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AAHP Special Session at the Providence HPS Meeting

Frazier Bronson, Past President, AAHP

The only official duty of the past president of the Academy is to organize and conduct the day-long Special Session at the annual Health Physics Society (HPS) meeting. These Special Sessions were instituted as a way for the American Academy of Health Physics (AAHP) to actively contribute to the annual HPS meeting by presenting topics of general interest to the health physics community. The AAHP is very grateful to the HPS for allowing us to host these sessions.

The Academy has been doing this since 1989—right at the beginning of the AAHP—which would make this Special Session the 18th one. These were created by John Horan and, as the American Board of Health Physics chair at that time, I was allowed to cohost it with him and also give a presentation. Only now do I appreciate how much work it was for him to plan and organize that event.

After soliciting ideas about the subject of this session from others, and after due consideration of those ideas, I finally selected the

idea I wanted to do anyway—and the only one that I know a little bit about—Instrumentation. Since this is the end of the HPS 50th Anniversary celebration, I wanted to tie our session into that, but also use this session as a springboard out of the HPS history theme into the future. I thank Paul Frame for working with me on the subject topics and the potential speakers list.

The title of the session was “Radiation Measurement Instrumentation for HPs—Looking Back at the Past, and Looking Forward to the Future.” The morning sessions concentrated basically on portable and field instrumentation, while the afternoon sessions concentrated on laboratory instrumentation. The leadoff speaker was Ron Kathren, who was also honored with a G. William Morgan lectureship for this presentation. He discussed the history of portable instruments. His talk was followed by nine more presentations on various phases of health physics field instrumentation (Steve Rima, Vaclav Vylet, Joe Shonka, Ron Smith, Art Lucas, Sergio Lopez, W. Blakely, Jake Philipson, and James Ely).

I started off the afternoon session with a history presentation on laboratory instrumentation and was followed by seven more speakers on various phases of laboratory or general instrumentation (Radoslav Radev, Chuck Passo, Csaba Rozsa, Kenai Shah, Valintin Jordanov, Tim Lynch, and Ken Kasper).

Each of the speakers (other than the leadoff history speakers) talked about the current phase of instrumentation in their field and then speculated about what the future should/could/will or needs to be. It was quite interesting to hear the various opinions about the future.

The session was very well attended (approximately 200 at the peak) but there are probably others who wanted to attend but couldn't. Therefore, with the authors' permission, **we have posted the abstracts and a PDF of the presentation visuals on the AAHP Web site (www.aahp-abhp.org)**. Download them and check them out.

I would like to again thank all 18 speakers for their participation and excellent presentations. ☒