

CHP Corner



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF HEALTH PHYSICS email: AAHP@burkinc.com

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Special Session: Professional Ethics and Health Physics

Edgar D. Bailey, CHP, AAHP Past President

The American Academy of Health Physics (AAHP) continued in its tradition of sponsoring a full-day special technical session at the 2015 Health Physics Society (HPS) Annual Meeting. The special session, Professional Ethics and Health Physics, was held on 14 July.

Although the AAHP has not kept records, attendance this year appeared to be significantly higher than in recent years. It is hard to tell whether this apparent increase in attendance was due to the topic for the special session or the lineup of outstanding presenters (or both).

Alexander Brandl¹ kicked off the morning session with “PERP 101—Professional Ethics in RP,” which was a condensed version of the professional ethics course offered to students in radiation protection at Colorado State University. His presentation provided the history and theories of ethics, with an emphasis on how they relate to the health physicist and radiation protection specialist. This laid the foundation for the session.

Brandl’s presentation was followed by “Ethical Decision Making Tools for Enhancing Radiation Safety Culture” from Robert J. Emery.² Emery’s presentation was an upbeat, energetic talk with many practical examples and suggestions for health physicists; just the kind of presentation we have come to expect from him.

The morning session was concluded by Ray Johnson.³ Ray, a past president of the AAHP, presented “Professional Ethics and Truth in Radiation Risk Communications.” His presentation was a continuation of his efforts to improve the health physicist’s ability and skills in communicating the risks associated with exposure to radiation.

Following the morning session, the AAHP Awards Lunch was held.

John W. Poston, Sr.,⁴ opened the afternoon session with “A University Perspective on Ethics Training for Engineers and Health Physicists.” Poston described the ethics training that Texas A&M University requires of all students in engineering and health physics prior to graduating and suggested that the AAHP should require some ethics lectures/studies as a requirement for renewal of certification by the American Board of Health Physics (ABHP).

The last two presentations of the day shifted our focus to the international radiation protection arena and ethical issues associated with the implementation of radiation protection efforts. Richard E. Toohey⁵ informed the attendees of these efforts in his presentation “The ICRP/IRPA Initiative on the Ethical Basis of Radiation Protection.” The final presentation of the special session, “Ethical Issues and Radiation Protection Culture—Challenges and Views From the Professionals” was

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⁵PhD, CHP, M. H. Chew & Associates, Inc., and Treasurer of the International Radiation Protection Association

given by Renate Czarwinski.⁶ Her talk brought together the views of health physicists and radiation professionals from around the world.

The AAHP wants to express its gratitude to each of the speakers for participating in the AAHP special session at this year's HPS annual meeting.

The slides from each of the presentations in this year's special session are posted on the [AAHP website](#) for your review. The slides from each of the previous AAHP Special Sessions since 2006 are also posted at the same site.

⁶President of the International Radiation Protection Association

Continuing Education Committee Update

Jim Willison, CHP, Chair

Greetings certified health physicists (CHPs)! We had three eight-hour courses at the 2015 Health Physics Society (HPS) annual meeting. These were:

- "Cavity Ionization in Theory and Experiment"—by Art Lucas.
- "The U.S. Regulatory Basis for Radiological Effluent Monitoring"—by Jim Key.
- "Nuclear Science and Technology at the WIPP"—by Rob Hayes.

By the time of this publication, the two courses for the 2016 HPS Midyear Meeting in Austin, Texas, will be finalized.

The Continuing Education Committee is currently soliciting ideas for the three American Academy of Health Physics (AAHP) eight-hour courses for the 2016 HPS Annual Meeting in Spokane, Washington. The courses will be presented on the Saturday before the meeting. Instructors receive a \$1,000 honorarium and 20 continuing education credits (CECs) for their troubles, as well as the opportunity to share their knowledge with their colleagues. If you would like to be considered to present one of these courses, please contact us at aahpcec@burkinc.com.

I received many questions in Indianapolis about the new continuing education credit (CEC) calculation rules, which suggests that my previous attempts at explaining were not entirely successful. So I will try again.

If you are a CHP **whose recertification period ends in 2015**, you will need only 64 credits using the new rules to recertify. Everybody else will need 80 credits.

The lists of group activities for 2013 and 2014, which are published on the AAHP website, were reevaluated against the new criteria. Those activities that were assigned higher values are noted in **bold type**. Also for these activities, the initial requestor was notified of the increase.

Posted activities for 2015 already reflect the new criteria.

While the criterion still stands that no single activity can yield more than half of the credits for recertification (40), confusion exists as to what constitutes a single activity. Nowhere is this confusion greater than the activities surrounding the annual and midyear meetings.

The technical sessions, continuing education lectures (CELs), professional enrichment programs (PEPs), and AAHP courses are all separate activities. So, for example, say you attended Art Lucas' course on Saturday (16 CECs), two PEPs on Sunday (4 CECs each), two CELs during the week (2 CECs each), and six hours of technical sessions each day on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday (1 CEC per hour). The total for all of this effort would be $16+4+4+2+2+6+6+6+6=52$ CECs!

Further, these credit rules apply to all activities within your recertification period, which means that they also could apply to other annual and midyear meetings as well.

If you still have questions, please contact us at aahpcec@burkinc.com.

Academy Treasurer's Report

Steve Brown, CHP

The fair market value of long-term and intermediate-term investments totaled \$825,150 as of 31 May 2015 (the last quarterly reporting prior to the Indianapolis meeting). This represents a financial gain of \$34,542 (+4.2%) since the start of the year.

Both long- and intermediate-term securities have increased in value over the past fiscal year with respect to total assets in these accounts. The combined increase between May 2014 and May 2015 was \$45,293. We continue to be in excellent shape financially with total assets in the long-term reserves at their highest level since the account was opened in December of 2002.

At the American Academy of Health Physics (AAHP) Finance Committee meeting in May, the current fiscal year 2014–2015 budget was reconciled to receipts and disbursements occurring since the Baltimore meeting and then compared to recent budget years. No issues of concern were identified.

The current operating budget was then used as a benchmark in the preparation of the fiscal year 2015–2016 budget. The proposed operating budget for that period is approximately \$232,600. Specifics regarding the proposed budget were identified in the Finance Committee report to the AAHP Executive Committee at our meeting in Indianapolis. It was then summarized at the subsequent AAHP business meeting on 14 July 2015.