

2015 – 2016 MDCB Directors

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



At a strategic planning session of the MDCB Directors in 2010, my predecessors on the board determined two major goals for the MDCB. The first was to “develop and maintain the gold standard in medical dosimetry testing.” The second was to “evaluate and improve minimum standards for medical dosimetry.” The ultimate goal was to meet the MDCB mission “to steer the advancement of the Medical Dosimetry profession ... to enhance quality patient care.”

The MDCB has aggressively worked to achieve the first goal. Late in 2010 the MDCB was awarded accreditation from the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). NCCA accreditation affirms that certification exams meet best practice standards as outlined by the authoritative guidelines set forth in Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing.

In 2011 the MDCB exam transitioned from a shot gun paper and pencil test to a computer based format (CBT). In the paper and pencil format the exam was delivered in approximately 15 exam sites in the United States, Canada, Hong Kong and South Korea. In the CBT format, the exam has been delivered in well over 100 sites in the United States, Canada, the Far East, the Middle East, Australia and Europe.

The exam continued to undergo changes. By 2013, all K-type questions were eliminated. Later the MDCB began employing a new electronic banking system which enhanced not only the item writing and item review process, but the types of questions that could be developed. The new banking system provided for the development of items that were more visually engaging with interactive graphics. Each month an item review team meets with the MDCB test vendor to review and update items submitted for and that are in the item bank. To continue to grow and improve the item bank, items are now solicited from volunteer item writers. These items provide for a rich diversity of content.

In an effort to achieve the second goal, the MDCB determined and announced changes to the routes to eligibility. In 2012, there were three routes to eligibility. By 2013, two routes to eligibility were recognized. Routes 2 and 3 merged. Route 1 continued to require graduation from a Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiation Technology (JRCERT) Accredited program.

For 2015, requirements for Route 2 candidates became more stringent requiring a Bachelor of Science degree. Applicants for the exam, both nationally and internationally, who had worked in the dosimetry field for many years and were on the job trained earned Bachelor of Science degrees in order to apply for the exam.

By 2017 there will be one standard for all applicants. Candidates will be required to have a Bachelor's Degree and have graduated from a formal Dosimetry program accredited by the JRCERT or foreign equivalent.

During the 2016-2017 fiscal year, the MDCB will once again conduct strategic planning sessions. The goal is to determine ways to continue to improve the exam and meet the needs of the population of Certified Medical Dosimetrists (CMDs). How can you participate? I encourage you to complete the survey recently circulated to CMDs and consider volunteering by becoming an item writer or through board service. As a President, I urge all CMD members to support the MDCB in steering “the advancement of the Medical Dosimetry profession ... to enhance quality patient care.” The personal reward you receive will outweigh the time and efforts you provide.

– MAYANKKUMAR AMIN, MSc, CMD

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THE MDCB CERTIFICATION EXAM

January 2016 Statistics

- 142 candidates were approved to sit for the exam.
- 135 candidates sat for the exam.
- The test was administered at 103 Prometric test sites in 6 countries.
- The overall pass rate was 77%. The pass rate for Route 1 candidates was 87%.
- 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.mdc.org/certification-exam-information>.

AAMD NEWS

Turn Up the Heat on Cancer at the AAMD 41st Annual Meeting, June 12 - 16, 2016 in Atlanta

Learn how to optimize your plans while earning 30+ MDCB/ARRT CE credits (anticipated), networking with treatment planning professionals from around the world and seeing what's new in the exhibit hall. Get all the details and [register now!](#)

Visit the MDCB at the AAMD Annual Conference, Booth #312. Participate in a drawing to win an iPad Air 2.

Meet Up with RPCI and AAMD in Niagara Falls this September for Continuing Education

Make plans now to join the Roswell Park Cancer Institute and AAMD for the 2016 Radiation Oncology Conference for Therapists & Dosimetrists, September 8 - 10, 2016 in Niagara Falls, NY for educational sessions, networking and exhibits. 14 MDCB/ARRT CE credits (anticipated). [Learn more about this meeting.](#)

Participate in the 2015 Salary Survey

AAMD has launched a salary survey (based on 2015 salary data) so that members will have access to updated information about medical dosimetrists' earning potential later this year. Check your email for a survey invitation from AAMD.

AAMD Region I Meeting Offers Educational Action in Las Vegas this October

Head to Las Vegas, October 7 - 8, 2016 for continuing education, sharing best practices and yes, fun with AAMD! 14 MDCB/ARRT CE credits (anticipated). [Learn more about this meeting.](#)

2017 EXAM RE-APPLICANTS

Effective for the first time in 2017, All MDCB Certification Exam re-applicants will be required to submit eight (8) "new" continuing education credits for each re-application attempt. Credits submitted:

- Cannot be previously submitted continuing education credits for the original application or subsequent re-application.
- Must have been completed within the three year period preceding the application deadline.
- And NEW! Earned credits can be from a review course.

Review course credits will only be accepted for exam re-applicants. The MDCB encourages providers to submit "Requests for Evaluation" for review courses. Check the MDCB Events Calendar at www.mdc.org for Review Course dates and locations.

*Congratulations to the January 2016
Successful Exam Candidates*

Michael Asare-Sawiri
Elizabeth Azar
Yee Man Aziz
Lindsey Baker
Joseph Bernhardt
Christina Bosarge
Ronald Braswell
Chris Brown
Johann Brown
Kayla Brown
Catherine Cadieux
Linnae Campbell
Ashley Chackalayil
David Chang
Alice Cheung
Emi Choi
Casey Christiansen
Ji Chu
Tracy Day
Gabriely Del Rosario
David Dibartolo
Tran Do
Cassandra Fedewa
James Finocchio
Alisen Fitzpatrick
Kendra Flores
Kelsey Fong
Grant Foster
Mariko Gagai
Courtney Gann
Christopher Gonzalez
Daniel Gunderson
Collin Hagler
Bryan Hall
Warren Heilig

Kelcie Hein
James Henry
Mohammadreza Hesami
Matthew Hill
William Ichter
Samer Jaber
Leigh Johnson
Shelly Johnston
Caulie Kasch
Victori Keechi
Hosik Kim
Amanda Knight
Keyurkumar Koradia
Anthony Kuchta
Li hua Lai
Hao Le
Belinda Lee
Sun Lee
Sunhee Lee
Xing Liang
Stacy Lin
Aung Linn
Kavita Malik
Elizabeth McAfee
Kevin McCue
Carlos Moreno
Sultan Nejaiman
Kemel Nembhard
Minh Ngo
Quyen Nguyen
Michael Obana
Casey O'Keeffe
Xin Pan
Kristan Pechatsko
Jean Perry

Christine Poole
Johanna Price
Gregory Rao
Latif Rehman
Hilario Reyes
John Richards
Brenda Rose
Kari Rouzer
Seyed Ali Shahi Savandi
Lori Simmons
Jeanette Smith
Shelley Smith
Anand Nathan Somasundaram
Jessica Stanley
Thomas Stanley
Lisa Stevenson
Mallory Stulga
Xavier Susainathan Selvanathan
Chelsea Tassone
Linda Teare
Jerin Thomas
Matthew Thomas
Peter Treon
Tammy Volk
Vithayalai Vue
Matthew Wagar
Alexander Walter
Megan Watts
Gina Wess
Laura Williams
Matthew Wozniak
Mu Qin Yu
Brian Zegers
Zuo Zhang

CALL FOR ITEM WRITERS

Certified Medical Dosimetrist (CMDs) and Medical Physicists are invited to participate in item writing for the MDCB Certification Exam. The question writing skills developed have universal application to all test writing. Item Writers earn MDCB and CAMPEP continuing education credits. One (1) credit is awarded for two (2) accepted questions.

This June, the MDCB will once again conduct an Item Writing Workshop during the 2016 AAMD Annual Conference on Saturday, June 11 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. This valuable item writing workshop session will kick-off with lunch. Participants should come prepared with a minimum of one completed item for analysis at the workshop. Individuals interested in on-site or remote participation should send an email to info@mdcb.org to confirm attendance.

Workshop participants will be guided by an MDCB subject matter expert to learn how to develop well-constructed exam questions utilizing volunteer-submitted items. The presenter will demonstrate how to review items for technical accuracy, bias, correct and sound language. Attendees will be requested to prepare one item for analysis in advance of the session. CMDs interested in attending this session should forward an email to info@mdcb.org with the subject line "Item Writing Workshop Attendance. Participants will be awarded 4 MDCB credits for attendance and one credit for each item submitted.

Item writing is open to those individuals who execute a conflict of interest, confidentiality and copyright assignment agreement. By signing the agreement, practitioners commit to preserving the integrity of the MDCB exam process, agree to avoid engaging in activities that present an actual or perceived conflict of interest and confirm that any items developed are the intellectual property of the MDCB.

Once an agreement is executed, item writers will be provided with the MDCB Item Writing Manual. The item writing manual outlines the question development process and how to "move beyond the blank page":

- Identify the test specification topic to write about.
- Outline ideas about the topic:
 - What the practitioner should know or be able to do.
 - What common issues a practitioner may have with the topic selected.
- Review reference material on the topic to further define the question.
- Begin writing the question keeping in mind what the practitioner should know, keeping the key (correct answer) in mind.
- Consider the cognitive level your question will address:
 - Recall – knowledge of basic facts frequently acquired through memorization.
 - Application – a situation is described or a calculation is required.
 - Analysis – determination of next steps or outcomes.
- Fill in the details:
 - Develop distracters (incorrect answers) that include common misconceptions or mistakes concerning the topic that are absolutely incorrect.

The MDCB thanks the following CMDs who have recently participated in the item writing initiative:

Diana Bolick - Augusta, GA
Igor Bundalevski - Plainview, NY
Samantha Stantz - Anderson, SC
George Tolekidis - Chicago, IL
Lucy Ward- Dartmouth, NS
Lisbet Williams - Hudson, NY
Chris Young- Clive, IA.

MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION UPDATES

When updating your learning plan, please remember the **top five reasons that Learning Plan activities are not approved:**

1. The documentation is not in an *acceptable unalterable format, i.e. pdf, tiff, bmp, jpg.*
2. The activity was not completed during the *current 5 year cycle.*
3. *Your name* is not on the documentation.
4. The MDCB *activity number and activity name* is not on the documentation and the activity number does not corresponds to the activity number downloaded to your Learning Plan.
5. The *date* the activity was completed is not 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.

Additional Reminders:

- Applications Training Courses are approved for a maximum of 16 credits for any 5-year cycle.
- Personal Credit Requests for speaker presentations will be assessed for twice the number of participant credits.
- Completed AAMD activities are uploaded to learning plans on a weekly basis as "Activity Accepted."
- Completed ASRT activities are uploaded to learning plans as "Activity Accepted" on or about the first of each month.

LEARNING PLAN REVIEW SCHEDULE FOR 2016

To assist CMDs in maintaining their learning plans, in 2016, 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 2016.

Year 4 of Cycle: January, April, July and October for CMDs with 5-year cycle ending in 2017.

Year 3 of Cycle: February, May, August and November for CMDs with 5-year cycle ending in 2018.

Year 2 of Cycle: March, June, September and December for CMDs with 5-year cycle ending in 2019.

Year 1 of Cycle: March, June, September and December for CMDs with 5-year cycle ending in 2020.

Complete instructions for updating your transcript learning plan can be found at: <http://www.mdcb.org/sites/default/files/documents/2016/Learning%20Plan%20Instruction%20w.%20Illustrations%2016.01.21.pdf>.

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.