The Radiological and Medical Physics Society of New York
RAMPS 1948 – 2017
The Earliest Organization of Medical Physicists in the United States

History of RAMPS
During the mid 1940’s, physicists associated with medical institutions in the metropolitan New York City region commenced meetings to compare instrumentation and their measurements of the quantity of radiotracers in solutions in medical use. This was necessary for uniformity, and also for accuracy since the national standard available in 1943 appeared to be inconsistent. This was just prior to the availability of megavoltage x-rays and electrons, and the primary concern of the physicists was associated with the uses of radioactive nuclides. The clinical uses of iodine-131 and other radionuclides (phosphorus-32, yttrium-90, etc.) were being actively explored and agreement on the amount of activity being administered was essential. Such measurements led to the “New York Millicurie,” which served a vital purpose.

By 1948 the meetings of these medical physicists were on a scheduled basis with elected officers and records. Those initially active in RAMPS included Mones Berman, Hanson Blatt, Carl Braestrup, Giacchino Failla, Sergei Feitelberg, Elizabeth Focht, Hiram Hart, Lillian Jacobson, Robert Loewinger, Leo Marinelli, Eleanor Osry, Edith Quimby, Edward Siegel, Aaron Yalow, Rosalyn Yalow, and others. This group established the measurement procedure for the “New York Millicurie,” and their meetings served both scientific and professional functions. A constitution was written in 1954 by R. Yalow and J. Laughlin, and revised in 1957 by the group. RAMPS continued to grow from its modest beginning to a current membership of about 150 and conducts monthly meetings which are well attended. Their meetings usually include scientific presentations by a member or guest on physical aspects of treatment, diagnosis, nuclear medicine, or protection. Also, a symposium on a pertinent scientific topic is held annually. RAMPS welcomed the initiation of the AAPM and became a chapter in it.