

AbstractID: 1141 Title: Why Should We Care About Professional Medical Physics Issues

The surge of activity, employment opportunities and compensation increases for medical physicists has led us to believe we are invincible, completely respected, irreplaceable and worth our weight in gold. Can this go on forever? How did we get here? Were there behind the scenes, people working on our behalf, who fought for our very existence and value? Was it always like this? Remember 1993-1994? Notice CMS trimming reimbursement? WE are responsible for our own destiny and our future. Our physician colleagues, administrators, regulators, insurance companies and reimbursement groups are not going to make sure that we continue to be successful. WE are responsible for keeping those around us appropriately educated on our experience and value in the patient treatment process. The organizations that act on behalf of medical physicists spend time and energy protecting the professional stature of the medical physicist and the value of our services. This effort is largely by INDIVIDUAL MEDICAL PHYSICISTS like you and me, who have taken the time, responsibility and leadership to look out for the rest of us. This can not happen without our involvement. Every medical physics organization exists for a reason and with important goals. When things are good, we sometimes forget that it can go radically the other way. We are all responsible for making sure that doesn't happen. If you don't have time and energy, then send funding to your favorite professional medical physics cause. When times get rough, you will still have friends.