

## 2017 – 2018 MDCB Directors

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## President's Letter Winter 2018



Acceptance to the MDCB Board of Directors has afforded me numerous opportunities and has been the highlight of my professional career thus far.

I have been fortunate to meet incredibly passionate medical professionals as well as participate in the ongoing evolution of our field while assisting others to fortify our certification exam. The MDCB has formed a strategic plan to include the following: exam quality maintenance, marketing the certification in dosimetry, board decision evaluation, and board effectiveness.

The first of these, maintenance of exam, is our primary goal. The test remains statistically valid and equivalent to those given in the past, continuing to adhere to the test matrix outline, but the information on the exam and the type of question challenging the examinee is evolving. The field of dosimetry is constantly changing and therefore our test should reflect these changes. As the board forms exam questions, practicing dosimetrists' clinical expectations remain at the forefront. It is of great priority that we not only validate the knowledge, principles and concepts but the daily responsibilities that are included in the scope of practice for a medical dosimetrist.

Marketing of our certification is included in our strategic goal as it is imperative that employers recognize the importance of a certified professional. The board is seeking to disseminate information to Administrators, Physicians and Physicists that the profession in which we practice is specialized

enough to warrant a certification. This goal is aligning with recent ASTRO and ACR literature which recommends a Certified Medical Dosimetrist as part of the Radiation Oncology Team.

Evaluating board decisions and board effectiveness is a goal that seeks to reflect on all decisions we are making. Our desire is to understand the long and short-term implications of board decisions and create associated metrics to measure their impact. We seek to be a malleable group of people making decisions which further our profession and role as clinicians. It is not without careful thought and consideration that we make decisions. Our effectiveness as a group is most beneficial to the profession when we are able to make good use of our time together and work as a cohesive unit.

Thanks to all of our members who consistently strive to raise the bar in our profession. It is your commitment and passion that is responsible for advancing the practice of dosimetry. We look forward to continuing our meaningful work to meet the ultimate mission of improving patient care.

### Allison Paige Dalton

ASTRO. (2012). Safety is No Accident. Retrieved from [https://www.astro.org/uploadedFiles/Main\\_Site/Clinical\\_Practice/Patient\\_Safety/Blue\\_Book/SafetyisnoAccident.pdf](https://www.astro.org/uploadedFiles/Main_Site/Clinical_Practice/Patient_Safety/Blue_Book/SafetyisnoAccident.pdf).

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## Joint Statement of the AAMD and MDCB Regarding Scope of Practice

The Medical Dosimetrist Certification Board (MDCB) 2016 Certified Medical Dosimetrist (CMD) Survey indicated that many medical dosimetrists are being asked to contour clinical target volumes (CTVs) and gross target volumes (GTVs).<sup>1</sup> Medical dosimetrists should be aware that requests to determine CTVs and GTVs are outside the scope of practice for medical dosimetrists. Further, the medical dosimetrist who is certified and submits to requests to execute contours of CTVs and GTVs is in violation of MDCB Ethical Standard 12,<sup>2</sup> "A CMD shall not practice beyond the scope he or she is competent to perform as defined in" American Association of Medical Dosimetrists' *The Scope of Practice of a Medical Dosimetrist*.

The literature regarding scope of practice is definitive. Both ASTRO publications, *Safety is no Accident*<sup>3</sup> and the *APEX Practice Standards*,<sup>4</sup> indicate that the role of each member of the Radiation Oncology Practice is delineated by the individual profession's scope of practice." Other publications are clear on the specific contouring function. Determining CTVs and GTVs are the responsibility of the radiation oncologist.<sup>5</sup>

Most health-care professions develop a scope of practice document to define the procedures, actions and processes that a health-care practitioner is permitted to undertake. The scope of practice endeavors to assure proficient performance that reflects ongoing professional training. For those dedicated to the ever more complex radiation oncology field, safe and competent delivery of care is achieved through adherence to the guidelines outlined. Medical dosimetrists must not practice beyond the boundaries outlined in *The Scope of Practice of a Medical Dosimetrist*.

Finally, members of a radiation oncology team should recognize the obligation to voice concerns regarding patient care and safety without fear of reprimand.<sup>6</sup> No matter how small a facility the ultimate concern is delivering safe patient care.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://mdcb.org/news-and-events/cmd-survey-summary>

<sup>2</sup> <https://mdcb.org/about-mdcb/ethical-standards>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.astro.org/uploadedFiles/Main\\_Site/Clinical\\_Practice/Patient\\_Safety/Blue\\_Book/SafetyisnoAccident.pdf](https://www.astro.org/uploadedFiles/Main_Site/Clinical_Practice/Patient_Safety/Blue_Book/SafetyisnoAccident.pdf), page 11

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.astro.org/uploadedFiles/\\_MAIN\\_SITE/Daily\\_Practice/Accreditation/Content\\_Pieces/ProgramStandards.pdf](https://www.astro.org/uploadedFiles/_MAIN_SITE/Daily_Practice/Accreditation/Content_Pieces/ProgramStandards.pdf), page 4

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.astro.org/uploadedFiles/Main\\_Site/Clinical\\_Practice/Patient\\_Safety/Blue\\_Book/SafetyisnoAccident.pdf](https://www.astro.org/uploadedFiles/Main_Site/Clinical_Practice/Patient_Safety/Blue_Book/SafetyisnoAccident.pdf), page 6; <https://www.acr.org/~media/7B19A9CEF68F4D6D8FOCF25F21155D73.pdf>, page 3

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.astro.org/uploadedFiles/Main\\_Site/Clinical\\_Practice/Patient\\_Safety/Blue\\_Book/SafetyisnoAccident.pdf](https://www.astro.org/uploadedFiles/Main_Site/Clinical_Practice/Patient_Safety/Blue_Book/SafetyisnoAccident.pdf), page 19

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.astro.org/uploadedFiles/Main\\_Site/Clinical\\_Practice/Patient\\_Safety/Blue\\_Book/SafetyisnoAccident.pdf](https://www.astro.org/uploadedFiles/Main_Site/Clinical_Practice/Patient_Safety/Blue_Book/SafetyisnoAccident.pdf), page 1

## MDCB Thanks Outgoing Board Members

The MDCB extends its sincere thanks to outgoing board of director members, Renate Bradley, CMD, BSc, MRT(T), MMed, and Mayank Amin, MSc, CMD. They concluded their terms on August 31, 2017. Both Renate and Mayank served in various roles on the MDCB Executive Committee, each having served as President.

Renate is a professor at The Michener Institute for Applied Health Sciences and is faculty in the department of Radiation Oncology the University of Toronto (UT). She teaches medical dosimetry and other courses in the joint UT/Michener Medical Radiation Sciences program to radiation therapy students and serves as clinical liaison for radiation therapy.

Mayank serves as the Clinical Supervisor at the Proton Therapy Center of the MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX. In addition to his treatment planning duties, Mayank works on many research projects and assists in determining Quality Assurance protocols.

The MDCB wishes Renate and Mayank continued success in all their endeavors.

## MDCB Welcomes New Board Members

### *Pierre Beaunegre, BS, CMD At-large Representative*



Pierre is a native of Haiti. In 1999 he left Haiti to attend college in the Dominican Republic. He arrived in the U.S. in 2002, where he immediately enrolled in the Health Sciences program at Stony Brook University in New York. He earned his Bachelor's of Science degree in 2005. He soon became a dosimetrist and was certified in 2008. He subsequently worked in Georgia for a number of years and later became a Locum. In 2014, he settled in western Connecticut with his family. He currently works as a solo dosimetrist at New Milford Hospital, an hour and 20 minutes away from NYC.

In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his son and daughter: Sean and Taisha.

## Destiny Jacobs, CMD At-large representative



Destiny Jacobs is as a medical dosimetrist at the Cancer Care Institute of Carolina in Aiken, South Carolina and Newberry Oncology Associates in Newberry, South Carolina. Destiny earned her CMD in 2006. As a result of her dedication to learning the most current technologies in medical dosimetry, she recently earned her Master's degree from the University of Wisconsin at LaCrosse medical dosimetry program.

Along with her medical dosimetry duties, Destiny serves as an adjunct instructor for the University Wisconsin - La Crosse Medical Dosimetry Program, as well as Clinical Preceptor for the Augusta University Radiation Therapy Program.

## The MDCB Certification Exam

### August 2017 Statistics

- 96 candidates were approved to sit for the exam.
- 86 candidates sat for the exam: 60% were Route 1 applicants, 40% were re-applicants.
- The test was administered at 68 Prometric test sites in 4 countries.
- 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.

### Congratulations to the August 2017 Successful Candidates!

David Alicia  
Chesanie Beam  
Kristen Brown  
John Callos  
Michael Carpio  
Jennifer Chou  
Ryan Clark  
Ashley Coffey  
Suzanne Crosby  
Kevin Dwyer  
Tamara Eng  
Yin Gao  
Alyx Haasl  
Shane Hagler  
Leanne Hammond  
Amy Hauser  
Ellie Hawk  
Elizabeth Hawkins  
Javis Jackson  
Shands James  
Boaz Jeon  
Stephanie Jobin

Nancy Judd  
Samer Katrib  
Roy Keider  
Leisa Kelly  
Hae Won Kim  
Jung Joon Kim  
Cody Lackey  
Joanne Li  
Glenda Longoria  
Haley Lowe  
Tyler Marston  
Michael Mast  
Heather Maurer  
Patrick Melby  
Jimmy Morales  
Dana Morgan  
Alyssa Olson  
Tabitha Pham  
Kristine Phillips  
Marc Reviello  
Ashley Rochester  
Melinda Roeben

Jason Russillio  
John Ryan  
Sandra Salinas  
Austin Scott  
Tracey Serrentino  
Zhouhuizi Shen  
Gretchen Smith  
Jacob Smith  
David Stratton  
Megan Sullivan  
Sharan Swenski

Hai Tran  
Cody Triplett  
Travis Tyson  
Jinzhi Wang  
Yinan Wang  
Yuan Wei  
Bethany Wentz  
Christopher Wohlers  
Chun Man Cornel Wong  
Jason Yates  
Sabrina Zeiler

## 2018 Exam Dates and Fees

### **January 2018**

**Exam:** January 25 – 27

### **August 2018**

**Exam:** August 9 – 11

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

**Early Application Deadline:** May 1

**Application Opens:** March 1

**Exam Handbook Posted:** February 16

### **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. With the change in eligibility requirements to one eligibility route, 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 in 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.

## Exam Application

Exam applicants are required to pledge that they have read and understand the exam handbook prior to beginning an application. The handbook provides detailed instructions on procedures for exam application. Certain application issues that frequently arise with the application include:

- transcripts with confer dates that do not correspond to the confer date on diplomas
- missing documents, JRCERT diploma or transcript
- missing Bachelor's degree diploma for candidates graduating from a certificate program.
- insufficient CE documentation for re-applications, i.e. documents that do include MDCB numbers.

## Exam Item Development

Questions developed for the MDCB certification exam reflect the test matrix and are written in accordance with a style guide, indicative of best practice standards. A source and a specific code related to the exam matrix must be provided for each exam item developed. Most questions are four-option multiple choice questions, written to have one unambiguous correct answer. A small percentage of items are "hot spot" or "drag and drop" questions and incorporate images. With a "hot spot" item, the candidate, using the cursor, must identify a specific area on the image. "Drag and drop" questions, are a type of matching question. The cursor is used to match one list of items to another.

Once items are submitted, they are reviewed by a review team. Questions are either accepted as written or returned to the author with recommended changes. Once the author

returns the items with updates they are entered into the item bank and become a pre-operational item.

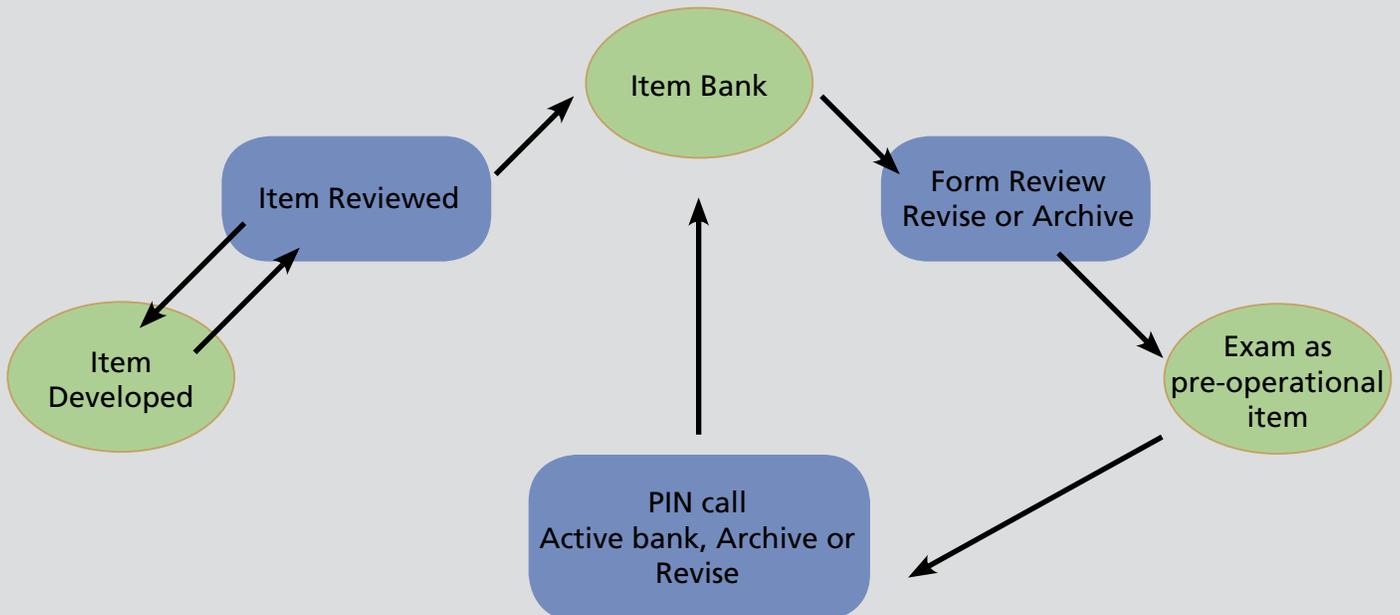
A very small number of these pre-operational items are included on an exam to gain statistical data about the questions' performance. During exam form assembly, the pre-operational items are again reviewed to determine, appropriateness for inclusion on the exam. Pre-operational items are not used to determine a candidate's score.

Following the exam, the performance of the pre-operational items is reviewed. A number of quantitative indicators are used to consider the items reliability. During the PIN (Problem Item Notification) review, based on the results of the item performance, pre-operational items will be tagged in on one of three ways: archive, revise or active. Active questions exhibit statistically viable results and are entered into the active item bank.

### Exam Matrix

Treatment Planning – 38%  
Radiation Physics – 17%  
Dose Calculation Methods – 15%  
QA & Standard of Care – 9%  
Brachytherapy – 7%  
Localization – 7%  
Radiation Protection – 7%

## Item Writing Workflow



## MOC Updates

### *CMD Credential Renewal Reminder*

Credential renewal for 2018 is now available. To submit your credential fee online:

1. Log on to your account at <https://mdcb.learningbuilder.com/>
2. Click on the **My Learning Plan** button under the **My Cycle** tab at the top of the page.
3. Select the (orange) **Pay Fees** button.

- IF -

**Your learning plan DOES end in the current year OR you passed the exam in the current year you may need to activate a new learning plan:**

1. Click on the **Learning Plans** button under the **My Cycle** tab at the top of the page.
2. Click on the **View** or **Begin** button. The plan is locked from adding new activities until the start of your new cycle, but you can view it to pay your dues.
3. Select the (orange) **Pay Fees** button.

You will receive an email confirmation of your payment. The e-mail will also be accessible on your list of communications.

Payments received after December 31 will be subject to a late fee in addition to the renewal fee. CMDs who do not renew before January 31 of each year of the 5-year cycle risk losing the CMD credential.

### *AAMD and MDCB Announce Automated CE Credit Transfers*

The American Association of Medical Dosimetrists (AAMD) and the Medical Dosimetrist Certification Board (MDCB) are pleased to announce the completion of a database interface project. The result of this collaborative initiative will be a seamless and more immediate transfer of completed AAMD learning activities to MDCB learning plan transcripts. "We, at the MDCB, are grateful to have such a complementary working relationship with the AAMD. One of the many fruits of this relationship are improvements, such as this one, which will assist the CMD in the automatic and timely transference of CEUs into their learning plans," said MDCB President Allison Paige Dalton, R.T.(T), CMD. "The AAMD also appreciates this collaboration with the MDCB to provide CMDs with an even more efficient tracking system for CE credits earned through AAMD activities," said AAMD President Keitt Mobile, MS, CMD, R.T.(R)(T).

The transfer time will change from approximately two (2) weeks to as little as 24 hours. CE credits will be transferred nightly from the AAMD CE Center to CMD learning plans. While the automation provides for nightly uploads, CMDs should allow up to 48 hours for credits to appear on their Learning Plans when credits earned late in the day may not be uploaded until the following night.

This faster transfer time is reflective of AAMD CE activities completed online through the CE Center. In-person AAMD meetings will take a little longer to populate learning plans as credits are initially uploaded into the AAMD CE Center before they become part of the nightly transfer to MDCB. The AAMD will keep CMDs apprised of appropriate transfer times for these meeting activities.

For activities completed prior to the effective date of the interface, September 21st, 2017, but not loaded to transcripts, CMDs should contact the AAMD ([aamd@medicaldosimetry.org](mailto:aamd@medicaldosimetry.org)) or MDCB ([info@mdcb.org](mailto:info@mdcb.org)).

### *MDCB Headquarters Holiday Schedule* **The MDCB office will be closed for business December 22-25, 2017.**

For CMDs with a December 31, 2017 learning plan end date, your learning plan should be submitted for completion by Tuesday, December 26 to allow time for final review. Once your 2017 Learning Plan has been accepted, you will be able to access your 2018-2022 plan and "Pay Fees" for your 2018 credential renewal.

## MDCB Call for Board Nominations

Nominations are now being accepted for the five year MDCB Board of Directors term of service. MDCB is seeking qualified and dedicated individuals to serve on the board. Your input is crucial for ensuring the success of MDCB.

### *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

### *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 Leadership Development. 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 3 (three) exam items for each board meeting and will be awarded a maximum of 20 CE during the board term.

### *What is the nominating process?*

- Applications are reviewed by the MDCB Leadership Development Committee.
- Selected candidates are interviewed via teleconference by the committee.
- The committee recommends candidates for nomination to the board.
- Final candidates are elected by board vote.
- Elected candidates are notified of board decisions in April.

Applications are accepted annually between November 1 and February 1. CMDs interested in board service or who 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](mailto:info@mdcb.org) with the subject line "MDCB Board Nomination."

Deadline to submit your electronic application and accompanying documents is **Thursday, February 1.**

The MDCB Nominating Committee will interview qualified candidates. All candidates will be notified of the final board decision in early spring.

## MDCB Scholarship Contribution

The MDCB is a proud supporter of the AAMD Foundation Scholarships. In 2017, four exam registration vouchers were presented to students of JRCERT accredited program. Five exam registration vouchers will be provided in 2018.

To learn more about scholarship application, visit the Foundation website at <https://www.aamdfoundation.org/scholarships/>.

## AAMD Updates

### *Need CE Credits Before the End of the Year?*

#### **AAMD Has Lots of Online Options**

If you're in need of some CE credits before the end of the year, check out all of these online CE options in the [AAMD CE Center](#):

- 7 Journal SAMs – each worth 2.5 CE credits
- 8 Recorded Presentations – each worth 1 CE credit
- 15 Virtual Meetings – each worth 1 CE credit
- 16 ProKnow Contouring Activities - each worth 1 CE credit (additional fees apply)

That's 56.5 CEs to choose from! And all are approved by MDCB and are also valid for ARRT.

Remember, AAMD Members receive access to 10 CE credit activities per year with AAMD Membership. If you need even more CE credits, you can purchase activities for \$20/credit (Members) or \$35/credit (Non-members).

Note: If you already have an AAMD account but need help accessing it, please contact Cornelia Gallow at [cgallow@medicaldosimetry.org](mailto:cgallow@medicaldosimetry.org).

Visit the [AAMD CE Center](#) and earn those last-minute CE credits today!

### *Renew Your AAMD Membership – or Join AAMD – for 2018*

With 2018 just around the corner, it's time to renew your commitment to professional development by renewing your AAMD membership! New members are welcome to join too. Your AAMD membership ensures that you have access to the tools and resources you need to enhance your career and support your profession – from online and in-person CE activities with automated CE transfers to MDCB learning plans and access to salary survey information to job listings,

career development resources and more. Renew or join by December 31 to be entered into a drawing for a free Annual Meeting registration or one of three Member Plus upgrades! Visit the [AAMD website](#) for complete membership information.

## Joint Statement of the AAMD and the MDCB on ASRT Practice Standards



*The American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) recently posted medical dosimetry practice standards for public comment. The AAMD and the MDCB, together, collaborated on a response to the ASRT regarding the posted practice standards. The response follows.*

The American Association of Medical Dosimetrists (AAMD) and the Medical Dosimetrist Certification Board (MDCB) recently reviewed the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) Practice Standards posted for public comment. Both organizations are concerned that the standards as stated, both text highlighted for change and text not highlighted for change, do not adequately reflect the medical dosimetry profession. We find the language to be dated and not accurately indicative of current medical dosimetry practice.

To alleviate confusion, there should be one standard for any profession. This standard is the standard developed by the professional medical dosimetry society, the AAMD, as referenced in the AAMD Scope of Practice. The Scope of Practice has been thoroughly researched. It identifies the basic responsibility of the "Qualified Medical Dosimetrist" and "addresses education, certification, continuing education and maintenance of certification." In addition, the Scope of Practice is designed to educate professionals in the fields of health care, education, other communities of interest and the general public regarding the expectations of the Qualified Medical Dosimetrist. One of its intended uses is for "individual facilities to develop job descriptions and practice parameters."

The AAMD Scope of Practice is the basis of the AAMD Curriculum Guide, which is endorsed by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) and followed in the development of JRCERT accredited medical dosimetry educational programs. Graduation from a JRCERT accredited program is the only vehicle through which a medical dosimetrist can achieve certification in medical dosimetry.

Certification in any field represents a recognized standard of knowledge and education and measures knowledge in a standardized and comprehensive way. Both the American

Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) and the American College of Radiology (ACR) recognize MDCB Certification, a certification based on the AAMD Scope of Practice, as a significant aspect for the medical dosimetrist on the radiation oncology team.

Patient safety and consistent quality of care is a recognized touchstone of all three (3) organizations – AAMD, ASRT and MDCB – as referenced in each of their individual mission statements. Quality patient care can only result from clarity by adherence to one definitive standard. The standard for medical dosimetry is the one developed by the professional society dedicated to medical dosimetry – AAMD – and is the one on which medical dosimetry certification is predicated. Medical dosimetry certification by the MDCB is recognized by authorities in the radiation oncology field – ASTRO, ACR and JRCERT.

The AAMD and MDCB respectfully request that the ASRT adopt the AAMD Scope of Practice as the definitive scope of practice for medical dosimetry.

### Respectfully submitted by:

**Katherine "Keitt" Mobile, MS, CMD, R.T.(R)(T)**  
AAMD President

**Allison Paige Dalton, BS, CMD, R.T.(T)**  
MDCB President

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## 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.