**Medical Physics Education of Allied Health Professionals (TT)**

**AAPM Annual Meeting, Anaheim, CA, Marriot Hotel, room 315**

**Sunday July 12th, 2015 3:00 pm**

**Minutes**

Present: Steven de Boer (chair), Scott Emerson (vice chair, telephone), Anne Greener (telephone),Dustin Gress, Joann Prisciandro (invited guest from TG259), Vic Montemayor (Guest), Jon Shepard, Larry Sweeny (subcommittee member), Walter Tang, Mike Taylor, Sharon White,

Excused: Brent Colby, Scott Cupp, Alan Daus, Eric Gingold, Melissa Martin, Doug Pfeiffer, Daniel Sandoval, Gary Syed, Emilie Soisson, Thaddeus Wilson, Will Breeden, Richard Weening, Roland Wong,

(note that members of the TPMD subcommittee were invited to this meeting to participate in the discussion of MPAs from the therapy side).

1. Meeting called to order at 3:10 pm.
2. Meeting minutes from August 20, 2014 minutes approved.
3. Update from education council meeting from February 2015
   1. Develop a document on the Education requirements of Medical Physicist Assistants (discussion saved for later in agenda)
4. From the 2014 Education Council meeting the initiative to develop education materials for
   * + 1. Fluoro training of non-radiology personnel,

Dustin Gress. Organization exist, revenue is generated, stepping on toes,

* + - 1. Specific radiation safety/medical physics training for ED, nursing, cardiology, administrators

During discussion Dustin Gress and Jon Shepard indicated that there are commercial products available that are established and in use. The committee decided to investigate the need for these specific materials on the education resource guide of the AAPM website. Steve de Boer will solicit volunteers for such a task electronically.

1. Current liaison appointments

New liaisons have been identified for certain AART exam liaison position and they are marked in bold below. We are currently seeking a liaison for breast sonography.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **First** | **Last** | **Term end** | **Organization** | **Committee** |
|
| Steven | de Boer | 12/31/2016 | AAPM | Chair of TT |
| Scott | Emerson | 12/31/2016 | AAPM | Vice chair of TT |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Walter | Tang | 12/31/2016 | AAPM | Chair TPMD sc |
| M. Gary | Sayed | 12/31/2015 | AAPM | Chair Educators resource guide working group |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| S. Brent | Colby | 6/30/2016 | ARRT | Registered Radiology Assistant exam committee |
| Scott | Cupp | 12/31/2017 | ARRT | Limited Scope exam committee |
| Alan | Daus | 7/31/2018 | ARRT | Computed Tomography exam committee |
| **Steven** | **de Boer** | **6/30/2018** | **ARRT** | **Radiation Therapy exam committee** |
| **Doug** | **Pfeiffer** | **7/31/2018** | **ARRT** | **Magnetic Resonance Imaging exam committee** |
| Doug | Pfeiffer | 6/30/2015 | ARRT | Vascular Sonography exam committee |
| **Thaddeus** | **Wilson** | **2/28/2015** | **ARRT** | **Fluoroscopy exam committee** |
| Melissa | Martin | 2/28/2015 | ARRT | Fluoroscopy exam committee |
| Eric | Gingold | 6/30/2017 | ARRT | Mammography exam committee |
| **Dustin** | **Gress** | **6/30/2018** | **ARRT** | **Radiography exam committee** |
| **TDB** |  | **9/20/2018** | **ARRT** | **Breast Sonography exam committee** |
| Sharon | White | 6/30/2016 | ARRT | Nuclear Medicine Technology exam committee |
| **Frank** | **Dong** | **6/20/2018** | **ARRT** | **Sonography exam committee** |
| Roland | Wong | 6/30/2015 | ARRT | Quality Management exam committee |
| William | Breeden | 6/30/2017 | ARRT | Bone Densitometry exam committee |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Emilie | Soisson | 8/31/2018 | MDCB | Liaison - Medical Dosimetry Certification Board |
| **Jennifer** | **Smilowitz** | **12/31/2015** | **MDCB** | **Liaison - Medical Dosimetry Certification Board** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Dan** | **Sandoval** | **12/31/2017** | **ASRT** | **Liaison** |
| Jon | Shepard | 12/31/2016 | NMTCB | member of board of directors |
| Anne | Greener | 12/31/2016 | AAMD | Liaison |
|  |  |  |  |  |

*AAPM members that have expressed interest in serving with this committee*

*Jeffrey Moirano, Randal Kruger, Bill Geisler, Jason Saverese,*

Scott Emerson reported that he has had conversations with a few AAPM members about filling the role of ARRT breast sonography exam committee member. Scott Emerson is going to follow up with one more lead. We may consider placing a committee advertisement. The committee suggested that Bill Geisler and Donna Reeve would be suitable for that position.

1. Examining board liaison reports:
   1. ARRT – 15 active representative on ARRT exam committees
   2. MDCB – Mike Taylor has submitted a report. His term expires at the end of 2015. Jennifer Smilowitz has already begun acclimating to her role as one of the two AAPM liaisons to the MDCB. She is joining Emilie Soisson as the two AAPM representative of the MDCB board.
2. Organization liaison reports
   1. NMTCB

Jon Shepard reported that there has been development on the CT certification within the NMTCB.

* 1. AAMD

Anne Greener is actively involved with AAMD meeting, poster review and writing competition. Ms. Greener and this committee have recently resolved the allocation of a $5000 AAPM grant to the AAMD education and research foundation.

We are informed that the petition by the AAMD and the TPMD subcommittee were successful in that the JRCERT will now allow Physicists or Physicians to be program directors of accredited Medical Dosimetry education programs.

Anne Greener has indicated that the AAMD has expressed concern that the newly defined MPA profession may be used to fulfill treatment planning duties. Steve de Boer indicated that the definition of the role of MPA is in response to persons already fulfilling this role and duties and was not focused on radiation treatment planning. Steve de Boer suggested that the TG 259, the supervision of MPAs, consider formulation of a statement. Joanne Prisciandro indicated that she would bring this up for discussion at the next TG 259 meeting. Steve deBoer has sent Joanne Priscandro a draft statement for consideration. Anne Greener has indicated that this should be communicated with Greg Robinson of the AAMD once an approved statement is made. Steve de Boer indicated that this may take some time as it would require different levels of approval (ExComm).

* 1. AEIRS

Richard Weening is the AEIRS liaison to the AAPM. Via email, he has expressed interest in communicating the AAPM’s position on Medical Physicist Assistants with some affiliated organizations. At this time the documents are not for public comment.

* 1. ASRT

Dan Sandoval is the new liaison. No report at this time. There has been some communications (pacemaker presence in radiation therapy). His term expires 12/31/2017.

1. Subcommittees and working groups:
   1. TPMD – Walter Tang – chair

Currently working on tutorial for poster writing for AAMD meeting submissions. Subcommittee continues to serve as a resource for poster reviewers and writing competition judges.

It has been requested that this subcommittee to form a work group to develop an educator’s resource guide for Medical Dosimetry Educators for the AAPM website. Walter Tang will initiate this process.

* 1. Work Group on Education of Allied Health Personnel Content for Educators Resource Guide – Gary Syed – chair
  2. Task Group 276: The educational requirements of Medical Physicist Assistants (MPA)

Steven de Boer-chair, member: Dan Bailey, Will Breeden, Scott Emerson,

See attached draft report sent to committee. (see discussion at end of minutes).

1. Projects:
   1. RSNA/AAPM Basic Physics Lecture for Radiologic Technologists 2015 is entitles ““Image quality and patient dose in CT and interventional radiography” and is being given by Jerry Thomas. Scott Emerson has reported that all the required data has been given to RSNA.
   2. RSNA/AAPM Basic Physics Lecture for Radiologic Technologists 2016 due early 2016. Request for suggestion of topic and speaker is being made to all committee members at this time.
   3. Resource Guide for Medical Dosimetry Educator’s is s task that Walter Tang will task the TPMD subcommittee with.
2. Budget
   1. Budget items are due to AAPM headquarters by the end of August. This committee has two travel budget items
      1. AAMD liaison
      2. ASRT liaison (currently the ASRT liaison lives in Albuquerque so travel amounts are expected to be minimal)
3. New Business
   1. Discussion on the education requirements for MPAs.

The draft report of TG 276 entitled the educational requirements of MPAs was distributed for review a few weeks ago. The draft report and comments will be made available on the committee website. Steve de Boer requested that we focus our discussion on two major points of the document.

* + 1. *Should a baccalaureate degree be a minimum requirement for an MPA?*

Discussion was lengthy with the main points for the baccalaureate requirement being that this is now a requirement for MDCB certification and has been a consideration for RT certification.

Main points against requiring a baccalaureate degree is that most person now serving in this role are competent radiation technologist, most of whom do not have a baccalaureate degree. Requiring a baccalaureate degree would essentially eliminate many people from their current positon as an MPA. Larry Sweeney indicated that he believes that when new legislation is introduced it cannot take away a job from somebody already preforming those duties. At the end of discussion a poll was taken and the vote was 8 to 1 opposed the requirement of having a baccalaureate degree as a minimum requirement.

* + 1. *Should an MPA have professional certification in the subfield in which they are practicing as an MPA?*

The consensus from the imaging Medical Physicists was that this is too restrictive. It was suggested that we require RT(T) or MDCB for the therapy MPAs and any ASRT or NMTCB for MPAs practicing in imaging Medical Physics.

In addition to these two main points of discussion, it was requested that the task group strengthen the language on the specific radiation safety training (specifically radioactive materials).

These suggestions along with the recent electronic suggestions will be reviewed and considered by task group 276 and a new version of the report will be resubmitted to the committee.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:45 pm.

**Abbreviations**

AAMD: American Association of Medical Dosimetrists

AEIRS: Association of Educators in Imaging and Radiologic Sciences

ARRT: American Registry of Radiologic Technologists

ASRT: American Society of Radiologic Technologists

MDCB: Medical Dosimetry Certification Board

MPA: Medical Physicist Assistant

NMTCB: Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board

RT(T): Radiologic Technologist (Therapy)