEAAPM Today

As of 2017 the NEAAPM has nearly 300 members. The Chapter holds four major meetings a year of scientific and professional talks. The winter and fall meetings are half day and the summer meeting is a full day. These meetings all feature invited speakers from both inside and outside New England. Our Spring meeting is a young investigators symposium.



2014 Summer Meeting

AAPM Fellows

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Peter Biggs | Edward Epp | Harald Paganetti |
| Bengt Bjärngard | Frederic Fahey | Lawrence Reinstein |
| Joseph Blinick | Martin Fraser | Mark Rivard |
| Suresh Brahmavar | James Goodwin | William Roventine |
| Gordon Brownell | Per Halvorsen | Douglas Shearer |
| Thomas Bortfeld | Philip Judy | Edward Sternick |
| Gene Cardarelli | Andrew Karellas | Keith Strauss |
| George TY Chen | Kenneth Kase | Marcia Urie |
| Robert Cormack | Hsiao-Ming Lu | Srinivasan Vedantham |
| Bruce Curran | Charles Mayo | Robert Zamenhof |
| Karen Doppke | Herbert Mower | Robert Zimmerman |
| Georges El Fakhri | Andrzej Niemierko | |

2017 NEAAPM Officers



Lindsey Berkowitz
President-Elect



Greg Sharp
President



Carla Bradford
Immediate Past President



Stephen Amadon
Treasurer



Julie Turcotte
Secretary



Nolan Gagne
Officer at Large



Fred Fahey
Rep. Board Member
President, 2011



Martin Fraser
Coordinating Committee Chair
President, 1998



Jessica Hiatt
Corporate Membership
President, 2013



Joe Killoran
Nominating Committee Chair
President, 2012



Robert Cormack
CAMPEP Coordinator
President, 2009



Jacek Kukluk
IT Committee Chair

Acknowledgements and Disclaimer

The historical information presented here on the early days of the NEAAPM was based on a few available documents and the recollections of members. An effort was made to be as accurate as possible, but some minor speculation was necessary to 'fill in the gaps'. Please forgive any errors, particularly those of omission. Anyone with additional information or corrections is encouraged to bring it to the attention of the NEAAPM board. We would, in particular, like to include more photos of former board members.

Special thanks to **Phil Judy** for locating many old documents, including the 1964 Constitution!

Additional thanks are due to Ned Sternick, who located the 1981 AAPM Photos, as well as Bengt Bjärngard, Joe Blinick, John & Gene Cardarelli and a number of others who contributed their recollections.

Once again, please forgive us for anyone we've forgotten!

The NEAAPM Board – 2017