



**American Association of Physicists in Medicine**

One Physics Ellipse  
College Park, MD 20740-3846  
(301) 209-3350  
Fax: (301) 209-0862  
<http://www.aapm.org>

September 16, 2009

**From** Dr. Paul Guèye  
Minority Recruitment Sub-Committee (WMRSC) of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine, Chair,

**Ref** WMRSC Report  
Joint AIP/LCURM Meeting AIP Headquarters

**Location** American Center for Physics, College Park, MD

**Time** Tuesday, September 22, 2009 – 08:00-16:30

**A. 2009 AAPM meeting**

- Women symposium

C. Borrás spearheaded the organization of a symposium focusing on 50 years of Women in Medical Physics that occurred on Wednesday, 4:00-3:00 pm jointly with the History Committee. AIP has put out an announcement of it. The idea of a possible follow-up that would provide a series of scientific review articles of the impact of women per decades in the 2009 Medical Physics Journals has been very well received and is in work.

- Recognitions

P. Guèye and J. Ogburn have issued certificates for recognizing Nnenna Onumah (an African-American woman) as the first graduate student to obtain a PhD in Medical Physics from the first graduate Medical Physics program at a minority school (Hampton University) and Dr. Cynthia Keppel, the director of the program.

**B. Overview**

The following are some of the activities completed or ongoing:

- Organization of medical physics sessions at three national meetings: National Society of Black Physicists (NSBP, 4 sessions), American Physical Society (APS, re-start in 2010 with DNP) and Societies for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans (SACNAS, 1 session);
- Awarded six summer fellowships to minority students from an original pool of 15 students;
- Have first data on gender issue put on AAPM salary survey. Working on getting the data for minorities;

- 2009 NSBP meeting

The joint 2009 National Society of Black Physicists/National Society of Hispanic Physicists (NSBP/NSHP) meeting was held in Nashville, TN in February 2009. There



## **American Association of Physicists in Medicine**

One Physics Ellipse  
College Park, MD 20740-3846  
(301) 209-3350  
Fax: (301) 209-0862  
<http://www.aapm.org>

was about 40-50 attendees. A sign-up sheet was located at the back of the room throughout all sessions for students interested in applying to the summer program. About 10 names were written at the end of the sessions that were contacted when the WMRSC summer application opened.

- **Summer undergraduate program**

A formal application process was developed by S. Avery and J. Ogburn for students and mentors applications to the Minority Undergraduate Summer Experience (MUSE). The application was made available on the AAPM website as well as the NSBP website. A master email to all physics department chairs and NSBP/NSHP members was done by D. Ernst.

- **Texas Southern University/MD Anderson Cancer Center joint program**

Dr. Elena Stefanova, an assistant professor at Texas Southern University (TSU), initiated and facilitated the creation of a Professional Bachelor program in Honor Health Physics with an emphasis on Environmental Health Physics and a pre-Medical Physics track at TSU. Dr. Mark Harvey, former visiting assistant professor of physics at TSU and MDACC research fellow in radiation (medical) physics, is now taking over this program. The first students are expected to graduate in the Spring 2010.

- **HU NIH program**

NIH/RCMI grant being submitted by Hampton University to develop a research center around their newly built Hampton University Proton Therapy Institute. The center will be a unique pipeline to increase minorities in this field.

- **Medical Physics with Africa**

A workshop and Monte Carlo school will be held in Dakar, Senegal in mid November 2009. AAPM, along with several US Federal and Governmental agencies will attend this meeting. It is expected that a medical physics program will be created in 2010. NIH has provided a list of +800 PIs for which some of the research could be extended to the continent.

- **2009 SACNAS meeting**

A session on Medical Physics was done at the 2008 Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) annual meeting on October 9-12, 2008 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Another one is scheduled in 2009. This is now part of an annual event as done previously with the NSBP/NSHP conference.