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on our
future**

2008 Annual Report
of the
AAPM Education &
Research Fund

We are pleased to present the following report on the AAPM Education & Research Fund for the year 2008. Contributions to the fund in 2008 totaled **\$16,425**. A total of \$11,590 was contributed to the general fund for use in supporting grants and scholarships and \$4,380 was earmarked for the Endowed Fund, from which only the earnings, if any, may be expended. There were also a number of contributions made to various named funds in honor of distinguished AAPM members. These contributions totaled \$455. A history of contributions can be found by clicking the **DONATE** button at www.aapm.org.

As with the AAPM operating reserve portfolio, and most other investments in 2008, the Education Fund experienced a significant decline in value. Standing at approximately \$1.1 million at the end of 2007, the Fund at the end of 2008 was valued at \$770,000 as a result of unrealized losses in value totaling almost \$300,000.

In spite of this decline, the funds expended in 2008 have yielded rewarding results. In total, **\$146,975** in awards were made in 2008. The following testimonials report on several of the activities during the year. It is quite obvious that with contributions of \$16,425 and awards of \$146,975, the fund will soon be depleted. We encourage all AAPM members to reach into their pockets to help this very worthwhile effort to attract and train future generations of medical physicists. We hope we can count on **YOU** in 2009.

*- Paul M. DeLuca Jr., PhD, FAAPM
AAPM Development Committee Chair
Professor and Vice Dean for Research
University of Wisconsin*

The following are testimonials from several of the 2008 Education & Research Fund award recipients.



AAPM/ASTRO Radiation Oncology Physics Residency Training Grant

“Rush University Medical Center has a long history in training of medical physicists. Our training program, while cognizant of and fulfilling identified training requirements, has been largely informal and individualized in structure. With increased clinical complexity and ever extensive oversight throughout medical management and training, we felt it was necessary to develop a more rigorously structured training program that would achieve documented compliance from CAMPEP. The **ASTRO/AAPM Radiation Oncology Physics Residency Training Grant** is providing essential support for our transition from our somewhat “ad hoc” postdoctoral program towards this more rigorously structured and certified clinical residency program in medical physics.

“The grant has supported our efforts to develop a curriculum, prepare documentation, recruit residents, and apply for CAMPEP accreditation. The grant also has provided a bit of seed money that we would be able to use for resident projects. In addition, the grant served as an explicit endorsement of these efforts; thus, enhancing our standing and recognition within our institution and in turn helping to facilitate the entire process of establishing an accredited medical physics residency program.

“We are grateful to ASTRO and the AAPM

for our grant and the grant program itself, as well as for the vision and dedication both organizations are demonstrating towards enhancing the training of medical physicists.”



“This letter is in response to your request for a status report on the Kansas City Cancer Center Medical Physics Residency Program, which has received funding from the 2008 [ASTRO/AAPM Radiation Oncology Physics Residency Training Grant](#).

“The first resident, Scott Sample, MS, began his term on February 1, 2008. Today marks the beginning of his second year. We are very pleased with his progress. He is not only receiving a well rounded clinical education but is also a valuable contributor in the clinic. Scott is due to graduate on January 31, 2010.

“The KCCC program submitted a self study application for CAMPEP accreditation on November 24, 2008. No date has yet been set for CAMPEP review.

“The grant monies have been spent on items of need for the residency, including the CAMPEP application, resident travel to the 2008 AAPM meeting, and AAPM placement center advertisement for second residency position.

“A second residency position at KCCC has been budgeted and approved for the July 2009 – June 2011 term. The two resident positions will become permanent rotating positions, with one resident graduating and a new resident starting each year. The award of the [ASTRO/AAPM grant](#) had a major role in obtaining approval for two permanent

positions. The award provided funding for recruitment of a second resident and will fund supplies such as a resident laptop computer. The award also provided proof of program legitimacy to KCCC administration when approval was sought for the second position. The KCCC residency program is one of the first programs not based in an academic setting, and recognition of the importance of such residencies by ASTRO and the AAPM is paramount to approval of new residency positions by community cancer center administrations.”

*Brian Wichman, MS, DABR
Chief Medical Physicist
Medical Physics Residency Director
Kansas City Cancer Center*



“In February 2008, Dr. Timothy Solberg was recruited to UTSW Radiation Oncology as the Director of the Division of Medical Physics and Engineering and initiated the creation of a clinical Medical Physics Residency Program. Grant aid was immediately pursued to develop the Residency Program and was awarded in May 2008 by the American Society for Therapeutic Radiation Oncology and the American Association of Physicists in Medicine (ASTRO/AAPM). A two-year program format was adopted following the curriculum in AAPM Report No.90, “Education and Training of Medical Physics Committee Subcommittee on Residency Training and Promotion,” and with the experience of having founded a CAMPEP-accredited residency during previous employment.

“A residency committee was formed in the

spring of 2008 and the first two Medical Physics residents were recruited and started the program on July 1, 2008. One incoming resident transferred from a CAMPEP-accredited residency program at the beginning of his second-year. The incoming first-year resident recently completed a PhD in Biomedical Physics at a CAMPEP-accredited graduate program. A complete two-year schedule of clinical rotations and objectives developed prior to July 1 was presented to both residents upon entry into the program.

“In August 2008, Dr. Paul Medin and Dr. Ryan Foster assumed the responsibility of directing the Medical Physics Residency Program and leading it through CAMPEP accreditation. Dr. Medin was previously the director of a residency program that he led to CAMPEP accreditation in January 2008. With the input of Medical Physics and Engineering faculty, Drs. Medin and Foster drafted a CAMPEP self study in the fall. The completed self study was submitted to CAMPEP in December 2008.

“The residency recruitment process for 2009 was initiated in October 2008 and 45 applications were received as of the December 31 deadline. Applications are presently being evaluated by the Residency Committee, with personal interviews of the top ranking candidates expected to take place in mid-February.

“The **ASTRO/AAPM award** has been extremely valuable in developing the residency program. In addition to the CAMPEP application fee of \$5000, funds were used for an AAPM placement advertisement, for travel costs for residency applicants, for educational materials, and for administrative support.”

Fellowship for Graduate Study in Medical Physics

“My name is Dustin Jacqmin and I am a proud recipient of the 2008-2010 Fellowship for Graduate Study in Medical Physics. This award has greatly enhanced my ability to carry about my graduate studies at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. This fall, I began my PhD studies in the Medical Physics Graduate Program at Wisconsin and am currently focusing on completing a PhD minor in computer science. My minor coursework has primarily focused on computer programming and optimization theory. In addition to being valuable to my research projects, I feel that my minor in computer science will prepare me for the computing tasks and challenges I will encounter in my professional life as a clinical medical physicist. Specifically, possessing a working knowledge of optimization theory will help me to interact more meaningfully with radiation therapy treatment planning systems and a computer programming background will allow me to implement novel solutions to computing needs faced by my future employer.

“I am carrying out PhD research under the guidance of Professor Rock Mackie. My research focuses on implementing a new proton radiation therapy dose calculation algorithm. The project will require a substantial amount of programming and an intimate understanding of proton radiotherapy physics. Although my research is still in its infancy, I am very excited about the project and look forward to tackling the challenges I will face during my research. I am also working on a second project with Professor Paul DeLuca that involves implementing a Monte Carlo calculation tool

for modeling neutron and photon scattering in concrete mazes.

“The **Fellowship for Graduate Study in Medical Physics** has been beneficial to me in a number of ways. As an important income source, the fellowship allows me to spend one semester each year without teaching duties. This frees enough time for me to volunteer the University of Wisconsin Hospital Radiotherapy Clinic where I carry out delivery quality assurance for Tomotherapy patients. I have found this to be valuable work experience and a great opportunity to give something back to the medical physics community. Furthermore, the fellowship allows me to spend more time working on research projects that I hope will prove beneficial to the medical physics research community in the future.

“I would like to once again thank the AAPM for their generous contribution to my education! The fellowship has truly enhanced my learning experience as a student of medical physics.”

AAPM Research Seed Funding Grant

“Noninvasive imaging of radiation-induced lung inflammation via peripheral benzodiazepine receptor based nuclear imaging. Radiation-induced lung toxicities greatly limit the efficacy of radiotherapy treatment of lung cancers. Early noninvasive detection of these sequelae is still lacking but highly needed in the practice of radiotherapy in the management of thoracic cancers. This research project aims to assess whether peripheral benzodiazepine receptor—an inflammation biomarker currently assessed for brain injury and AIDS—can be employed as a sensitive and specific imaging biomarker for noninvasive detection of radiation-induced pulmonary complications. The investigation will be performed using a mouse model and its relevance to clinical translation will be carefully researched. We anticipate that the findings of this research will form foundation of further research on the understanding and development of targeted treatment of radiation-induced pulmonary sequelae. The project is honorably funded by AAPM seed grant and will promote junior medical physicist like me to pursue new biomedical research directions involving multidisciplinary expertise in the management of cancer.”

Zejian Liu, PhD

Department of Radiation Oncology

Temple University Hospital

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