

AbstractID: 10054 Title: AAPM Position on Residency Training and Experience with an Academic CAMPEP Accredited Program

In the clinic, where there is currently pressure for consistency and public accountability, we review the accepted definition “A Qualified Medical Physicist is an individual who is competent to practice independently one or more of the subfields of medical physics.... With board certification in the appropriate medical physics subfield and continuing education...” (AAPM Professional Policy 1E). And from the ACMP-AAPM Medical Physics Scope of Practice: “The essential responsibility of the Qualified Medical Physicist’s clinical practice is to assure the safe and effective delivery of radiation to achieve a diagnostic or therapeutic result as prescribed in patient care.”

There is a converging expectation for consistency of training, experience and credentials to practice medical physics. The CARE act, Consistency, Accuracy, Responsibility, and Excellence in Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Act of 2007, will lay the foundation for federally mandated prerequisites to practice in medical imaging and radiation oncology. The law would require all states to recognize minimum qualifications to practice medical physics. The draft text for these requirements includes specific medical physics training and experience followed by board certification. Meanwhile, the ABR forecast in 2003 that by 2012, a CAMPEP accredited clinical residency could be required to sit for the board exam in medical physics. All but two certification examinations within the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) require accredited clinical training as board pre-requisites. The AAPM (PP-19A) and the ACMP both went on record supporting the requirement that accredited clinical residency precede board certification. Evidence suggests that graduates of CAMPEP accredited residency programs fully pass the ABR exam on the first attempt at a 95% rate, as compared to the overall ABR average pass of 53% over the same time period.

Consistency in medical physics training and experience is paramount to quality medical care. This does not in any way suggest exclusivity in terms of pathways to become a medical physicist. Medical physics is a strong profession due to the breadth of disciplines that ultimately culminate in a medical physics career. In any case and regardless of initial training, clear competencies and experience are defined that when followed produce high quality medical physicists.

In addition, specific experience will be reviewed for starting and maintaining an academic medical physics residency program. Caveats within an institution and changes over the years will be discussed.

Objectives

1. To recognize the importance of consistent, structured clinical training in medical physics.
2. To understand the position on medical physics residency training that the American Association of Physicists in Medicine
3. To understand issues associated with developing an academic medical physics residency program