

2020–2021 Directors

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President's Letter



MICHAEL MANTEUFFEL,
MS, R.T. (R)(T), CMD

As I begin my term as President, I would like to take the opportunity to introduce myself and to update the community on the current state of the MDCB board. I am currently entering my third year of board service and have focused my efforts and attention on the MDCB examination and Performance Based Testing. In addition to my committee work, in 2019 I became the AAMD liaison. I am fast approaching 10 years of employment as a dosimetrist and have worked in Southwest Florida, Northern California, and now reside in Saint Joseph, Missouri where I am a staff dosimetrist at Mosaic Life Care.

As 2020 continues to present twists and turns that nobody envisioned, it is important that the dosimetrist community pause and reflect on the sweeping changes that have affected us in both our personal and professional lives. With the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic, the medical community was thrust into a rapidly evolving and chaotic situation that forced institutions and individuals to answer the call to adapt to the new environment and continue to provide the best care possible for each of our patients in need. I have no doubt that the medical dosimetrist community did just that. Whether you have continued to work in your clinic or hospital, have transitioned to working remotely, or have been asked to perform your duties in a hybrid model, your ability to adapt quickly in a dynamic world has allowed patients dealing with one of the most frightening situations of their lives to get the very best standard of care. This is no small feat!

The MDCB board was also forced to adapt to this new socially distanced environment. In 2020, all three board meetings were conducted remotely for the first time. This year, after hearing from the community, and with much deliberation and feedback from the JRCERT program directors, the board returned to administering two exams per year and will also offer two exams in 2021. Thank you to all of the program directors that have been so helpful with their feedback in order to schedule these examinations appropriately to provide statistically significant results and serve our graduates and international candidates well. Congratulations to all of the 2020 successful candidates and welcome to the field!

MDCB was excited to introduce Performance Based Testing (PBT) to the exam in January of 2020. Considered to be the next generation of testing, PBT allows candidates to apply learned skills and knowledge to higher-order thinking and real-world clinical situations. Currently, candidates navigate from the exam platform to the ProKnow DS platform to answer a multiple-choice question about a patient data set or treatment plan. The exam handbook has a PBT section to explain what is expected of each candidate before and during the exam for PBT questions. Links to tutorial videos

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UPDATE ON The MDCB Exam

2021 Exam Dates

In 2021, the CMD Exam will be administered in January and September. The MDCB Board of Directors consider a number of factors before the dates for any exam administration are selected:

- JRCERT program graduation dates
- Best seat availability at Prometric testing centers
- Timeline constraints including:
 - sufficient time for the appeals process
 - delivery of the eligibility file to the exam administrator
 - circulation of the Authorization to Test letters
 - adequate time for exam candidates to secure testing appointments.

The dates for the 2021 exam are as follows:

Exam: January 21-23, 2021

Late Application Deadline: November 16, 2020 (U.S. Candidates Only)

Early Application Deadline: November 6, 2020

Exam: September 16-18, 2021

Late Application Deadline: July 5, 2021 (U.S. Candidates Only)

Early Application Deadline: June 21, 2021

Application Opens: April 16, 2021

Exam Handbook Posted: March 26, 2021

For the first time in 2020, a small number of performance-based test (PBT) questions were 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 candidates should pay particular attention to the details regarding Performance-Based Testing questions. MDCB provides two instructional videos to assist candidates in: (1) setting up an [mdcb.proknow.com](https://vimeo.com/420044409) account <https://vimeo.com/420044409>, and (2) navigating the [mdcb.proknow.com](https://vimeo.com/420044597) platform <https://vimeo.com/420044597> once an account has been set up. *Access to [mdcb.proknow.com](https://vimeo.com/420044597) will be available until 9:00 a.m. EST on January 19, 2021.* ♦

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. ♦

September 2020 Exam Statistics

- 117 candidates were approved to sit for the exam: 86 Route 1 applicants, 30 re-applicants and 1 international applicant.
- 105 candidates sat for the exam.
- The test was administered at 89 Prometric test centers.
- The overall pass rate was 74% and the pass rate for Route 1 candidates was 77%.
- The scaled raw cut score for passing was 600 out of a total possible of 800. ♦

CONGRATULATIONS

to the September 2020 Successful Candidates!

Raymond Alanis
Marc Anderson
Brant Arender
Taylor Baca
Austin Barney
Shelby Barse
Makelle Barski
James Bender II
Caleb Bethea
Kelley Bitterman
Tess Bouton
Lauren Brandl
Amber Bryant
Samantha Cedeno
Elizabeth Chacko
Felicia Chu
Justin Clarke
Jessica Costa
Laura Cutler
William Deere
Zoe Degan
Noelle Deiter
Haden Dexter
Jose Dezenogita
Madeline Doberstein
Anna Drew

Kapeshri Dsouza
Mikayla Eskens
Kristin Fergeson
Holly Fletcher
Keenan Fuller
Kyle Garafolo
Nicholas Geiger
Alexander Gorski
Bryan Graham
Christopher Gratton
Shelby Hall
Courtney Haynes
Gustavo Hernandez
Danielle Horwitz
Felice Hyppolite
Morgan Iwan
Cody Johnson
John Kendrick
Travis Kilmer
Peiyao Lei
Allison Lemley
Eric Lex
Sara Long
Vitaliy Manchik
Caroline Martel
Anthony Martin

Mark Mergler
Cameron Moody
Leah Morris
James Mullins
Erin Murdoch
Helen Nguyen
Nick Nguyen
David Noh
Eric Paranada
Dylan Price
Vandana Puri
Lee Riley
Tara Royer
Whitney Scholl
Jen Sckolnik
Danielle Siegel
Jason Spak
Holly Sturgeon
Marina Suvorova
Garrett Tamayo
Yuti Thakar
Amy Toomey
Adrian VandeGraaff
Phuong Vo
James White
Jaime Wintringham

MDCB Scholarship

The MDCB is a proud supporter of the AAMD Foundation Scholarships. In 2020, five exam registration vouchers were presented to students of JRCERT accredited programs. The recipients of the award are:

- Mindy Bui, Grand Valley State University
- Ottmar Lezama, The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center

- Carla Merveille, The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center
- Surbhi Sharma, Thomas Jefferson University
- Danielle Siegel, Suffolk University

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

MDCB Thanks Outgoing Board Members

The MDCB extends its sincere thanks to outgoing board of director members, Kristen Vu, MS, R.T.(T), CMD and Jennifer Smilowitz, PhD, DABR. Kristen and Jennifer concluded their terms on August 31, 2020. While on the board, Kristen served in various roles on the MDCB Executive Committee including President. Jennifer, the AAPM Liaison, volunteered as the Test Development Chair.

Kristen Vu is the Program Director of the Graduate Medical Dosimetry Program at Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, Michigan. In addition to her role as an educator, Kristen stays current in dosimetry by practicing as a per diem dosimetrist. Although Kristen's term on the board has expired, she will remain active with the MDCB Board in a non-voting capacity as the JRCERT program liaison. In this role, she will help to inform the board on the perspective of JRCERT Program Directors and to provide feedback and input regarding JRCERT programs.

Jennifer Smilowitz is a Clinical Professor and Medical Physicist at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health Departments of Medical Physics and Human Oncology, Madison, Wisconsin. Her work focuses on treatment planning and quality assurance. While on the board, she brought her passion and expertise for medical physics education to her responsibilities as an item writer. The MDCB wishes continued success to Jennifer in all her endeavors. ♦

Welcome New Board Members

Ontida Apinorasethkul, MS, CMD **At-large Representative**



Ontida is the Lead Photon Dosimetrist at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. She completed her Bachelor of Science in Biology in Genetics, and Business Management in Finance at Stony Brook University, NY. In 2011, Ontida earned a Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Sciences in Medical Dosimetry from the Thomas Jefferson University and subsequently achieved her CMD in 2012.

She completed her Master's degree in Medical Dosimetry at University of Wisconsin - La Crosse in 2015.

Ontida has been an active volunteer on the AAMD Directed Journal Reading Committee since 2014. As a member of the committee, she has participated in generating quiz questions for the journal articles.

Stephanie Olson, MS, R.T.(T), CMD **At-large Representative**



Stephanie Olson is the lead dosimetrist at the University of Wisconsin, Madison Hospital Radiation Oncology department. She received her bachelor's degree in Radiation Therapy in 2003 and worked as a therapist for 11 years before returning to school. She obtained her master's degree in Medical Dosimetry in 2015 and earned her CMD in 2016.

In addition to her daily duties, she is an adjunct professor for the University of Wisconsin - LaCrosse's Radiation Therapy program and participates in planning studies for research and publications.

When not busy with work, she enjoys watching her two boys play sports, spending time with family, reading, and spinning.

Steven de Boer, MSc, FAAPM **AAPM Representative**



Steven de Boer is one of two physicist representatives to the American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM). He is a Medical Physicist at Roswell Park Cancer Institute and a Research Assistant Professor at Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at the State University of New York at Buffalo. Steven also serves as a Medical Physics surveyor for the American

College of Radiation Oncology. He earned his American Board of Radiology (ABR) certification in Therapeutic Radiological Physics in 1997.

Steven is an active volunteer in the medical physics community. Currently, he serves as Chair of both the AAPM committee on the Medical Physics education of Allied Health Professionals and the Therapy Practice Accreditation subcommittee and as a member of the Clinical Practice Committee, Education Council, and Task Group 287. Additionally, he is a reviewer for several journals, including the Medical Physics journal, Journal of Applied Clinical Medical Physics, and Sensors journal.

The MDCB Leadership Development Committee interviews many excellent candidates; unfortunately, not all candidates can be selected for board service. The MDCB Articles of Incorporation limit the number of board members to a maximum of fifteen. ♦

Board Service Nominations

Nominations for MDCB Board Service are accepted beginning November 1st, 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 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 is expected to 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 up to five (5) 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.

Applications are available at:

<https://www.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, 2021. ♦

Updates and Reminders from the AAMD

Use Your AAMD CE Credits Before They Expire

AAMD members are reminded to log into the [AAMD CE Center](#) to utilize the annual allowance of 12 CE Credits that are included in your Full CMD Membership (or 25 CE Credits for Member Plus). These credits will expire on December 31, 2020.

Renew Your AAMD Membership or Join for 2021

The AAMD is committed to supporting you and your professional development in 2021 and beyond. Your AAMD membership provides access to the continuing education and resources that you need to meet the challenges of an evolving clinical environment – all at a substantial member savings! Your \$200 AAMD membership provides you with over \$1,200 in value! Renew or join today!

Is Your Facility Participating in RO-ILS?

The AAMD has partnered with ASTRO to support the Radiation Oncology Incident Learning System (RO-ILS). Participation in this patient safety sharing program is free. We encourage all AAMD members to [learn more](#) about how your facility can participate. ♦

MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION UPDATES

Credential Renewal for 2021

The MDCB congratulates you on your commitment in support of the MDCB mission to advance the Medical Dosimetry profession to enhance quality patient care. The Board and Staff of the MDCB hopes that you, your colleagues and families are doing well in the current environment. The MDCB is sensitive to those that may be experiencing financial hardship and is here to support you.

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 2021 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 2020, your 2016-2020 Learning Plan must be submitted to access the Learning Plan that includes 2021.

CMDs whose five-year cycle end on December 31, 2020 are reminded to submit learning plans for completion by November 30, 2020. Once Learning Plans are completed, the annual credential fee can be submitted. ♦

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 fees for any calendar year may result in loss of the CMD credential.

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on setting up a mdcb.proknow.com account and navigating the platform are detailed in the handbook and at www.mdcb.org.

The board is also proud to announce a new condensed online study guide that will be offered free of charge to all candidates. This guide will consist of sample multiple choice questions covering the MDCB test specifications matrix. In addition to this study guide, candidates also receive access to a free one-time use online practice test in the Prometric testing platform consisting of 15 sample questions.

It is that time of year for the annual call for board nominations. This year the board will be accepting nominations or volunteers for its CMD at large, ACR representative, and public member. In addition, I would like to extend an invitation to all JRCERT Medical Dosimetry Program Directors and Educators to consider volunteering for MDCB board service. Your expertise and insight are

vital to the success of the profession as a whole and to the certification exam itself. Please refer to the Board Service Nominations section of the newsletter and website for more information.

I am honored to serve the profession that I love in this manner and want each of you to know that I, as well as the entire MDCB, are here to serve you and continue to administer the best certification exam possible. If you have questions or comments for the board, please reach out to me at info@mdcb.org.

I would not be in a position to serve if it were not for many educators, mentors, physicians, and physicists that have selflessly helped me throughout my education and career. I especially want to thank my wife, Kayla, and children, Ira and Finley, for their encouragement and inspiration.

Michael Manteuffel, MS, R.T. (R)(T), CMD
MDCB President ♦