

Mentoring within AAPM – SCAMP update

Robert Jeraj

Professor of Medical Physics, Human Oncology,
Radiology and Biomedical Engineering
University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

 rjeraj@wisc.edu



What is SCAMP?



- **SCAMP = Science Council Associates Mentorship Program**
- Established to recognize and cultivate **outstanding researchers at an early stage in their careers**, with the goal of promoting a long-term commitment to science within AAPM
- Uses the process of **'shadowing'** to integrate the Associates into the scientific activities of the organization.

What is SCAMP?



- The program includes **six Associates**, each assigned to shadow one member from the AAPM Science Council, Research Committee, Therapy Physics Committee, Imaging Physics Committee, or Technology Assessment Committee
- The Associate **participates** in selected meetings of the Mentor's Committee and would join and contribute to one Task Group (chosen with input from the mentor).
- The Associate **shadows** AAPM-related activities of the mentor, including committee phone calls, abstract review, Young Investigator judging, committee activities at the Annual Meeting, etc.

SCAMPs



- SC Associates (SCAMPs) participate in the program for **one year**
- SCAMPs are funded for **up to \$4,000** per Associate (to cover travel costs including flight, hotel, and meeting registration) to attend two consecutive AAPM Annual Meetings, including the pre-meeting activities associated with each Committee
- The Science Council Associates are announced, and a picture along with a short biosketch of each SC Associate posted on the **AAPM website**.

SCAMPs Yr 2017



SCAMP eligibility criteria



- PhD candidates or early career Medical Physicists **within 5 years of earning his/her doctoral degree**.
- Must be a **member of AAPM** at the time of application (any membership category) and maintain membership for the duration of the award period.
- Pending membership status not acceptable.
- Prior Mentorship Program recipients are ineligible.

SCAMP application



- **Cover letter** outlining:
 - Current contributions to Medical Physics research
 - Describing future career plans
 - Reasons for interest in the Mentorship program
 - Specify the committee(s) and/or committee member(s) of interest and/or member(s) therein
- **CV** (no more than 4 pages)
- Brief **letter of support** from supervisor

SCAMP unanticipated benefits



- **SCAMP mentor becomes a coach:**
 - Often SCAMPs are at the career decision point
 - SCAMP mentors provide valuable “independent” mentorship (beyond the academic mentor)
- **SCAMP once, SCAMP for life:**
 - SCAMPs remain active in the SCAMP community
- **SCAMPs beyond SCAMP:**
 - SC Working Group on Student and Trainee Research (WGSTR)
 - Activities beyond the mentor’s committees

Summary



- **Fast-track** most promising junior AAPM members to be active members of AAPM
- **“Extra” mentorship** of SCAMP mentees from their SCAMP mentors (e.g., help with independent career advice in addition to their academic mentors)
- **Active involvement** of SCAMP mentees (e.g., in WGSTR, one of the WG FUTURE spin-off working groups)
- Plans to **engaging/mandating SCAMPs** (as well as other prospective junior AAPM members) to be involved in (most) TG reports.
- **Mirroring SCAMP** model in other Councils (e.g., Professional Council as presented today)
