SCAMP Mentee’s Experience

CHRISTOPHER PEELER, PHD
ADVANCED FELLOW IN MEDICAL PHYSICS
UT MD ANDERSON CANCER CENTER
HOUSTON, TX

Disclosures

- SCAMP Fellow
- AAPM funded travel to annual meeting in 2015 and 2016

Mentor-Mentee Relationship

- SCAMP Mentor: Robert Jeraj, PhD
- Friends with Robert before SCAMP
- Invited to contribute to WG-FUTURE
Experience before SCAMP: WGSTR

- Founded Working Group on Student and Trainee Research (WGSTR) with Stephanie Harmon, PhD and Clemens Grassberger, PhD (co-chair)
- Goal to provide additional research-related experiences and opportunities for young AAPM members
- Host student luncheon to address research-related topics and foster discussion between students and more senior AAPM members
- Propose and host sessions related to professional development for research-interested students and trainees and early career medical physicists
- Expanding Horizons travel grants

Hosted Sessions

- Fostering a Successful Career in Research
  - Successful researchers share their experiences
  - Speakers: Radhe Mohan, PhD, Maryellen Giger, PhD, James Dempsey, PhD
- Research Funding
  - Focus on early career NIH grants
  - Speakers: Keyvan Farahani, PhD, Amit Sawant, PhD, Carrie Glide-Hunt, PhD, Ruijiang Li, PhD, Lei Xing, PhD
SCAMP Experience

- Follow Robert around
  - Requires good walking shoes
- Attend committee meetings:
  - WGSTR, WG on Imaging for Treatment Assessment, International Scientific Exchange Programs Subcommittee, Working Group on Funding Needs, American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology, Therapy Physics Committee, WGSTR, TG 256, and others...
- Develop NIH biosketch with feedback
- Lengthy career discussions with Robert
  - More ideas on how to be involved in AAPM, potential new initiatives

Post-SCAMP Experience

- Continue to participate in WGSTR
  - Successful transition
- Become member of Research Committee
- Attend many more committee meetings than before (contribute where possible)
- Still hang out with Robert
  - Continue mentor-mentee relationship

Takeaways

- Get involved!
- Participation in AAPM can help build lasting connections
- If you think you have a good idea, tell someone!
  - Bring it to a committee meeting if possible
Thank you!

QUESTIONS?

Contact

Christopher R. Peeler, PhD
Advanced Fellow in Medical Physics
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
cpeeler@mdanderson.org