

2016 – 2017 MDCB Directors

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



My term as President of the MDCB for the fiscal year 2016-2017 begins a new era for those who seek to become a certified medical dosimetrist. The profession has seen many changes through the years, but by far, the

biggest change is the recognition that a dosimetrist must be held to a higher professional standard appropriate to the level of responsibilities of the job. The ever changing climate of our profession has mandated the need to standardize the minimum qualifications of a dosimetrist to that of a graduate of a JRCERT accredited dosimetry program.

Although this change has major ramifications for individuals like myself, a Route 2 candidate, it is a necessary step that will bridge our current day practices with the future of our profession.

Early in my career, close to thirty years ago, I witnessed the inception of the MDCB, and in 1988 the first exam was administered. In these thirty years the advances have been phenomenal. We have gone from irregular field calculations, 2D plans on a single plane, and rigorous manual calculations, to IGRT, IMRT, VMAT, and countless other advances too numerous to list. Our scope of practice is constantly evolving.

Currently, I am working for the University of Texas Health Science Center at the Cancer Therapy and Research Center in San Antonio. As an educator for most of my career, I have had the good fortune to have learned from many exceptional mentors including those who have served on this board past and present. A special thanks to Mayank Amin, our past president, who did a great job as our spokesperson. I would also like to acknowledge Felicia Lembesis, the MDCB Executive Director, for her direction and immense patience.

In 2005, the AAMD reported that there were 2,177 practicing certified medical dosimetrists. To date, the number of certified dosimetrists in the US is 3,958 and 312 in countries outside the US. As our numbers continue to rise the MDCB continues to improve the method by which we report continuing education credits. Continued improvements to the website make the task of reporting credits almost effortless.

Increasing costs for improvements to our CE Center and administering the MDCB exam resulted in the first increase in the Credential Renewal Fee in ten years beginning with the 2017 credential renewal cycle.

The MDCB continues to offer scholarship opportunities. In 2017 we will offer exam vouchers to first time takers. Starting a new job fresh out of school is not always conducive to paying exam fees. We would like to thank the AAMD Scholarship Foundation for its help in establishing this process.

In 2017, a representative of the MDCB Board of Directors intends to be a presenter at the AAMD annual meeting to inform attendees of the process of item writing and how each item finds itself on the exam. We look forward to this presentation as a means of sharing with you our process and perhaps even luring you to serve on our board or becoming item writers. A working dosimetrist knows what an incoming dosimetrist must know to perform the job so why not give input? Although this information was presented to a small group that attended our workshop at the 2016 AAMD annual meeting, it is our feeling that this information would be best served by presenting it to all that attend this meeting.

As an ever changing board we saw a need for extended collaboration with our peers on the AAMD Board of Directors. Our joint mission is to promote and steer the advancement of the medical dosimetry profession by establishing certification and continuing education standards, while endorsing the highest standards of patient care. With that in mind, we are seeking new ways to mutually extend our message.

One of the main goals on the board is to ensure a quality exam by writing items for the MDCB certification exam and updating the current items. In line with performing this task, the MDCB conducted a Strategic Planning Session with Prometric, our test developer, at the August 2016 board of director's meeting.

Lastly, on a more personal note, I would like to thank all those former students that I have had the pleasure of mentoring. As an educator, there is no greater satisfaction than to see this profession populated with individuals who carry on the passion and commitment that is required to be a medical dosimetrist.

– DIANA BAACKE

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THE MDCB CERTIFICATION EXAM

August 2016 Statistics

- 188 candidates were approved to sit for the exam.
- 174 candidates sat for the exam: 60 Route 1, 75 Route 2 and 39 Re-applicants.
- The test was administered at 124 Prometric test sites in eight countries.
- The overall pass rate was 70%. The pass rate for Route 1 candidates was 83%.
- The scaled raw cut score for passing was 600 out of a total possible of 800.

Beginning in 2017, there will be one route to eligibility. Applicants will be required to have graduated from a JRCERT accredited program and hold a Bachelor's degree. International equivalency guidelines have been established as well. The MDCB will continue to assess the exam and the exam requirements.

New for re-applicants in 2017 is the requirement to submit eight (8) continuing education credits. Credits submitted must not have been previously submitted on an application. Complete details on the exam and exam eligibility are available at <http://www.mdcb.org/certification-exam-information>.

MDCB Exam Design

The dosimetry certification exam continues to be updated for relevancy to current practice through a Job Task Analysis. The Job Task Analysis, also known as a Role Delineation Study is conducted every 5 years by Prometric, the MDCB exam vendor. This protocol is designed to meet stringent certification industry standards and recognized best practice guidelines. A survey is developed in collaboration with a task force of demographically diverse CMDs who examine more than 150 work-related task and knowledge statements.

The finalized survey is distributed to all MDCB certificants and AAMD members totaling more than 5,000 professionals in the field of Medical Dosimetry. Vol-

unteer content experts use the survey data to identify areas of knowledge for testing from the content domains identified and write exam questions to target those areas. The most recent Job Task Analysis conducted in 2014 identified seven distinct practice areas. Within each practice area there are a number of sub-categories. The seven practice areas and percent of items from each area is outlined below:

CONTENT AREA	WEIGHT
I. Radiation Physics	17%
II. Localization	7%
III. Treatment Planning	38%
IV. Dose Calculation Methods	15%
V. Brachytherapy	7%
VI. Radiation Protection	7%
VII. Quality Assurance and Standard of Care	9%

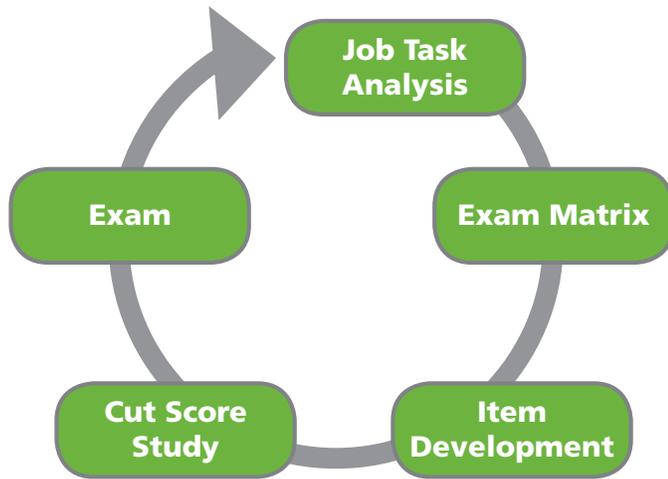
Best practice dictates that following the conduct of a Job Task Analysis a Cut Score Study is conducted to determine a passing score. The passing score identifies what the minimally qualified candidate will know. Each candidate's ability is measured against the determined cut score. Thus, scores are not based on a curve as is typical for non-certification testing and represent only individual overall performance.

Questions developed for the exam are reflective of the test matrix. Each item must include a reference from the approved reference list. After questions are submitted to the MDCB, Item Editors review each item for structural and technical content. Once an item has been approved for the exam, it is embedded as an un-scored item. Upon statistical analysis of the un-scored items, it is determined if the item meets the rigors necessary to be included on the exam for scoring.

The examination contains 155 questions. A small percentage of these are the randomly imbedded un-scored items. These items are not included in the score calculation. The MDCB exam is a pass/fail exam. Candidates are not required to have a passing score in each of the seven domains of the exam in order to achieve a passing score.

Actual scores are not provided. For unsuccessful candidates, exam reports detailing areas for improvement are furnished.

The figure below details the exam development cycle:



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE AUGUST 2016 SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES!

Saleem Abdullah
Edward Adams
Beomseok Ahn
Dana Alexander
Maryam Alomair
Dominick Amato
Matthew Barney
Jeffrey Bellerose
Robert Bice III
Asim Billoo
Patrick Blumenberg
Heath Bonsall
Thomas Botticello
Scott Boulet
Ivan Buzurovic
Brittany Check
Doris Chen
Vivian Cheung
Mark Choi
Tera Christianson
Ashley Cunningham
Meagan Darling
Jennifer Demers
Lindsey Depolo
Seth Duffy
Tracy Edwards
Debra Elder-Fratello

Josh Feldman
Sheri Fletcher
Scott Friesen
Kimberly Garbarino
Jody Godec
Rhonda Goldsmith
Jonathan Gonzales
Jason Grochowsky
Teresa Hallam
Angela Heiderman
Jorge Hernandez Pulido
Jillian Hession
Jay Hilow
Peter Hirschi
Quynh Hoang
Tyler Hooks
Jeong Il Sun
Jonathan Jackson
Christine Johnson
Harvey Johnson
Lliana Jordan
Ragged Khano
Jong Sik Kim
Mi Jeong Kim
Younyoung Kim
Xiang Kong
Jennifer Kouri

Quynh Le
Chung-hwan Lee
Ho Yeon Lee
Ben Lemieux
Christopher Limes
Eric Lin
Amanda Lisher
Fulton Lupo
Grayden MacLennan
Shei Yee Man
Malin Mao
Adraina McBeth
Ross McCall
Vincent McDonough
Meagan McEveney
Wael Mekhael
Amanda Meyers
Andrew Minetree
April Moore
Jay Morrison
Jun Young Na
Madison Newkirk
Lyna Ngo
Hanh Nguyen
Shima Nikfarjam
Diana No
Timothy Oh
Stephanie Olson
Suyeon Park
Bao Pham
Thomas Philipp
Rachel Porter
Meagan Rankin

Michelle Rocque
Paul Rodriguez
Catherine Rylands
Taylor Schroeder
Jungnam Seo
Anupa Shah
Lindsay Shaw
Susan Shores
Richard Shores
Joshua Showalter
Erin Shugard
Kari Sims
Sangjun Son
Daniel Spitznagel
Nancy Stauffer
Ajay Tailor
Kimberly Taylor
Jonathan Taylor
Jessica Trinh
Kelly Triplett
Raimonda Vokopola
Tok Wallace
McKenzie Weatherford
Tommy Wells
Katie Wendt
Megan Whitley
Lori Willette
Reisha Willis
Colette Wilson
Stephanie Winter
Dewey Wright
Heather Yee
Adela Yeung

2017 EXAM DATES

February 2017

Exam: February 2 – 4

Late Application Deadline: November 14
(U.S. Candidates Only)

Early Application Deadline: November 1

Application Opens: September 16

Exam Handbook Posted: September 9

August 2017

Exam: August 10 – 12

Late Application Deadline: May 15
(U.S. Candidates Only)

Early Application Deadline: May 1

Application Opens: March 1

Exam Handbook Posted: February 17

MDCB THANKS OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS

The MDCB extends its sincere thanks to outgoing board of director members, Farzan Siddiqui, MD, PhD, and Dan Benton, Lt Gen, U.S. Army-Ret. They concluded their terms on August 31, 2016.

Farzan was the American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology (ASTRO) liaison. He is a senior staff physician at the Department of Radiation Oncology at the Henry Ford Health System in Detroit, and serves as the Director of Head and Neck Radiation Oncology and the Vice-Chair of operations in the department. Additionally, Farzan has an appointment as adjunct Assistant Professor at the Wayne State University and is involved in medical student and radiation oncology resident education.

Dan served as the public member, fulfilling the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) accreditation requirement. During his tenure on the board he served as Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee. A West Point graduate, he retired from his admirable military career after 33 years of service. In his last assignment he was Chief of Staff for the United States European Command.

The MDCB wishes Farzan and Dan continued success in all their endeavors.

MDCB WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS



**Robert Inshetski,
BAS, CMD, RT(R), (CT) (T)
At-large Representative**

Robert became CMD certified in 1999. He has been a dosimetrist at the Swedish Cancer Institute in Seattle, WA and its four satellite locations for 16 years.

His commitment to dosimetry education has taken several paths. For the past eight years, Robert has served as the clinical preceptor for the Bellevue College medical dosimetry program. In December of 2014, he earned his Bachelor's of Applied Science degree in Radiation Applied Science and Radiologic Imaging at Bellevue.

Outside the clinic, Robert enjoys a passion for marathon running. He has participated in nine marathons. Additionally, he has mentored a number of first time marathoners in training and meeting fund-raising goals.



**Joseph Herman, MSc, MD
ASTRO Representative**

Before recently accepting a position at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Dr. Herman served as the Director of the Pancreatic Multi-Disciplinary Clinic at Johns Hopkins and focused on translational treatments for gastrointestinal malignancies. His research interests include innovative combinations of stereotactic radiation with immunotherapy and targeted agents for pancreatic and liver cancers. Other interests include outcomes research and treatment related quality of life. He specializes in intraoperative radiation therapy for recurrent malignancies and endorectal brachytherapy for early stage rectal cancers.

In addition to his responsibilities at the Pancreatic Multi-Disciplinary Clinic, Joseph also served as the Director of Clinical Research, Department of Radiation Oncology and Molecular Radiation Sciences and Associate Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology and Molecular Radiation Sciences.



**Benjamin (Ben) Johnson
Public Member**

Because of Ben's strong commitment to community service he applied to serve as the MDCB Public Member. Additionally Ben is a firm believer in professional licensure and credentialing.

He currently is an Associate at Commercial Property Professionals in Atlanta, GA. At Commercial Property Professionals, Ben utilizes his expertise in real estate land and investment sales, site selection, market and financial analysis and troubled asset disposition. He is currently pursuing a certification in commercial investment real estate.

In his spare time, Ben enjoys traveling with his wife, playing music, and spending time outdoors fishing or hiking with the family's two dogs, George and Maggie.

MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION UPDATES

Credential Renewal for 2017 is Now Available

Credential renewal is tied to CMD learning plans. To submit fees:

- Log in to <https://mdcb.learningbuilder.com>.
- Click on the **My Learning Plan** button under the **My Cycle** tab at the left hand side top of the page, once logged in.
- Select the (orange) **Pay Fees** button on your learning plan.

Additional Reminders:

- Completed AAMD activities are uploaded to learning plans on a regular basis throughout the year as "Activity Accepted."
- Completed ASRT activities are uploaded to learning plans as "Activity Accepted" on or about the first of each month. To ensure that ASRT activities are loaded to learning plans, please remember to complete the fields on your profile for ASRT number, date of birth and last 4 digits of SSN number.
- Audits of Learning Plans are conducted on a rotating basis. An audit review schedule for the current year is posted at <http://www.mdcb.org/continuing-education/learning-plan-review-schedule>.
- Complete instruction on how to update your learning plan can be found at [http://www.mdcb.org/sites/default/files/documents/2016/Learning%20Plan%20Instruction%20w.%20Illustrations 2016.01.21.pdf](http://www.mdcb.org/sites/default/files/documents/2016/Learning%20Plan%20Instruction%20w.%20Illustrations%2016.01.21.pdf)
- Please remember when submitting documentation for an activity:
 1. The documentation is in an *acceptable unalterable format*, i.e. *pdf, tiff, bmp, jpg*.

2. The activity was completed during the *current 5 year cycle*.
3. Your name is on the documentation.
4. The MDCB *activity number and activity name* is on the documentation and the activity number corresponds to the activity number/name downloaded to your Learning Plan.
5. The *date* the activity was completed is within the start and end dates indicated. To determine an activity start and end date, click on the blue box to the left of the activity to determine the approval period.

Learning Plan Review Schedule for 2017

To assist CMDs in maintaining their learning plans, in 2017, the MDCB will be reviewing learning plans based on the following schedule:

Year 5 of Cycle: Continuous review for CMDs with 5-year cycle ending in 2017.

Year 4 of Cycle: January, April, July and October for CMDs with 5-year cycle ending in 2018.

Year 3 of Cycle: February, May, August and November for CMDs with 5-year cycle ending in 2019.

Year 2 of Cycle: March, June, September and December for CMDs with 5-year cycle ending in 2020.

Year 1 of Cycle: March, June, September and December for CMDs with 5-year cycle ending in 2021.

Changes to Provider Request for Approval (RFE) Submission

CVs for presenters are no longer required. When submitting your RFE, please submit the following information for each presenter:

- Name
- Organization affiliation
- Position in organization
- Professional credentials

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Applications are accepted yearly between December 1 and February 1. CMDs interested in board service or wish to nominate a fellow colleague can submit a completed application, and email it with a current CV, letter to the president indicating your service goals and two letters of recommendation to info@mdcb.org with the subject line "MDCB Board Nomination."

What are the qualifications for board service?

- Be a CMD for a minimum of 3 years
- Have a minimum of a BS degree
- Be a current practicing dosimetrist
- Have experience in service to a professional society (i.e. AAMD, ASRT)

What's involved?

- CMD Board terms are 5 years in length.
- The Board meets for two days, 3 times a year, in cities across the US and Canada.
- At board meetings issues related to the administration of the certification exam, policy and strategic initiatives are considered.
- Individual board members' knowledge and expertise are an important component during discussions. Each member should be prepared to discuss the issues at all meetings.
- Each board member serves on one or more board committees: Executive, Eligibility, Ethics, Finance, Maintenance of Certification, Test Development or Nominating. Time commitment on each committee varies and may be up to 2 hours per week. Committee service is rotated annually.
- Board members are required to submit 5 (five) exam items for each board meeting and will be awarded a maximum of 20 CE during the board term.

So why would you want to give your time and effort?

Quite simply, because you will be rewarded. The reward is not in funds, of course, but in other valuable currency:

- Continuing education - learn from fellow board members from the oncology field, CMDs, Physicists and Radiation Oncologists.
- Professional growth - gain new leadership skills that will augment your CV.
- Interpersonal skills development - build both social and career relationships that will last for many years.
- Pride in enhancing the profession- giving back to your community, your knowledge, expertise and time.

NEWS FROM AAMD

AAMD Is Revving Up for the Future!

AAMD 42nd Annual Meeting

June 11 – 15, 2017

Pre-conference Workshops: June 9 – 10

JW Marriott Indianapolis
Indianapolis, IN

Make plans now to join your colleagues for the AAMD 42nd Annual Meeting. This premier event for treatment planning professionals from around the world will feature:

- Educational Sessions: Learn about the very latest developments in radiation oncology and earn CE credits.
- Networking: Discuss issues and ideas with your peers.
- Exhibits: See the latest products for radiation oncology and meet with your vendors.
- Workshops: Go in-depth on treatment planning and related topics.

Registration will open in early 2017. Watch the AAMD website for more information:

www.medicaldosimetry.org

Renew Your AAMD Membership

It's time to renew your AAMD membership for 2017. Don't miss out on discounted online and in-person continuing education activities, the *Medical Dosimetry* journal, job listings, salary survey reports and all the other benefits of membership. Watch your email and the AAMD website for more details.

PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

As a recognized member of the health-care field providing critical care to individuals facing life-threatening illnesses, it is the sole responsibility of each Certified Medical Dosimetrist to adhere to the MDCB Ethical Standards, renew his/her credential annually by December 31 of each calendar year, earn and document 50 continuing education credits in each five year cycle and make necessary updates to personal contact information in the CE Center. Renewal fees submitted after December 31 will be subject to a late fee. Failure to submit the renewal and penalty fees for any calendar year may result in loss of the CMD credential.

SCHOLARSHIP CONTRIBUTION

Annually, the MDCB provides a contribution to the American Association of Medical Dosimetrists Education & Research Foundation (<https://www.medicaldosimetry.org/foundation/>) scholarship fund. Beginning in 2017, four scholarships will be distributed in the form of vouchers for exam registrations to students attending Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) medical dosimetry programs. Candidates for the scholarship award are selected by the Foundation. The Foundation considers three criteria for candidate selection, need, merit and military service.