June 30, 2017

Dear ORVC Members,

The Meeting Coordination Committee (MCC) voted in recommendation to host the annual meeting, again in Washington D.C. then Houston, then to a Western city, then returning to Washington D.C., starting in the year 2022. There were many factors which contributed to this decision. Overall, MCC believes this will lead to enhancements for Science, Clinical Practice, Education, and significantly spur activity for Government Affairs. In this most recent visit to Washington D.C., the AAPM experienced a favorable financial return, a noteworthy increase in medical physics attendance, and received positive feedback from most corporate affiliates. It is suggested that being in D.C. in 2022 and returning routinely can be a patterned substrate for growing AAPM relationships with government leaders at organizations such as NIH and FDA, as well as with leaders in ASTRO. With my separate positions within the Administrative Council, I voted to approve the motion. A final vote is pending.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission Liaison, Katie Tapp, provided an update reminding the AC about the upcoming Advisory Committee Meeting on the Use of Medical Isotopes Meeting in the Fall. Meeting topics include training and experience, medical events, Y-90 microsphere licensing guidance, and enhancing communications with the medical community. It was noted the proposed final rule to 10 CFR Part 35 is still with the Commission. The AC advised that NRC staff is still awaiting Commission direction in response to COMJMB, “Proposed staff re-evaluation of category 3 source accountability.” However, it is expected in the near future.

There have been efforts to develop AAPM Liaisons to State regulators. If was suggested that if we have liaisons in a State, that liaison can inform GRAC about anything that occurs in the State, and if appropriate, we can take action. This will be discussed at the upcoming CRCPD meeting in 2018.

A briefing was offered to the Administrative Council on pending State exemptions for training and education requirements for use of superficial x-ray machines to treat skin lesions. Sensus, a manufacturer, petitioned Utah regulators for an exemption to training and experience requirements for users. That request for exemption is open for comment. On related notes, Pennsylvania requires a license for electronic brachytherapy to use the superficial x-ray machines. Two dermatologists got exemptions for use in Pennsylvania. Regulations will vary State-by-State. CRCPD has a workgroup working on a guidance document to assist State regulators. The AAPM has been monitoring these changes as well as activity. If similar discussions from State officials are observed in our region, please contact me to relay the information to the appropriate channels for oversight and communication to them.

Finally, the Professional Economics Committee (PEC) said AAPM submitted comment letters to CMS regarding their proposed rules. This comment letter was sent in collaboration with ACR, ASTRO, and ABS.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Gossman, M.S., DABR, FAAPM
Chapter Representative Board Member from ORVC

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Chief Medical Physicist & RSO
Tri-State Regional Cancer Center
706 23rd Street
Ashland, KY 41101
W: (606) 329-0060
F: (606) 325-9366
mgossman@tsrcc.com