

AAPM Liaison to APDR Report
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The Association of Program Directors in Diagnostic Radiology (APDR) held their annual meeting in San Antonio Texas on March 19-22, 2012 in conjunction with a number of other societies: AUR, SCARD, A3CR2, ACER, AMSER, RAHSR, RRA, SNM and ADCR. I attended the meeting both as the AAPM liaison to APDR and as an active member of APDR, AUR, SNM and ACER. I am Associate Program Director of our Diagnostic Radiology Residency Program and have been active in the program director meetings for many years.

I presented a summary of AAPM educational activities directed towards resident education to the APDR at both their Board of Directors meeting and at their Business Meeting. We discussed the medical physics curriculum, the Educator's Resource Guide, the AAPM/RSNA Physics Web Modules and the ACR Physics Case of the Fortnight projects. APDR leadership expressed their appreciation for our efforts and asked when they could expect to see an update of the medical physics curriculum. Many of the clinical curricula are currently under revision and ours is due for review as well. The American Board of Radiology published a Core Examination Study Guide recently, incorporating many of the elements in our concise medical physics curriculum. Our Imaging Physics Curricula Subcommittee will be asked to compare the two curricula and begin work on revising it. Hopefully, this project can be turned around by the end of this year, at least with the concise form of the curriculum.

Diagnostic Radiology residency education is governed by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). They recently announced their Next Accreditation System (NAS) project, which entails less frequent site surveys and more frequent reporting of specific resident "milestones" to demonstrate resident competence throughout their training. The ACGME Radiology Residency Review Committee (RRC) has volunteered to be an early developer of milestones, and they presented their initial recommendations to the APDR for comment. Several relate to radiation protection and medical physics knowledge and application.

In addition the RRC revised their physics training requirements to state: "Residents must demonstrate on an ongoing basis an awareness of radiation exposure, protection and safety, as well as the application of these principles in imaging." This is to emphasize the requirement for physics education throughout the residency, including the fourth year where residents may now pursue mini fellowships after they complete their ABR Core exam. This will pose challenges for physicists education.

The AAPM/RSNA Physics Web Modules are being actively utilized, with about 10,000 modules now completed and 30,000 attempted. Several APDR members asked if additional content would be developed. No funding is currently available. However, the Radiation Oncology Medical Physics Education Subcommittee is working towards the development of funding for their modules, some of which would be suitable for use by diagnostic radiology residents.

Medical Physics educators who would like to learn more about the milestones project as well as the various presentations from the APDR meeting should contact their Program Director who can access the meeting content online. American Board of Radiology staff members and trustees gave several presentations and their materials have been posted on <http://www.theabr.org>