

AbstractID: 10014 Title: Forces for Change in Medical Physics Education: A Time of Crisis or Opportunity?

The Society of Medical Physics Program Directors and the AAPM invite both members and students to join in open discussion of the future of medical physics education.

The 2012 deadline for a 2-year residency requirement for ABR certification creates anxiety for students and teachers. How can students find residency slots to meet the 2012 deadline for clinical qualifications for ABR certification? How can educational programs obtain the funding to provide a steady stream of qualified physicists? Will the profession be improved by creation of a professional Doctor of Medical Physics degree? How will lack of research training impact on medical physicist ability to improve physical and practice environments in radiology and radiation oncology? Can the ACR help obtain the resources to meet the demands imposed by proposed changes in clinical and academic training of medical physicists? Education and training are the tools necessary to achieve improved clinical practice but abrupt changes in demands could cause existing programs to fail. Where should medical physicists turn in this time of crisis or opportunity?