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Professional Development Committee Activities

Jay Maisler, Chair

The Professional Development Committee has completed the useful document *Guidance for Health Physicists Serving as Expert or Fact Witness*. It can be found in the Members Only section of the American Academy of Health Physics (AAHP) Web site: http://hps1.org/aahp/membersonly/aahp_docs/AAHP_Expert_Witness_Guidance_Rev_0.pdf.

Continuing Education Update

Jim Willison, Chair

The AAHP Executive Committee met at the 2009 HPS Midyear Meeting in San Antonio and adopted some procedure changes regarding the way that continuing education credits (CEC) are granted. These changes are now in effect and apply to all recertification applications.

First, CECs awarded for college courses related to ABHP examination topics have been increased to six credits per semester hour or four credits per quarter hour. The 32-credit limit for a single activity still applies, although I have not heard of such a thing as a six-hour semester college course. This change brings the CECs for college courses a little more in line with other activities.

Second, the CECs for Examination Panel activities were adjusted slightly. The number of CECs for Part I Panel membership was lowered from eight per year to four per year, except for the panel chair. This was done

to better reflect the relative workload between the panels. At the same time, the prior 32-credit limit for a single activity was clarified to not apply to panel membership and workshop credits, as these are spread out over multiple years.

I would like to report that the new process for reviewing requests for CECs is working well and so far (mid-February), the committee has met its three-week turnaround goal. To all those who have submitted requests to the new email address (aahpcec@burkinc.com), thank you.

We are in the process of lining up AAHP courses for the Minneapolis meeting in July. At the current time, we have “Time-Saving Spectroscopy Methods,” to be presented by A.C. Lucas. Two other courses are in the works and will be listed in the Preliminary Program for the meeting.

AAHP Special Session

Nancy Kirner, Past President

“Why Society Needs Health Physics: Biological Effects and Challenges”

The AAHP is pleased to provide a potpourri of varied speakers at its Special Session on Tuesday, 14 July, at the 2009 HPS Annual Meeting on the broad topic of “Why Society Needs Health Physics: Biological Effects and Challenges.” Thomas S. Tenforde, executive director of the National Council on Radiation Protection (NCRP), has agreed to help me cochair this session.

The session will start with Kenneth Kase summarizing the recently released NCRP report that identified significant increases in diagnostic medical exposures. Health Physics Society (HPS) Past President Kenneth Mossman will then discuss some of the challenges that the profession of health physics faces. Gayle Woloschak will review the emerging results of cellular and molecular

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effects of ionizing radiation and probe how those effects are (or are not) seen at the organism level. Sally Amundson will then report on radiation effects at the cellular level.

After a short break, Gordon Livingston will instruct us on how human lymphocytes can be used to estimate acute dose. Joe Sorcic will then continue to discuss a potential method of making a high-dose intake assessment in cases such as the 2006 ^{210}Po poisoning incident. Stephen Bailey will then present his and others' work in the area of chemical radiation protectants, with particular emphasis on natural folate5-methyltetrahydrofolic acid. The use of chemical protectants is of particular personal interest to me, as it suggests that there may be a way of lessening potential effects from diagnostic exams. The AAHP Awards Luncheon follows, with perhaps an opportunity to ingest some naturally occurring chemical protectants (aka food).

Once we better understand what is happening at the cellular and molecular level when exposed to ionizing radiation, Daniel Strom will then revisit the health effects of ionizing radiation for humans. Janet Johnson will then look at the state of our knowledge about health effects from radon exposure. After a short break, the session gains an international flavor, with two reports on how the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is improving its dosimetry capabilities and the state of occupational radiation protection in Latin America, by Rudolfo Cruz-Suarez. Lastly, John Hunt, also from the IAEA, will report on lessons learned from a broken vial of ^{240}Pu that occurred in an IAEA-operated laboratory in Austria.

The session will have a little bit for just about everyone! Please plan to attend.

