

Reported by (Name):	Jessica Fagerstrom
Organization:	American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM)
Position Title:	Liaison to AAPM
Activity:	Annual Report 2024
Meeting Dates:	Previous (2024): • January 6-9, 2024 • July 6-10, 2024 Upcoming (2025): • January 18-21, 2025 • August 2-6, 2025
Meeting Location:	• January 2024: New Orleans, LA • July 2024: Boston, MA • January 2025: St Louis, MO • August 2025: Washington DC
Payment \$:	No budget was required for the 2024 meetings.
Reasons for Attending or not Attending	To discuss collaboration between AAPM and AAPM through the Living Physics Portal as well as connecting physics educators with AAPM resources.
Issues from Previous Meetings or Year:	Budget was requested for 2024 meetings. The large 2024 summer meeting took place over the Fourth of July weekend, and there was concern that the scheduling may have made recruiting local medical physicists difficult. Funding was requested for travel to confirm that an AAPM member would be able to attend. A local physicist (Dr. Jennifer Pursley, see next section) was successfully recruited.
General Description of Activities of the Organization and/or Meeting:	February 24, 2025 AAPM Liaison Report 2024 1. AAPM holds two annual meetings: the smaller winter meeting and the larger summer meeting. 2. I worked with Dr. Juan Burciaga to include invited presentations from AAPM educators to the AAPM conference programming. a. Winter 2024: Dr. Kip Matthews, Louisiana State University and A&M College, was an invited speaker within the Introductory Physics for Life Sciences section. Dr. Matthews was one of two speakers in the session and presented a talk entitled, "Medical Physics: Intersecting Physics and Life Sciences." The presentation provided an overview of medical physics and its subspecialties, detailing the role of medical physicists in clinical and academic settings, outlining the typical educational pathway, and highlighting strategies for introducing medical physics to undergraduates and involving them in research to encourage careers in radiological medicine.

	b. Summer 2024: Dr. Jennifer Pursley, of the Department of Radiation Oncology at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, was an invited speaker within the Introductory Physics for Life Sciences section. Dr. Pursley was one of two speakers in the session and presented a talk entitled, "Medical Physics: Showing Undergraduate Students How to Apply Physics to Medicine." The presentation covered a variety of physics concepts that have led to medical advancements that can be used as examples of the applications of physics, and also discussed career opportunities in medical physics and pathways students can take to join the field of medical physics. c. Winter 2025: Dr. Michael Altman, Director of Education, Medical Physics Division in the Department of Radiation Oncology at Washington University in St. Louis, was an invited speaker within the Introductory Physics for Life Sciences section. Dr. Altman was one of three speakers and presented a talk entitled, "Enabling students to achieve successful careers in Medical Physics." The presentation introduced medical physics as a multidisciplinary field combining medicine, physics, and engineering. The field offers impactful career opportunities but remains underrecognized by students until late in their education, making early awareness and skill-building at the high school and collegiate levels crucial for successfully pursuing competitive graduate programs. 3. AAPT's standard is that AAPT members are expected to pay for registration, regardless of the invited nature of their presentations. Non-AAPT members have complimentary registration. All of the above speakers were within reasonable driving distance to the conference, they agreed to present without any travel reimbursement (this was discussed with them prior to confirming their involvement in the conference). 4. The upcoming large summer AAPT meeting (August 2-6) will take place starting days after the large summer AAPM meeting (July 27-30, 2025) concludes, also in Washington DC. 5. For the AAPM summer meeting, I submitted a proffered abstract and an RFP to highlight AAPT resources available to AAPM members. a. I submitted a proffered abstract entitled, "Strengthening the Pipeline to Careers in Medical Physics," which described how interdisciplinary partnerships between physics educators and medical physicists, supported by resources like the Living Physics Portal, can enhance student preparation for medical physics careers by integrating real-world medical physics applications into high school and undergraduate curricula, fostering early interest and addressing workforce shortages. I hope the work will be accepted to present at the meeting. b. I submitted an RFP supported by the AAPM's Public Education Committee and AAPT for a session entitled "Fostering Future Medical Physicists: Interdisciplinary Approaches in Physics Education" that was accepted. Further details are pending. The following speakers have confirmed their availability and intention to present: i. Dr. Jay Burmeister. Presentation: Addressing Workforce Gaps with High School and Undergraduate STEM Engagement
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	ii. Dr. Izabella Barreto. Presentation: Developing Skills and Interest in Medical Physics through Undergraduate Internships iii. Chad Ronish (AAPT leadership member who applied for affiliate AAPM membership, expected approval prior to the meeting). Presentation: Exploring Medical Physics Careers through Interactive Learning iv. Dr. Ashley Cetnar. Presentation: Building Foundations: A Pilot Program Connecting High School Physics with Medical Physics v. Dr. Aba Lippuner. Presentation: Using Digital Media to Educate the Public about Medical Physics 6. Dr. Jay Burmeister has been working with AAPT to feature two AAPM sessions at the AAPT meeting featuring AAPM members. 7. AAPT continues to develop the Living Physics Portal (www.livingphysicsportal.org/) electronic repository of high quality educational materials for teaching physics to life sciences students at the undergraduate level. This online platform hosts curricular materials focused on physics topics in the life and biological sciences, and facilitates the sharing and peer review of these materials. This resource was discussed in more detail in the 2022 AAPT-AAPM report. It could be a quality resource for AAPM members who would like to share education materials or who would like to use materials that have previously been developed. Respectfully submitted by: Jessica Fagerstrom, Ph.D., M.Ed., DABR AAPT Liaison
Issues for AAPM:	1. Encourage submission and use of materials to AAPT's Living Physics Portal web-based curricula platform to include medical physics resources. 2. Encourage AAPM members to be more active in AAPT meetings. 3. Work with physicists local to AAPT meeting location to deliver up to two invited presentations at upcoming AAPT meetings, promoting resources from the AAPM available to AAPT members, especially the AAPM Public Education website (www.medicalradiationinfo.org).
Budget Request (\$):	See above—budget was previously requested through the Public Education Committee.