

2019–2020 Directors

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President's Letter



ROBERT INSHETSKI, BAS,
R.T. (R)(T)(CT), CMD

As I enter my third year serving on the MDCB Board as the current president, I would like to extend congratulations and a warm welcome to our newest certificants who passed the April 2019 MDCB exam. Certification is so important within the field of medical dosimetry and many of you had a hand in training those candidates who challenged the exam. I extend a special thank you to all the program directors, clinical instructors, administrators, managers, preceptors, physicians, physicists, fellow dosimetrists, and all other staff members who welcomed these dosimetry interns into your clinics.

Giving back is vital in keeping our community enriched with diversity and highly educated individuals. I encourage each of you to give back to the community in ways as simple as taking pride in being a certified medical dosimetrist on your social media (LinkedIn account), joining a board, committee or task group (AAMD or MDCB), welcoming students into your clinic, participating in exam item writing, writing a journal article for peer review, donating to the AAMD Foundation, or participating and learning in Radiation Oncology Incident Learning System (RO•ILS).

I find the value of participating within our community very rewarding. Having been a clinical preceptor for the past 10 years and more recently chair of the advisory committee for the Bellevue College

Medical Dosimetry Program, I take great pride in getting to know many of the students who sit for the exam.

In addition to these roles, I decided to further my education to stay current with the changes in the profession. Currently, I am enrolled in a Master of Medical Dosimetry program. Although it is difficult to return to school, it has afforded me a much better understanding of what current students' needs and struggles are as they enter the field of medical dosimetry.

There have been many changes within the field in the last decade. We have experienced growing pains resulting from being viewed initially as a technical profession to the transition to the perception of the medical professionals we are.

One of the key changes that has driven this perception is the change in eligibility requirements for the MDCB exam. All first-time applicants must be Route 1 candidates, having a Bachelor's degree and having graduated from a JRCERT accredited medical dosimetry program. Route 2 (on the job trained) was phased out. The MDCB Directors recognized the importance of the CMD credential for those educated and practicing outside the USA. Although the MDCB had announced the elimination of International Candidacy, upon further consideration and feedback from the dosimetry community, the MDCB determined to continue to provide eligibility for international candidates.

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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.

As technology advances in the field of medical dosimetry, treatment planning computers have increasingly become more automated. To ensure that the exam remains current, in conjunction with the MDCB test vendor, members of the board, conduct a lengthy item bank review monthly; adding, revising and archiving test items. Each of the board members, CMDs, medical physicists and radiation oncologists play an important role in the development of the exam. In addition to this ongoing initiative, the MDCB is also working with our test vendor and third-party vendors to develop planning-based test questions to tangibly measure treatment planning skills. Look for further announcements on this front.

Another important change was the update of The AAMD Scope of Practice of a Medical Dosimetrist and The Practice Standards for the Medical Dosimetrist. An AAMD task group, comprised of educators, physicians, physicists and dosimetrists, under the careful guidance of Paula Berner, CMD, FAAMD, worked collaboratively to revise these documents to direct the future of the medical dosimetry profession. The Scope of Practice serves to guide ethical practice to which CMDs must adhere as their professional responsibility.

The MDCB is open to feedback from the dosimetry community. The changes in eligibility have resulted in a smaller candidate pool. In 2019, to ensure continued statistical reliability of exam results, the MDCB and Prometric determined one exam administration. After feedback from program directors, two exam administrations have been announced for 2020. The dates were selected to not bear undue burden on any group of graduates. The MDCB will continue to assess annual exam administration dates, to ensure a sufficient number of candidates for each administration, for a statistically reliable result.

I have been guided by many on my dosimetry path to MDCB President, mentors and board colleagues. I thank them and you for the opportunity to serve as President of the MDCB for the next year and I hope to represent each one of you. Remember, compassion and empathy go a very long way in this profession. I very much would welcome feedback on how the MDCB can support you and the dosimetry community.

Robert Inshetski, BAS, R.T. (R)(T)(CT), CMD ♦

The MDCB Exam

2020 Exam Dates

The dates for the 2020 MDCB CMD have been announced. After continued dialogue and feedback from JRCERT Program Directors, the MDCB Directors have determined two exam administration dates. The most important factor in determining the number of exam administrations is to ensure the reliability of exam scores by maintaining a minimum number of candidates to fairly assess an equated cut (pass) score.

With the change in eligibility requirements for U.S. candidates to one route to eligibility, graduation from a JRCERT accredited program, one of the results is a smaller candidate pool. The MDCB will continue to assess annually exam administration dates to ensure a sufficient number of candidates, for each administration, for a statistically reliable result.

The dates for 2020 were selected after careful review of the JRCERT program graduation dates, conferring with the MDCB exam administrator, Prometric, 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 candidate roster to the exam administrator.

The dates for the 2020 exam are as follows:

EXAM: JANUARY 23–25, 2020

Late Application Deadline:

November 15, 2019 (U.S. Candidates Only)

Early Application Deadline:

November 4, 2019

Application Opens:

September 16, 2019

Exam Handbook Posted:

September 9, 2019

EXAM: SEPTEMBER 17–19, 2020

Late Application Deadline:

July 6, 2020 (U.S. Candidates Only)

Early Application Deadline:

June 22, 2020

Application Opens:

April 17, 2020

Exam Handbook Posted:

March 27, 2020

For the first time in 2020, a small number of performance-based test (PBT) questions will be included on the CMD exam. Performance-based questions measure candidates' ability to apply learned skills and knowledge. It is considered to be the next generation in certification testing. Exam applicants should review the exam handbook for details.

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. ♦

AAMD Scope of Practice and Practice Standards Revised

The Medical Dosimetry Certification Board (MDCB) commends and supports the American Association of Medical Dosimetrists (AAMD) on the completion and adoption of recent revisions to Practice Standards for the Medical Dosimetrist, as well as, Scope of Practice of a Medical Dosimetrist. Both documents were approved in May of 2019.

The Practice Standards succinctly identifies the unique and collaborative role of the medical dosimetrist on the radiation oncology team. The dosimetrist works in concert with the radiation oncologist and medical physicist to provide patient care. Medical dosimetry is not a radiologic or imaging science. Medical dosimetrists are educated in a technological and scientific discipline with practical training in the clinical application of dosimetric principles. The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics describes the occupation to: "generate radiation treatment plans, develop radiation dose calculations, communicate and supervise the treatment plan implementation, and consult with members of the radiation oncology team."

The Scope of Practice of a Medical Dosimetrist is designed to identify the parameters of the job function and responsibilities of the dosimetrist. It helps to inform all stakeholders regarding those functions and responsibilities. The Scope document has particular meaning for the Certified Medical Dosimetrist (CMD). All CMDs are required to be aware of the latitude within which they can ethically perform their role and the sanctions which may result from improper acts as referenced in the Ethical Standards of the MDCB, "A CMD shall not practice beyond the scope he or she is competent to perform as defined in the Scope of Practice of a Medical Dosimetrist Document." ♦

MDCB Scholarship

The MDCB is a proud supporter of the AAMD Foundation Scholarships. In 2019, five exam registration vouchers were presented to students of JRCERT accredited program. The recipients of the award are:

- **Kellen Marie Bernickus**
Southern Illinois University Carbondale
- **Felicia Marie Graham**
Indiana University School of Medicine
- **Valerie Ostrowski**
Indiana University School of Medicine
- **Kevin Lam Tran**
The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center
- **Marisol Tinoco**
The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center

Profiles of the award winners can be viewed at www.mdcb.org. To learn more about scholarship application, visit the Foundation website. ♦



OUTGOING BOARD. L TO R – MARVENE EWING, CORY NEILL, JOE HERMAN, PAIGE DALTON

MDCB Thanks Outgoing Board Members

The MDCB extends its sincere thanks to outgoing board of director members, Paige Dalton, MS, R.T.(T), CMD; Marvene Ewing, BS, CMD; Joseph (Joe) Herman, MD, MSc, MSHCM, FACR and Cory Neill, MS, R.T.(R)(T), CMD. They concluded their terms on August 31, 2019. Paige served in various roles on the MDCB Executive Committee including President. Joe served as the ASTRO Liaison to the MDCB Board. Cory served on the Executive Committee as Treasurer and Secretary.

Paige Dalton is a dosimetrist at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). In her position, Paige participates in various committees in the Radiation Oncology Department whose goals are fostering an environment of quality control and family and patient centered care. In addition to her clinical duties, she has numerous teaching responsibilities. While on the board, Paige earned her MS degree in Health Administration.

Marvene has served as the Assistant Program Director and Curriculum Coordinator for the Medical Dosimetry Graduate Certificate Program at the Indiana University School of Medicine since 2009. Marvene served an extended board term. While on the board, she participated on a number of committees,

chaired the Study Guide Committee and brought an exemplary enthusiasm to exam item writing efforts.

Joe Herman is Division Head ad interim, MD Anderson, Department of Radiation Oncology. He specializes in the treatment of pancreatic and hepatobiliary cancers. Joe served as a writing member for the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) and American College of Radiology (ACR). Outside of his professional vocation, he enjoys spending time with his family.

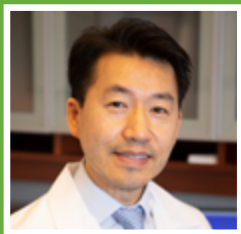
Cory Neill is currently a dosimetrist at Carson-Tahoe Radiation Oncology Associates in Carson City, Nevada. In addition to his dosimetry role, Cory is an adjunct instructor at Truckee Meadows Community College. He has been a contributor to the AAMD journal, Medical Dosimetry and currently serves as the Editor-in-Chief. Cory is the recipient of the AAMD 2019 Outstanding Achievement Award.

The MDCB wishes Paige, Marvene, Joe and Cory continued success in all their endeavors. ♦

MDCB Welcomes New Board Members



Christopher Amaloo, CMD is a clinical dosimetrist at Cone Health Cancer Center in Greensboro, North Carolina. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering from the University of Illinois in 1990. His interest in dosimetry sparked a career change from the business world. He received formal dosimetry training at Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, New York, passing his boards in 2014 to become a CMD. Prior to returning to North Carolina, he worked at The Ohio State University during the transition to The James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute. He is currently enrolled in the Master of Science dosimetry program at Southern Illinois University.



Daniel Song, MD serves as the ASTRO representative to the MDCB. He is an Associate Professor and Director of Faculty Affairs for the Department of Radiation Oncology and Molecular Radiation Sciences at Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Song's clinical expertise is in the management of genitourinary cancers. His areas of research include the development and refinement of new imaging methods to improve radiation targeting as well as innovative means of reducing potential side effects of radiation treatment and is supported by both federal and private non-profit research endowments.

Dr. Song is a reviewer and examiner for the American Board of Radiology, and he currently serves on the Scientific Planning Committee for the American Brachytherapy Society annual meeting. He has co-authored consensus guidelines on stereotactic body radiation therapy and image-guided robotic brachytherapy.



Akhil Tiwari, CMD is a staff dosimetrist at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. He received his Bachelor of Science in medical dosimetry in 2014 at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and was board certified in 2015.

Akhil was introduced to volunteering with the MDCB when he participated in the Job Task Analysis. He also serves as a member of the communications committee for the AAMD. He hopes to continue his professional growth through his board service and sees it as a way to give back to the profession. ♦

Board Service Nominations

Nominations for MDCB Board Service will be accepted beginning November 1st, 2019.

Application is available at:

<https://mdcb.org/sites/default/files/documents/2019/Volunteer%20BOD%20Application.pdf>

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 with the subject line "MDCB Board Nomination."

The deadline to submit applications is February 1, 2020.

What are the qualifications for board service?

The MDCB seeks a diverse board comprised of clinicians, educators, public member, medical physicists and radiation oncologists. CMDs should meet the following criteria:

- Be a CMD for a minimum of 3 years
- Have a minimum of a BS degree
- Be a current practitioner

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 U.S. 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, Leadership Development, Maintenance of Certification or Test Development. Time commitment on each committee varies and may be up to 2 hours per week. Committee service is rotated annually.
- Board members are guided through the process to submit 3 (three) 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 in 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.

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 March. ♦

Maintenance of Certification Updates

Credential Renewal for 2020

Annual credential renewal is available annually on October 1st. To submit payment:

- log in to your account in the MDCB CE Center at: <https://mdcb.learningbuilder.com/>
- proceed to the Learning Plan that includes the 2020 year
- submit payment.

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.

If your 5-year cycle ends in 2019, your 2015-2019 Learning Plan must be submitted to access the Learning Plan that includes 2020.

CMDs whose five-year cycle end on December 31, 2019 are reminded to submit learning plans for completion by November 30, 2019. Once Learning Plans are completed, the annual credential fee can be submitted. Certificates for practitioners who have met the requirements for credential renewal will receive a new certificate in mid-January 2020.

Credit Transfer

The MDCB coordinates with a number of providers for credit transfer to your learning plan:

AAMD

All successfully completed AAMD activities are transferred to CMDs learning plan nightly. Be sure that your MDCB number is recorded with the AAMD.

ASRT

If your date of birth and your ASRT number are on file with the MDCB, completed ASRT activities will be uploaded to your learning plan in the month following completion of the activity with no further action required by you. The MDCB will not recognize for credit any activity that is duplicated across bienniums or ASRT activities that are approved for ¼ credit.

ASTRO ANNUAL MEETING

To ensure that your credits from the ASTRO conference are loaded to your MDCB learning plan, be sure to register for the meeting as a dosimetrist and complete the evaluation by the deadline. Credits typically will upload to your learning plan a minimum of 30 days after the end of the conference.

AAPM MEETINGS

AAPM meeting registrants can have their credits loaded to their MDCB learning plan by completing the AAPM online meeting evaluation. Users are prompted to indicate the type of credits needed and to enter a valid CMD ID. Credits are typically uploaded to your learning plan a minimum of 30 days after a meeting. ♦

AAMD Update

Renew Your AAMD Membership – or Join – for 2020

AAMD membership ensures that you have access to the tools and resources you need to enhance your career – from online and in-person CE activities with automated CE transfers to MDCB Learning Plans. Visit the [AAMD website](#) for complete membership details.

Presenters Needed for the AAMD Spring Regional Meeting in Milwaukee, WI, April 3–4, 2020

Join your colleagues for 2 days of learning and sharing next spring in Milwaukee, WI, when AAMD hosts the next regional meeting. The deadline to submit an abstract is January 8, 2020. Get more info on the [AAMD website](#).

Need CE Credits before December? AAMD Can Help with Online CE Options

If your 5-year CMD cycle ends this year and you still need CE credits, the AAMD can help!

In the [AAMD CE Center](#), you will find a wide variety of CE credit options, including recorded presentations, virtual meetings, Journal SAMs and ProKnow contouring activities. Plus, AAMD performs daily uploads of AAMD-provided CE credits directly to MDCB Learning Plans.

Save the Date: AAMD 45th Annual Meeting, June 14–18, 2020 in Baltimore, MD

Make your plans to travel to the East Coast for the AAMD 45th Annual Meeting! Earn CE credits in general sessions and hands-on workshops and talk shop with your colleagues from around the world. Watch the [AAMD website](#) for details. ♦