

Chapter News

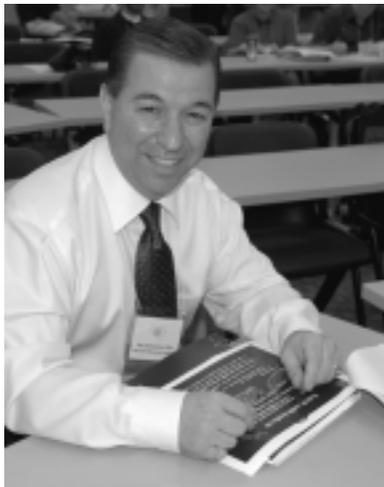
North Central Chapter

Jerry L. Artz, RSO, Hamline University

The fall meeting of the North Central Chapter of the Health Physics Society (NCCCHPS) was held at the Minnesota Department of Health in St. Paul, Minnesota, on Friday, 25 September 2009. The meeting was well attended—approximately 45 of the 106 members were present. An exceptionally strong program featured Health Physics Society President-elect Edward F. Maher and also Robert G. Wissink Memorial Lecturer Pat Zanzonico, PhD, from Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York.

President-elect Maher attended the executive committee meeting the evening before and praised the North Central Chapter for its service at both the regional and national levels. His presentation the following morning included not only the agenda for HPS for the upcoming year but also a homeland security discussion of new concepts in radiological emergency planning. After summarizing the national response network, he proceeded with a highly interesting discussion of sheltering as compared to evacuation should there be a nuclear/radiological incident.

Zanzonico included in his presentation various startling articles that expounded the risks of various medical procedures but made no mention of the benefits. He then continued with an in-depth quantitative statistical analysis of the benefits of various medical procedures versus the risks. He demonstrated that for an overwhelmingly large proportion of these medical procedures, the benefits far exceeded the risks. Nevertheless, the risks often get most of the attention.



Pat Zanzonico

Rounding out the program were presentations by Ken Kerns from Iowa State University and Kelly Classic from the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. Kerns shared various fascinat-



ing experiences that he encountered during a year's service with the International Atomic Energy Agency. Classic presented the results of her work monitoring hand-dose radiation received by Mayo physicians during eye-plaque brachytherapy for cancerous tumors.

NCCCHPS President Dan Miron conducted the business meeting. A highlight of the business meeting was acknowledgement given to both Dan McGrane and Jan Braun for their exceptional service and leadership in heading the Local Arrangements Committee for the national HPS annual meeting held in Minneapolis 12-16 July 2009.



Left to right, Fred Entwistle, Ed Maher, Jan Braun, John Bauhs

There appeared to be no negative comments from the attendees and almost unanimous praise. A comment was made that in the future, money might be saved by using meeting rooms closer to or a part of the conference hotel rather than using the convention center.



Jeff Brunette, Tony Murphy, Gordon Tannahill

There was concern about the tours. Of the nine scheduled, two were canceled and the remaining seven were not well attended. A combination of the depressed economy and tight expense budgets of those attending may have contributed to the reduced tour participation.

The nuclear science kits have been so actively used that Mike Lewandowski, coordinator of the program from 3M Corporation in St. Paul, was given authority to order four more. These popular kits have been used in many situations: high school teacher demonstrations, science teacher workshops, colleges, and even Boy Scout merit badges. The chapter membership was asked to think about teachers who might be eligible to apply for

the NCCHPS science teacher award and also students who might apply for the NCCHPS nuclear science project award.

Notice was given that Lakeshore Technical College in Wisconsin is reestablishing a student chapter of HPS. St. Cloud State University is looking at starting a health physics program. South Dakota State University has drawn up a new MS in physics and a new minor in nuclear engineering, both of which, if approved, will be ready for the fall of 2010.

Continuing ongoing activities and the NCCHPS membership application may be found at the NCCHPS Web site at <http://www.hps1.org/chapters/ncc>. 

North Carolina Chapter

Laura Pring, NCHPS President



NCHPS Seeking Speakers for 2010 Spring Meeting Tribute to James E. Watson, Jr., PhD, CHP

The North Carolina Chapter of the Health Physics Society (NCHPS) will hold its spring meeting 4-5 March 2010 at the Sheraton Raleigh Hotel. One theme of the meeting will be a celebration of the chapter's 45th anniversary and will include the honoring of five of our founding charter members at a special evening dinner event.

The meeting will also focus upon the celebration of the different aspects of the late Dr. Jim Watson's health physics teaching philosophy and innovative thought, which for nearly 30 years was the driving force in the development of University of North Carolina's Radiological Hygiene Program. The NCHPS Program Committee is actively searching for former



Dr. James E. Watson, Jr.

students and associates of Dr. Watson to present talks on current health physics topics, linking lessons learned by the presenters from Dr. Watson in this tribute to his numerous contributions to the health physics profession as a whole.

If you are a former student or associate of Dr. Watson and would be interested in presenting a commemorative talk or attending this special tribute, please contact Laura Pring (laura.pring@carolinashealthcare.org), Bob Emery (Robert.J.Emery@uth.tmc.edu), or Bill Byrum (William.Byrum@duke-energy.com) for more information. Your participation will honor a true pioneer and mentor in our profession. 

