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William McAdams and the Outstanding Service Award

Jim Willison, CHP

In 1989, in its 30th year, the American Board of Health Physics (ABHP) established an annual award to honor a certified health physicist (CHP) who had made a significant contribution toward the advancement of professionalism in health physics and to the certification process. The award was named for one of the founders of the certification process, William A. McAdams.

The early actions of the Health Physics Society (HPS) Board of Directors regarding the initial period are described in the HPS Membership Handbook. To summarize, a committee was established to study the need for certification. William McAdams served on this committee. When the committee’s recommendations were approved, the HPS appointed a temporary ABHP on 8 November 1958 and appointed William McAdams as the Chairman.

When the HPS Board of Directors formally established the ABHP through a by-laws change, William McAdams was again appointed chairman. The other members of the initial Board were C. Maurice

Patterson, Elda Anderson, Lauriston Taylor, and John Laughlin. McAdams was also responsible for obtaining the New York State charter for the Board.

The committee that did the groundwork for the award in 1989 contacted a number of CHPs who had been involved in the early days of the certification process. Two individuals were repeatedly identified as playing the pivotal roles in the original HPS Certification Committee and the initial ABHP Board. Correspondence of the Award Committee stated, “Elda Anderson was probably the driving spirit behind the whole movement. Bill McAdams apparently was the ramrod that made things happen.”

The award recipients are:

1989—John W. Healy
1990—H. Wade Patterson
1991—Richard R. Bowers
1992—Lester A. Slaback, Jr.
1993—Kenneth W. Skrable
1994—Leroy F. Booth
1995—William R. Casey
1996—Frazier L. Bronson
1997—Robert M. Ryan

1998—Dale H. Denham
1999—Bryce L. Rich
2000—James E. Turner
2001—George J. Vargo, Jr.
2002—Paul L. Ziemer
2003—Herman Cember
2004—Edward F. Maher

Any CHP is eligible for the award. Nominees shall be CHPs who have served the health physics community through outstanding and extended work on the ABHP Examination Panels, ABHP Board, American Academy of Health Physics (AAHP) Continuing Education Committee, AAHP Executive Committee, other AAHP committees, teaching or other assistance in increasing knowledge of health physicists, or other areas that enhance the professionalism of health physics. This award may be bestowed posthumously.

Individuals are encouraged to nominate worthy CHPs using the nomination form located on the Academy Web site (www.aahp-abhp.org). Many thanks to Ron Kathren, Frazier Bronson, and Howard Dickson for providing historical information for this article.

2004 AAHP Election Results

The results of the recent election for 2005 American Academy of Health Physics (AAHP) officers are as follows: President-elect James Bogard, Treasurer Paul Stansbury, and Director James Yusko.