

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



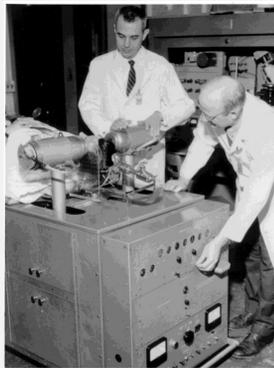
Edward (Ned) S. Sternick
NEAAPM Chairman 1974-1975
AAPM President 1984



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



2020 NEAAPM SLAM and Young Investigators Symposium participants

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.

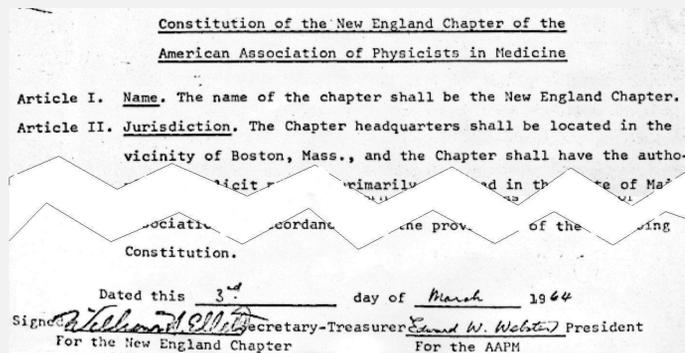
While working as a physicist at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in New Hampshire, **Edward (Ned) S Sternick** served on the executive board of NERPO starting in 1971. During the years 1971-1972 the board began to discuss evolving NERPO and the BMPG into the New England Chapter of the NEAAPM. Ned was 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	1991-1992 Frank Ascoli	2007 Mark Rivard
1976-1977 Joseph Blinick	1992-1993 Andrew Karellas	2008 Gene Cardarelli
1978-1979 Saul Aronow	1993-1994 Marie Foley Kijewski	2009 Robert Cormack
1979-1980 Arthur Boyer	1994-1995 Richard Behrman	2010 Georges El Fakhri
1980-1981 Robert Zimmerman	1995-1996 Douglas Wagenaar	2011 Frederic Fahey
1981-1982 Kenneth Kase	1996-1997 Marcia Urie	2012 Joseph Killoran
1982-1983 Robert Wenstrup, Jr.	1997-1998 Martin Fraser	2013 Jessica Hiatt
1983-1984 Karen Doppke	1999 Suresh Brahavar	2014 David Gierga
1984-1985 Robert Zamenhof	2000 Paul Imbergamo	2015 Ross Berbeco
1985-1986 William Roventine	2001 Lee Chin	2016 Carla Bradford
1986-1987 Andrew Wu	2002 Charles Mayo	2017 Greg Sharp
1987-1988 Bruce Curran	2003 Eileen Cirino	2018 Lindsey Berkowitz
1988-1989 Lynn Verhey	2004 Peter Biggs	2019 David Gladstone
1989-1990 Stephen Moore	2005 Douglas Shearer	2020 Cynthia Pope
1990-1991 Chris. Constantinou	2006 YC Lo	2021 Per Halvorsen

The NEAAPM Today

As of 2021 the NEAAPM has nearly 300 members. The Chapter has recently held three major meetings a year of scientific and professional talks. The fall meeting is a half day, and the summer and winter meetings are a full day. These meetings all feature invited speakers from both inside and outside New England. Our winter meeting integrates our Young Investigators Symposium with invited talks. Recent meetings have been virtual, but we look forward to hosting in-person meetings again soon.



2014 Summer Meeting

AAPM Fellows

Ross Berbeco	Edward Epp	Mark Rivard
Peter Biggs	Frederic Fahey	William Roventine
Joseph Blinick	Martin Fraser	Douglas Shearer
Suresh Brahavar	David Gierga	Edward Sternick
Thomas Bortfeld	Per Halvorsen	Marcia Urie
Gene Cardarelli	Philip Judy	Srinivasan Vedantham
Eileen Cirino	Andrew Karellas	Robert Zamenhof
George TY Chen	Kenneth Kase	Robert Zimmerman
Robert Cormack	Hsiao-Ming Lu	Frank Ascoli
Bruce Curran	Herbert Mower	David Gladstone
Karen Doppke	Andrzej Niemierko	Erli Chen
Georges El Fakhri	Harald Paganetti	Gregory Sharp

2021 NEAAPM Officers



Ileana Iftimia
President Elect



Per Halvorsen
President



Cynthia Pope
Immediate Past President



Olivia Dawood
Treasurer



Jennifer Pursley
Secretary



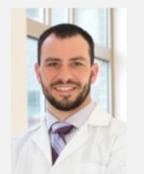
Marc Chamberland
Officer at Large



Greg Sharp
Rep. Board Member
President 2017



Martin Fraser
Meeting Coord. Comm. Chair
President 1998



Nolan Gagne
Corporate Membership
Committee Chair



Yulia Lyatskaya
Education Committee
Chair



Carla Bradford
Nom. Committee Chair
President 2016



Lindsey Berkowitz
CAMPEP Coordinator
President 2018



Jacek Kukluk
Computer Science-
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 – 2021