Mentoring Within AAPM: Lessons and Opportunities - SCAMP Update

Brendan Whelan
SCAMP mentor: Todd Pawlicki

Who am I?

- At time of applying: Final year PhD student.
  Working on design aspects of MRI-Linacs (Australia)
- Currently: Postdoctoral research fellow, Image-X institute (Australia)
- Next week: Innovation scientist, Siemens healthcare (Germany)
Why did I apply?  
…I had the necessary qualifications.
1. Apply for every funding opportunity! (Paul)  
2. Passionate about the potential of physics to improve healthcare  
3. I wanted to understand what made the AAPM ‘tick’? How did it work?  
4. Previous experience working with senior AAPM members

My mentor: Todd Pawlicki

• We had never met before  
• Shared interests in craft beer and big picture thinking  
• Until last year, Todd was serving as secretary of AAPM

Experience 1 (pre SCAMP): database of NIH research funding
Experience 2: Inaugural Medical Physics 3.0 booth (with SCAMPs Erika Chin/ Ehsan Samei)

Experience 3: Medical Physics 3.0 Article

What worked?

• Made me feel like a valued member of the AAPM.
• My very strong opinion is that mentoring works best when there is some shared project.
  – Makes the mentoring relationship a lot easier to build
  – Has helped build my track record
  – Has contributed to AAPM/ Medical Physics
• Indirect benefits (last slide)
What would we do differently?

- Time zones were a big challenge
- Neither of us had a really clear idea how to proceed or what was expected — slightly more structured program may be beneficial (hence projects idea).
- Semi regular group meetings to hear how other mentor/ee pairs were doing and what was working for them.

Indirect outcome: Broader integration into AAPM

- Reviewing abstracts for AAPM conference each year
- Increased reviewer responsibility for Medical Physics Journal
- This year: volunteering on two booths: science highlights and MP3.0
- Invited talks at AAPM meetings
- Serving on two AAPM working groups
- Ongoing relationship with mentor and SCAMP community

What should we call the SCAMP ringleader??
Thankyou!