

This symposium, organized by the Task Group on Women in AAPM in collaboration with the Ad-Hoc Committee on Women, will examine the medical physics profession from a woman's perspective by considering issues related to the education, training, professional certification, salary income, and involvement (or lack thereof) of women physicists in the AAPM organization. Currently women comprise about 16% of the AAPM membership. The percentage of women involved in the AAPM organizational activities is generally increasing, although there are still areas with low participation by women. The leadership of the Association recognizes this situation and has undertaken steps to identify and resolve it.

This symposium will begin with a brief introduction followed by five speakers, a video show, and a panel discussion. Dr. Azam Niroomand-Rad will review the results of an AAPM Professional Questionnaire that was sent to all the (identifiable) women in the AAPM in February 1997. Dr. Franca Kuchnir will discuss the activities and involvement of women in AAPM in the past 5 years (1992-1996). Dr. Sandra Zink will discuss the results of research showing how men and women work within different rule sets and boundaries to accomplish their professional goals. Dr. Geoffrey Ibbott will review AAPM structure and Dr. Bhudatt Paliwal will acknowledge all the women officers and chairs of the committees/subcommittees/task groups for 1998. Dr. Ann Wright, the first (and only) female President of the AAPM, will share her personal experiences with the participants and will make the closing remarks. The remainder of the symposium will consist of a video show of Nobel Prize Laureates - Madam Curie and Rosalyn Yalow by Marilyn Wexler and moderated discussions among the speakers, women active in the AAPM, and the symposium participants. The format of the symposium will be as follows:

1. Opening Remarks (2 mins): Colin Orton
2. Results of the AAPM Survey of Women in Medical Physics (10 min): Azam Niroomand-Rad
3. Women in AAPM: A 5-Year Profile - 1992 to 1996 (10 mins.): Franca Kuchnir
4. Why Not More Women at the Top? An Insight into the Dynamics of Male/Female Interactions (10 mins): Sandra Zink
5. Guide to the AAPM (10 mins): Geoffrey Ibbott
6. Know your women colleagues: Chairs and Officers (5 mins): Bhudatt Paliwal
7. Video of Nobel Prize Laureates: Madam Curie and Rosalyn Yalow (10 mins): Marilyn Wexler
8. Panel Discussion: Colin Orton and Ann Wright
9. Closing Remarks (10-15 mins): Ann Wright

#### Educational Objectives:

##### Participants will

1. Learn about the medical physics practice from women's perspective
2. Learn about the participation of women in various AAPM organizational activities
3. Learn about the dynamics of male/female interactions
4. Learn about the AAPM structure
5. Take note of women colleagues active in the AAPM
6. Have the opportunity to voice their professional concerns