WORKING YOUR WAY THROUGH AND INTO THE AAPM

Bruce Thomadsen
AAPM President

DISCLOSURES
- Professor of Medical Physics at the University of Wisconsin
- The President of the Center for the Assessment of Radiological Sciences, a 501(c)(3) non-profit Patient Safety Organization listed with the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, dedicated to improving quality and patient safety in radiotherapy and radiology. I receive no remuneration from CARS.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES
- Learn about the AAPM and its Organization
- Learn about breaking into the AAPM structure
SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE AAPM

- More than 30% of our approximately 8,500 members volunteer in our approximately 300 committees – This is amazingly high for a professional organization.
- On a recent survey of the membership showed high satisfaction with the Association.

HOW IS EXCOM USING THE SURVEY RESULTS

- Other than shouting about them...
- We use the identification of area that are rated the least positive to work to improve,
- We are paying attention to the comments to also note where improvements can be made.
  - Anticipating changes that would affect medical physicists
  - Connecting AAPM membership and leadership
MEDICAL PHYSICS WORKFORCE NEEDS

• How many new medical physicists are needed now?
• How many will be needed in a few years?
  - A function of Retirements
  - A function of CMS changes
  - A function of NIH changes
• How many should be, or could be, minted each year?
• How good is the match between:
  - Number needed and number coming out of residencies
  - Number of graduates and residency slots and other types of jobs
  - Balance between therapy, imaging and nuclear, and other types
• We need to get numbers. We are working on that.

AND VISIONARY ACTIVITIES

• Future Working Group
• Medical Physics 3.0
AND VISIONARY ACTIVITIES

• Future Working Group
• Medical Physics 3.0

• And this was the focus of the President’s Symposium and Workshop yesterday

AAPM INTERACTIONS WITH THE WORLD

With
• Governmental agencies (NRC, NIH, FDA)
• State regulators and legislators, and the CRCPO
• Certification bodies (ABR, CAMPEP, ACGME)
• Advisory bodies (IAEA, NCRP, ICRU, ICRP)
• National sister societies (RSNA, ASTRO, ABS, HPS, ARRT)
• International sister societies (COMP, ESTRO, IOMP, EFOMP)
AAPM Board Structure

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EXCOM)**

- President-elect – Cynthia McCollough
- President – Bruce Thomadsen
- Chair of the Board – Melissa Martin
- Treasurer – Mahadevappa Mahesh
- Secretary – Susan Richardson
- Executive Director – Angela Keyser
- (ex official) President-elect-designate – Saiful Huq

**PRINCIPAL BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Governance and leadership
  - Evaluate composition, knowledge, and effectiveness of the board
  - Develop future board members and organizational leaders
- Strategic direction, thinking and plan
  - Develop and clarify organizational goals
  - Evaluate opportunities and formulate organizational strategies
  - Assess performance of strategy via critical success factors and benchmarks
- Monitor ethics and financial integrity of the organization
- Ensure needs of the members are being satisfied
- Provide oversight and support of the Executive Director
- Evaluate organizational performance and operational results
WE ARE ALL EARS

• The leadership, and EXCOM in particular, want to hear from you.
• We attend chapter meeting to facilitate communication with members.
• All suggestions and comments are taken seriously.
• If something bothers you, please let us know.
• Oh, and if something particularly delights you, please let us know that also.

DIGGING DOWN

The general pattern for the organization is

• Council (Administrative, Educational, Professional, Science)
• Committee
  • Subcommittee
    • Working Group
    • Task Group

These are where the work happens

HOW TO GET IN

• It is usually easiest to start at the task-group level.
• You can look at the Committee Classifieds where groups looking for members sometimes advertise.
  • The software is due for some revamping.
  • Chairs are encouraged to use this resource.
• You can also attend committees (in the general sense) in which you are interested.
  • Almost all AAPM committees are open to any member.
  • Talk with the chair, attend the meetings and ask to be added as a guest.
  • Often, new members are chosen from guests who attend and participate.
The AAPM is a very active and happy organization, but we are trying to make it happier and better.

The organizational structure of the AAPM is deep and broad, but not that hard to navigate once you understand some simple principles.

You have the responsibility to let us know how you think the AAPM could improve.

The AAPM is the most fun if you get involved. You do make a difference.