

2017 – 2018 MDCB Directors

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President's Letter Spring 2018



My time on the MDCB Board of Directors has afforded me the opportunity to understand the inner workings of this great organization. I've had the chance to effect change by means of writing

test questions, reviewing submission of items for continuing education credits, weighing in on important measures of progress and so much more. Along with this, I've gained a better understanding of common pitfalls that dosimetrists frequently encounter. I want to use this letter to address, and help CMDs resolve some common issues that are observed. Here are some tips as well as some clarifications for commonly occurring questions.

Recommendation for Learning Builder and Renewals:

- Save mdcb.learningbuilder.com to your web browser favorites.
- Add info@mdcb.org to your email address book to ensure you are receiving all notifications. Some firewalls may be preventing our mailings from being delivered.
- Set a reoccurring calendar entry to pay renewal fees. Unlike other professional or credentialing organizations, your renewal fee is always due by December 31st and you can pay it as early as October 1st of each year.
- The Learning Builder CE Center, mdcb.learningbuilder.com, is the method used to create your Learning Plan Continuing Education Transcript. Your Learning Plan tracks the continuing education credits you earn and enter. At the end of the five-year cycle, it is imperative that the dosimetrist not only pay for their renewal, but verify the 50 CEUs they have earned during the five-

year cycle. These two things are tied together. Without completion of the required CEUs and approval of the Learning Plan at the end of the cycle, renewal fees cannot be submitted.

Know the difference between AAMD and MDCB:

- AAMD is professional society membership organization
- MDCB is the credentialing body.

MDCB makes every effort to support CMDs:

- Automatic uploads of ASRT and AAMD credits
- The ability for all providers to upload attendance
- CMD Verification for employers
- CE Center is updated annually, providing continuously easier navigation.

Continuous updates and postings:

- Schedule for Learning Plan review, <https://mdcb.org/continuing-education/learning-plan-review-schedule>. Upon completion of a review, an email notification is sent.
- Step by step instructions for updating Learning plans, <https://mdcb.org/sites/default/files/documents/2016/Learning%20Plan%20Instruction%20w.%20Illustrations%2016.01.21.pdf>
- FAQ's, <https://mdcb.org/about-mdcb/faqs>

I hope I have addressed some issues that you, as a member, may find perplexing or at the very least, give you a better understanding of the process. Thank you for the chance to serve.

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The January MDCB Certification Exam

January 2018 Statistics

- 111 candidates were approved to sit for the exam.
- 104 candidates sat for the exam: 89 Route 1, and 15 Re-applications.
- The test was administered at 78 Prometric test sites throughout the United States.
- The overall pass rate was 77%. The pass rate for Route 1 candidates was 79%.*
- The scaled raw cut score for passing was 600 out of a total possible of 800.

*For previous administration exam stats, visit <https://mdcb.org/about-mdcb/exam-results>

Congratulations to the January 2018 Successful Candidates!

Yasmin Ahmed	Rachelle Jacobi
Fatimah Almatouq	Jenna Jatczak
Tiva Amariel	John Keim
Charles Anderson	Erika Kennedy
Richard Araj	Mishal Khan
Kadishe Balazi	Lindsay Kile
Alfredo Banda	Anna Knighton
Brody Barker	Matt Koduvathra
John Beckett	Raman Kumar
James Bell	Jason Lambiase
Erika Bowers	Patrick Macomber
Emily Bowman	Andrea Malm
Erin Brown	Erica Manduzzi
Courtney Chaney	Nicholas Maursky
Malini Chatarpal	Kelly McKenna
Taylor Cicardi	Thomas Mendez
Gabrielle Collinsworth	Justin Miller
Dena Dallo	Dylan Monaco
Benjamin Dawson	Michael Moncion
Phyllis DeBaun	Radik Nazaroff
Douglas Dobert	Thao Nguyen
Yacinthe Dorsainvil	Eric Niekamp
Charles Embrey	Tori Nosovitsky
Catherine Evans	Carrie Owen
Jamie Farmer	Sanjeel Patel
Zachary Fellows	Vishal Patel
Amalia Flores	Sara Pinkley
Timothy Ford	Tera Rabjohn
Yukie Furukawa	Michael Rambaud
Adam Gage	Maxwell Richardson
Jobin George	Katie Shaner
Michael Gibson	Kathleen Sherrod
Maria Gomez	Michael Sorge
Roberto Gongora	Stephanie Sutton
Kevin Greco	Hamza Syed
Joshua Hempstead	

Virginia Torres
Lauren Tressel
Daniel Trongaard
Isaac Valdez
Izabela Wiktor

Bryan Wong
Entela Zemanaj
Xiaoli Zhang
Erin Zipperer

EXAM DATES

August 2018

Exam: August 9 – 11

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

Early Application Deadline: May 1

Application Opens: March 1

2019

Exam: April 4 – 6, 2019

Late Application Deadline: January 21, 2019
(U.S. Candidates Only)

Early Application Deadline: January 11, 2019

Application Opens: November 5, 2018

Exam Handbook Posted: October 22, 2018

In 2019, there will be one exam administration. The most important factor in determining exam dates is to continue to ensure the reliability of exam scores. A minimum number of exam candidates are required to assess an equated cut score, assuring that all candidates past and present are measured against the same standard. With the change in eligibility requirements to one route to eligibility, graduation from a JRCERT accredited program, one of the results is a smaller candidate pool. The MDCB Directors, therefore, made the difficult decision to conduct only one exam administration 2019.

The dates were selected after careful review of the JRCERT program graduation dates, conferring with the MDCB exam administrator, Prometric, for best seat availability and in consideration of the constraints of the exam administration timeline, i.e. allowing for sufficient time for the appeals process and the advance delivery of the eligibility file to the exam administrator.

The Board will continue to evaluate annually the dates for the exam administration and make a decision about the number of times the exam is administered each year.

Job Task Analysis

In certification testing, best practice dictates a job task analysis (JTA) be completed, at a minimum of every five years. A JTA is also commonly known as a role delineation study, role and function study or practice analysis. Conduct of a JTA on a regular basis assures the certification exam maintains relevance to current medical dosimetry practice.

A job analysis study refers to specific procedures followed to gather descriptive information about the tasks performed

on a job and the knowledge, skills, or abilities required to perform those tasks. It is conducted in accordance with *The Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing*¹ (1999). (*The Standards*) is the definitive authority in testing and outlines the criteria for the evaluation of tests, testing practices, and the effects of test use.

The study identifies the content domains and establishes the content validity, the extent to which the content covered by an examination is representative of the tasks and knowledge needed to perform a job. Further, the conduct of the job task analysis assists in establishing the legal defensibility of the certification exam.

For the initial phase of the study, a group of volunteer certified medical dosimetrists, representative of various demographic groups within the profession, was selected to participate in a task group. Factors for selection of the subject matter experts are related to region, job setting, experience, gender and ethnicity.

The task group reviews the results of the previous job task analysis conducted. Through review, discussion and revision of the previously identified task and knowledge statements, the group identifies the current tasks and knowledge necessary for the performance for a medical dosimetrist.

As a result of the task group's responses provided at the task force meeting, a draft outline related to task and knowledge domains is developed by Prometric, the MDCB test vendor. The task force reviews the draft for any modifications prior to release as a pilot survey.

CMDs, who have not been previously involved in the development of the survey, assess and offer recommendations to improve the pilot survey. Task Force members review the comments made by pilot test participants. As a result, further revisions may be made and the survey is finalized.

The survey is then delivered online for response to the dosimetry community at large, both CMDs and non-CMDs, some 4,000+ professionals. Respondents are asked to rate the knowledge and task statements on a scale of importance in the daily performance of medical dosimetry (0 = no importance to 4= very important). Participants have the opportunity to provide comment including recommendations for test content.

The next step of the practice analysis is to develop test specifications from the results of the survey. A test specifications meetings is conducted inclusive of one half of the group of original task force members, as well as, participants that were not a part of the original task group. Only task and knowledge statements with a mean rating of 2.50 or above are included in the test specifications.

In order to determine weights for each of the test content areas each member of the task force is asked to individually assign a percentage weight to each of the domains identified from the survey and compare those weights to the weights assigned by the survey respondents. Through discussion, the final weights are assigned to the content areas.

Task and knowledge linking is conducted before the release of the job task analysis. Linkage verifies that each knowledge area included on an examination is related to the performance of one or more important tasks. Next, the Test Specifications Committee conducts a crosswalk, comparing the prevailing test specifications to the newly developed specifications.

Finally, Prometric, delivers a formal job analysis report. The report identifies the test blueprint, test domains and sub-domains. The current test blueprint includes:

- Radiation Physics – 17%
- Localization – 7%
- Treatment Planning – 38%
- Dose Calculation Methods - 15%
- Brachytherapy – 7%
- Radiation Protection – 7%
- Quality Assurance and Standard of Care 9%

The MDCB will be conducting a Job Task Analysis in 2019. When a call for volunteers is circulated, we hope you will respond.

¹ American Educational Research Association, American Psychological Association, National Council on Measurement in Education. (1999). *The Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Maintenance of Certification Updates

- As the conference season approaches CMDs are reminded that AAMD, AAPM and ASTRO sessions attended will be loaded to your learning plan. Be sure that these respective organizations have your MDCB number, you are registered as a dosimetrist where appropriate and that you complete all required evaluations. Credits will typically upload to learning plans approximately 30 days after the end of a conference.

- If your five-year cycle ends in 2018, please remember to submit your learning plan for completion by November 30th to ensure approval of your learning plan before December 31st. CMDs should avoid submitting learning plans for completion after December 25th to ensure review before the end of the year.

AAMD Updates

Medical Dosimetrist Now Recognized as an Occupation by the Bureau of Labor Statistics

A few years ago, the AAMD initiated the process to have "medical dosimetrist" recognized as a distinct occupation by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) in the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system. Good news: The 2018 SOC has been published and medical dosimetrists are listed as a separate, distinct occupation!

- 2018 SOC Code: 29-2036
- 2018 SOC Title: Medical Dosimetrists

See page 8 of the SOC User Guide online: https://www.bls.gov/soc/2018/soc_2018_user_guide.pdf

More information about the SOC can be found at: <https://www.bls.gov/soc/>

Register for the AAMD 43rd Annual Meeting by May 3 for Early Bird Rates!

Don't miss out on the premier educational event for medical dosimetrists – the AAMD 43rd Annual Meeting, June 17 – 21, 2018 in Austin, TX. With a diverse program of educational sessions and hands-on workshops, you'll have the opportunity to earn more than 35 MDCB CE credits (anticipated - also applicable for ARRT). Preview the sessions, workshops and networking opportunities...then reserve your spot today! See the AAMD Annual Meeting site for details and to register: <http://www.cvent.com/d/6tqrvs>

AAMD 2017 Salary Survey Is Coming Soon

The AAMD will be launching the 2017 Salary Survey in May. The purpose of the survey is to gather the most accurate

salary information and trends by regions throughout the medical dosimetry community. AAMD will receive a survey notification email with a link to the survey notification and a link to the questionnaire on or about May 1.

MDCB at the AAMD Annual Conference

Visit the MDCB Booth in the Exhibit Hall – The MDCB will be participating in the exhibit hall on from Sunday, June 17th through Tuesday, June 19th. Come visit the MDCB. Have your questions answered. Participate in an MDCB Prize Drawing.

Student Gathering – Students are encouraged to attend the gathering on Monday, June 18th to learn about the MDCB exam and the application process, maintenance of certification support and speak one-on-one with members of the MDCB Board.

Educators' Workshop – The MDCB will be participating at the workshop on Tuesday, June 19th and will be providing updates on exam development and administration.

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.