

The AAPM Strategic Plan

March 2012

The Mission of the AAPM is to advance the science, education and professional practice of medical physics.

The goals of the AAPM to carry out this mission are:

1. Promote the highest quality medical physics services for patients.
2. Encourage research and development to advance the discipline.
3. Disseminate scientific and technical information in the discipline.
4. Foster the education and professional development of medical physicists.
5. Support the medical physics education of physicians and other medical professionals.
6. Promote guidance for the practice of medical physics.
7. Govern and manage the Association in an effective, efficient, and fiscally responsible manner.

The following objectives and specific strategies represent the mechanism to achieve AAPM's goals.

Goal 1: Promote the highest quality medical physics services for patients.

Objective 1: Provide guidance and tools for the medical physicist to properly understand, implement, guide and control contemporary technology and clinical applications.

Strategy 1: Publish functional datasets on the AAPM Website. Examples include CT protocols, RT cone-beam CT protocols, sample output data for SRS cones

Deliverables: Section of the AAPM website housing these datasets (physics resource for comparing data, recommendations for suggested protocols)

Assigned to: Science Council

Objective 2: Cooperatively develop industry standard Quality and Safety improvements

Strategy 1: Develop a mechanism to interface with vendors to develop more consistent and safer interfaces, nomenclature

Deliverables: Through existing WG and/or liaisons, identify inconsistent interfaces and/or nomenclature between vendors and recommendation solutions

Assigned to: Science Council

Objective 3: Create Intellectual and Professional infrastructure to enhance the work of Medical Physicists

Strategy 1: Develop staffing model(s) (with other groups) to determine appropriate staffing numbers to perform medical radiation therapy procedures following national consensus best practices.

Deliverables: Staffing recommendation created jointly with ASTRO/ACR

Assigned to: Liaisons to Blue Book Efforts
Serago, Pavord, Mills

Strategy 2: Develop staffing model(s) (with other groups) to determine appropriate staffing numbers to perform medical radiation imaging procedures following national consensus best practices.

Deliverables: Staffing recommendation created in cooperation with ACR to include report data from Imaging Medical Physics Work Study.

Assigned to: Diagnostic Work and Workforce Study Subcommittee

Strategy 3: Create central event reporting system in cooperation with other groups.

Deliverables: Continue work of the Work Group on the Prevention of Errors (Therapy) and create a parallel group within Imaging. Develop common nomenclature and work cooperatively to develop the event reporting system(s)

Assigned to: **Imaging Physics Committee**
Work Group on Prevention of Errors in Radiation Oncology

Objective 4: Integrate medical physics practice guidelines into practice accreditation models nationwide

Strategy 1(2): Work with clinical practice accrediting bodies (IAC, ACR, ASTRO, JC, ACRO, etc) to require that a QMP, as defined by AAPM, participate as appropriate in the clinical practice and accrediting process

Deliverables: PC Chair will write letters to the clinical practice accrediting bodies announcing the availability of AAPM MPPGs and encouraging the accreditation programs to incorporate these MPPGs by reference

Assigned to: Professional Council

Goal 3: Disseminate scientific and technical information in the discipline.

Objective 1: Develop communication infrastructure for dissemination of information outside the AAPM.

Strategy 1: Develop a Communications Plan

Deliverables:
1. Report from Ad Hoc Committee

Assigned to: EXCOM

Goal 4: Foster the education and professional development of medical physicists.

Objective 1: Lead medical physics graduate and residency program development

Strategy 1: Develop strategies for encouraging the establishment of more residency programs, especially in imaging physics, including reviewing existing and potential funding mechanisms for medical physics residencies.

Deliverables: Report with recommendations on AAPM policies and future actions.

Assigned to: Medical Physics Residency Training and Promotion Subcommittee

Strategy 2: Address the issue of education and certification for Medical Nuclear Physicists. Consider whether and how to include nuclear medicine physics in the AAPM guidance for graduate degree programs and residency programs for diagnostic imaging medical physics and the implications for ABR certification.

Deliverables: Written reports with specific recommendations

Assigned to: Education and Training of Medical Physicists

Goal 6: Promote guidance for the practice of medical physics.

Objective 1: Maintain and promote the definition and recognition of the Qualified Medical Physicist for clinical practice.

Strategy 1: Promote consistent entrance requirements for board certification for each subspecialty (recognizing that e.g. medical health physics may have different entrance requirements than diagnostic medical physics)

Deliverables:

1. Reiterate AAPM recommendations for entrance requirements for Board Certification.
2. AAPM to identify each Board that has inconsistent entrance requirements and create a dialogue with each Board in order to assess their willingness and ability to come into compliance with current AAPM-recommended entrance requirements;

3. Prepare a report to the AAPM Board that includes a recommendation as to whether to maintain specific board listings in the QMP definition (PP-1).

Assigned to: Professional Council

Strategy 2: Continue to work with organizations and regulators that involve medical physics to adopt consistent, national recognition of the Qualified Medical Physicist. (Using current AAPM definition)

Deliverables:

1. Create a listing of organizations and regulatory bodies/agencies that involve medical physics that includes whether they have adopted and recognize the AAPM definition the QMP.
2. For those who have not, develop an action plan for assisting with their adoption that includes defined transition time periods
3. Develop standard grandfathering clauses for national implementation of QMP.

Assigned to: GRAC
Professional Council

Strategy 3: Support passage of the CARE bill and other legislation that requires the appropriate qualifications for medical physics practice.

Deliverables:

1. Implement grassroots strategies to support passage of CARE bill.
2. Continue defining work on medical physics portions of the CARE bill and related HHS language for implementation.
3. Provide periodic reports to the Board and members on the status of the work that AAPM has done to enable the passage of the CARE bill.

Assigned to: GRAC

Goal 7: Govern and manage the Association in an effective, efficient, and fiscally responsible manner.

Objective 1: Maintain and enhance existing primary revenue mechanisms, and develop recommendations for new revenue mechanisms.

Strategy 1: Monitor and enhance on-line educational materials

Deliverables: Develop recommendations for potential revenue enhancement and propose new materials for medical physicists and other potential markets

Assigned to: Online Learning Service SC