

The individuals involved in the early discussions and actions which led to the formation of the AAPM were very conscious of the scientific and technical achievements which had been responsible for the origin of our field of radiation medical physics. After more than a half century of the rapidly evolving science and technology of this field, the principal organization of medical physicists was the Hospital Physicists Association (HPA) of Britain, which had been organized in 1943. Their organization served scientific, practical interchange and professional needs. Many U.S. radiation physicists were active members of the Radiation Research Society and also published in *Physics in Medicine and Biology* and in the *British Journal of Radiology*.

During an NCI conference in May, 1958 near Washington, D.C., a few physicists spent an evening discussing their recognition that formation of a national association of medical physicists was necessary and timely. Events moved promptly in the formation and development of the AAPM, and will be summarized. Gail Adams was the first Chairman and the first President, and the initial annual meeting was held near the time of the RSNA meeting in Chicago in November. At the first annual meeting, November 17, 1958, about fifty were present and voted to continue with the new Association, and confirmed Gail as Chairman (after adoption of the constitution, "Chairman" became "President"). Initially, the AAPM Board consisted of 12 Directors, including the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer, the officers being elected from the Directors. Since 1970, AAPM has held its primary annual meeting in mid-summer. Warren Sinclair was elected as the second President, serving out the year 1961. Before the end of the term, he advocated planning a scientific program for the next meeting, having come to the conclusion that the utility and credibility of the new Association required a strong scientific emphasis as well as professional. Accordingly, John Hale, the third President, did plan a scientific program for 1962.

Important events which require discussion include the following:

Publications: "The Medical Physicist"; The Publication Committee; PMB as our official journal;

Initiation of Quarterly Bulletin, MEDICAL PHYSICS, Newsletter.

Incorporation, constitution and IRS status history of AAPM.

Comments on the significance of the AAPM

Learning objectives:

1. The attendee will learn why and how the AAPM was formed.
2. The attendee will learn of the major publications of AAPM.
3. The attendee will learn of the incorporation, constitutional, and IRS Tax Status experiences and problems of the AAPM.