

Educational Activities of the AAPM Over the Last Forty Years

The AAPM Articles of Incorporation, filed in the District of Columbia in 1965, included the phrases "encourage training in medical physics" and "disseminate technical information in medical physics." These phrases have been translated into a wide range of educational activities over the forty years of AAPM history. The most visible educational activity sponsored by the AAPM is the Summer School. At its beginning, the Summer School had an international flavor with an attendance of some 48 individuals, 16 faculty and a registration fee of \$75 dollars. For the year 2000 World Congress Summer School, the expected attendance will be in excess of 600 with some 30 faculty and an approximate \$650 registration fee. Similar expansion of educational activities has occurred at the annual national summer and fall meetings of the AAPM. In the early days of the society most educational activities had the aura of university courses with a significant research component. Today many educational activities have a review session character with "classical" medical physics content. Such sessions are called continuing education, which is, for some areas of clinical medical physics practice, mandated by government standards and organizations. Continuing education opportunities have become an expected AAPM membership benefit and support for these activities has become a significant budget issue. Indeed, accredited continuing education has become essential in the definition of a qualified medical physicist.

Learning Objectives

1. The session attendee will gain knowledge of the history of educational activities of the AAPM.
2. The session attendee will be made aware of the current educational opportunities and requirements for continuing medical physics education.