

# The practice of medical dosimetry and treatment planning – introduction of a global approach

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In the accompanying article by Michael Young, CMD, *I Come from a Land Down Under – My Journey to the CMD Status*, the AIR community is introduced to the American Association of Medical Dosimetrists (AAMD) and the achievement of the Certified Medical Dosimetrist (CMD) accreditation. Following this lead, the AAMD would like to take the opportunity to further introduce the organisation and provide some information on what the AAMD is all about and who it represents, as well as to highlight some of the organisation's activities.

The AAMD is an international society established to promote and support the medical dosimetry profession. We provide opportunities for education, a forum for professional interaction and a representative voice in the healthcare community. There are 2600 members within the organisation who participate in the activities of the association by volunteering for committees and task forces, attending the annual meeting and regional meetings and taking advantage of our online education programmes. The majority of the members are CMDs, but all of those interested in the practice of Medical Dosimetry and treatment planning are welcome.

Two main organisations represent the medical dosimetry profession in the United States. The AAMD is the professional organisation, and membership is voluntary. There is also the Medical Dosimetry Certification Board (MDCB), which represents the certifying body associated with medical dosimetry and offers the Certified Medical Dosimetrist (CMD) certification. Membership is mandatory for the approximately 3600 professionals holding the CMD status. The relationship between the two organisations is very close and supportive of each other's efforts. There are several related organisations as well that represent the radiation oncology, medical physics, medical imaging and radiation therapy technology professions. These consist of the American



Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO), the American Association of Medical Physics (AAPM) and the American Society for Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) and perhaps we can elaborate on them in a future article.

Michael Young, CMD, is a member of the AAMD and serves as an active volunteer on the Membership Committee. As he became involved, we learned about the AIR and the medical dosimetry and treatment planning efforts within Australia. In further discussion with Michael and representatives of the AIR, we recognised that there is the opportunity for the AIR and the AAMD to share some of our activities and encourage participation by members and non-members alike. Whether one is interested in achieving a CMD status or just furthering their education we realised that the need for continuing education exists. The AAMD has become very active in the online continuing education (CE) arena. Currently, we offer online CE modules (selected talks from the annual meeting and regional meetings), webinars and Directed Journal Readings (DJR). These all come with MDCB CE credits assigned to them and can be used for maintaining various certifications associated with medical dosimetry and radiation therapy technology. The recognition of MDCB credits toward maintenance of the AIR certification process has not been established to date, but

participation in the educational offerings of both AAMD and AIR is still encouraged.

In our hopes to reach out to the international community and make them aware of the AAMD activities, we did create an international membership category. But as we learned more about international Medical Dosimetry practices and related organisations, we realised that a modified approach designed to encourage online education was more appropriate. As a result, we developed the Member Plus program, which is designed to help international representatives take advantage of 20 hours (minimum) of online education, consisting of webinars, online CE modules and DJR offerings at a discounted price of US \$150. Also included is a subscription to our journal, *Medical Dosimetry* (<http://medicaldosimetry.org/publications/journal.cfm>), and discounted member rates to programs and meetings offered beyond these online activities. Whether you choose to take advantage of the Member Plus program or not, we would still encourage your participation in some of the programs. Recognition of the medical dosimetry profession around the world is a top priority for the AAMD, and we are very excited about the potential to collaborate with the Australian medical dosimetry community.

Please consider taking advantage of some of these opportunities as we strive to create a global medical dosimetry community for dialogue and sharing of best practices from around the world in the advancement of medical dosimetry in the provision of patient care. Don't hesitate to contact the AAMD headquarters office with any questions regarding the AAMD or any of our programs. Our email address is: [info@medicaldosimetry.org](mailto:info@medicaldosimetry.org). Information on the educational programs and general information can be found on the web site: <http://medicaldosimetry.org/index.cfm>

We look forward to the growing interaction between AIR and AAMD members.