

## Professional Activities of the AAPM over the Last Forty Years

The AAPM came into existence in 1958 as a professional society for medical physicists. A focus on scientific and educational activities was soon added, but professional issues have retained a high priority.

The AAPM formed the Professional Council in 1973 and placed under it the already existing committees on ethics, legislation and regulations, professional information, and clinical relations. Through these committees, the AAPM has consistently represented the professional interests of medical physicists. As a medical physics organization whose membership includes virtually all practicing medical physicists, the AAPM is ideally positioned to address issues of concern to these medical physicists, including those working in imaging and industry, and those who are uncertified or have little experience. Professional activities conducted under the Council include an annual professional information survey; annual symposia and refresher courses on professional issues; a placement service; an insurance program; maintenance of ethics guidelines; review of proposed regulations and preparation of responses to regulatory agencies; and direct contact with other medical organizations and agencies such as the JCAHO and HCFA. The AAPM coordinates its professional activities with the ACR's Commission on Medical Physics and the ACMP through meetings of the Trilateral Committee.

Several surveys of members conducted over the years indicate that the majority of medical physicists value these activities and support the AAPM's involvement in professional issues. Specific professional issues addressed by the AAPM over the past forty years will be reviewed.

### **Learning Objectives:**

- The attendee will gain knowledge of the history of professional activities of the AAPM.
- The attendee will learn about current professional activities of the AAPM.