

June 30, 2011

Dear RAMPS Members:

It is my pleasure to announce that Dr. Howard Amols will be the chief editor for RAPHEX2012. Howard is currently the Chief of Clinical Physics Service at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and has more than 10 years of experience in writing and reviewing questions for RAPHEX Therapy Exam. He was a former AAPM president and has been actively engaged in many AAPM and RAMPS activities.

RAPHEX is facing serious challenges recently. It has been increasingly difficult to get new questions each year and there are not enough volunteers to help with the review and editing. In fact, we were very close to terminating RAPHEX 2011 at the beginning of this year because very few new therapy questions were collected in early January. The consequences could have been very serious as RAMPS would have lost credibility in providing this critical and reliable service to the medical physics and radiation oncology communities that has been continued for 42 years. In addition, RAMPS would have suffered from an immediate loss of a significant portion of her annual operation budget. We estimated that without the income from RAPHEX, we would have to increase the due by at least five folds to maintain the current operation of RAMPS.

Thanks to the efforts of Adel (chief editor of RAPHEX 2011 and editor for imaging exam), Cheng-Shie (editor for therapy exams), the imaging and therapy committee members, and many of you who contributed questions, we were able to overcome many obstacles and get enough questions in very short time to continue RAPHEX 2011. The RAMPS board held a meeting on 4/13 to discuss the future of RAPHEX. We decided that we will continue the RAPHEX one more year to evaluate whether it is worth the effort. RAMPS by-laws will be revised to include RAPHEX as a committee of RAMPS. RAPHEX-sponsored activities are also being planned so that we can attract more members to volunteer for RAPHEX and contribute new questions

All these changes require a strong leadership in RAPHEX. After the RAPHEX meeting, Adel expressed that he will not continue as the RAPHEX chief editor but will stay in the imaging committee to help with RAPHEX 2012. The RAMPS board conducted a short search, contacted a few potential candidates and decided to appoint Howard as the next chief editor for RPHEX. The vote is unanimous as we all believe that Howard will provide the much needed vision and management skill to re-organize RAPHEX and make it viable again.

Howard is now recruiting members of the therapy and imaging committees for RAPHEX 2012 and the new team will officially start operating in August. The RAMPS board is looking forward to working with Howard and his new team to continue this historical exam.

Best,

Jenghwa

President of RAMPS