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ABHP Exam Application Reminder

Complete applications to take either part of the 2011 American Board of Health Physics (ABHP) examination must be filed with the Secretariat, postmarked no later than 15 January 2011. Application information may be found at <http://www.hps1.org/aahp/boardweb/forms.html>.

ABHP Meeting

Jack Higginbotham, CHP, ABHP Chair

The American Board of Health Physics (ABHP) held its summer meeting on 25-26 June 2010 in Salt Lake City, Utah. New members starting terms in 2010 and continuing through 2014 are Robert Forrest and George MacDurmon. The ABHP officers for the 2011 calendar year are Chair Kent Lambert, Vice Chair Govind Rao, Secretary George MacDurmon, and Parliamentarian Jack Higginbotham. The exam panel officers for 2011 are Part I Panel Chair Jackson Ellis, Part I Panel Vice Chair Jay Tarzia, Part II Panel Chair Dan Menchaca, and Vice Chair Glenn Sturchio.

The Board made the following procedural actions during the meeting. First, some constants on the Useful Equations and Constants Sheet were updated to be consistent with current values from the National Institute of Standards and Technology. Next, the Board made two corrections in the ABHP Examination Preparation Guide. During the past year, the American Academy of Health Physics approved a change to section 4.3.3 of the ABHP policy manual. That change was incorporated into the Exam Prep Guide under Section 6 Grading Criteria, page 20 of 33, by replacing the paragraph: *To pass Part I, the candidate must achieve a passing point criteria on each examination, as established by the ABHP in consultation with the contracted examination service. The passing point criteria (grade) for the last several years has been in the range of approximately 92 to 97 correct (approximately 61 to 65 percent) and is expected to remain fairly constant, with the paragraph: The passing score will be 95 points out of 150 points total, which may include adjustment factors as determined by the Board.* Finally, on page 33 of 33 in the Exam Prep Guide, the answer for problem number 6 was given as “2.” A number of

candidates notified the Board that during their preparation for this year’s exam they were unable to confirm this answer. The Board reviewed this problem and concurred that the proper correct answer should be option “4” not “2.” At the Board’s November meeting, this year’s Part I exam will be reviewed to determine if this Prep Guide error could have an influence on any candidate’s performance.

For those of you interested in testing your health physics problem-solving skills, the problem and solution are given below.

6. A sample yields 60,000 counts in a one-hour period. A three-hour background count on the same system yielded 540 counts. What is the net count rate of the sample at the 95 percent confidence level?

1. (820 ± 2) cpm
2. (820 ± 4) cpm
3. (997 ± 4) cpm
4. (997 ± 8) cpm
5. (997 ± 31) cpm

Solution:

The net count rate is calculated using the expression

$$\text{net count rate} = \frac{ng}{tg} - \frac{nb}{tb}$$

where ng = gross counts, tg = gross count time, nb = background counts, and tb is the background count time. The standard deviation, S_n , at the 95 percent confidence level is found from:

$$S_n = 1.96 \sqrt{\frac{ng}{(tg)^2} + \frac{nb}{(tb)^2}}$$

Giving a numerical answer of (997 ± 8) cpm. Hence, the correct response is option 4.

Exam Site Committee Activities

April C. Chance, CHP, Chair

Every summer, future certified health physicists (CHPs) are able to take the American Board of Health Physics certification exam at locations other than the annual meeting exclusively due to the commitment of current CHPs. Without their commitment to our profession and willingness to volunteer, there would be no remote exam locations. These locations provide candidates exam access close to home in all regions of the United States (including Hawaii!). This year there were 15 exam sites established with over 30 CHPs as exam proctors. Many emails and phone calls were made by committee members to set up these exam sites. I would like to express my appreciation for all the individuals who participated behind the scenes. As I turn the reins over to the new chair, I would like to thank this year's committee members—Jason Flora, John Gough, and Jack Higginbotham—for coordinating the exams in their respective regions. Good luck to Jason as he takes over as chair for 2011. This article would not be complete without thanking someone who is always there to help in so many areas of the Health Physics Society and without

whom, I believe, we would all be lost—Nancy Johnson, who is irreplaceable.

Finally, I would like to recognize and thank this year's exam-site volunteers:

Aiken, South Carolina—Russ Morgan, Kenny Fleming

Boston, Massachusetts—Mark Walsh, Brandon Graber

Boulder, Colorado—Ted Borst, Nick Schaaf

Chicago, Illinois—Konstantin Povod, Stephen Butala, Kay Foster

Gaithersburg, Maryland—Janna Shupe, James Tracy, Keith Consani

Las Vegas, Nevada—Walter Wegst, Rick Cummings

Los Alamos, New Mexico—Mike Mallett

Oak Ridge, Tennessee—Mark McHugh, Art Palmer, Myra Long

Richland, Washington—Cheryl Antonio, Don Bihl

Salt Lake City, Utah—Robert Hoffman, Todd Davidson, Pete

Jenkins, Tom Schumacher, David Krueger, Roger Moroney,

Kathy Shingleton, Sharon Dossett, Nora Nicholson, Cheryl Olson

San Antonio, Texas—Derek Favret, Noel Montgomery

San Francisco, California—Tony Sorensen, Warren TenBrook

St. Louis, Missouri—Dan Hoffman, Elizabeth Algutifan

Upton, New York—Richard Reciniello, Kathleen McIntyre

Whitby, Ontario—Jeff Schaefer, Loc Nguyen, John Chase

