Radiological and Medical Physics Society of New York

RAMPs 1948 – 2008

The earliest organization of medical physicists in the US

During the mid 1940's, physicists associated with medical institutions in the metropolitan New York City region commenced meetings to compare instrumentation and their measurements of the quantity of radioactivity in solutions in medical practice. This was necessary for uniformity, and also for accuracy since the national standard available appeared to be inconsistent. This was just prior to the availability of megavoltage x rays and electrons, and the primary concern of the physicists was associated with the uses of radioactive nuclides. The clinical uses of iodine-131 and other radionuclides (phosphorus-32, yttrium-90, etc.) were being actively explored and agreement on the amount of activity being administered was essential. Such measurements led to the “New York Millicurie,” which served a vital purpose.

By 1948 the meetings of these medical physicists were on a schedule basis with elected officers and records. Those initially active in RAMPs included Moses Berman, Hans Bauer, Carl Brustein, Giosacchino Failla, Sergei Ferbelberg, Elizabeth Pecht, Hiram Hart, Lilian Jacobson, Robert Leonard, Leo Martelini, Eleanor Delrey.

Failla Memorial Lecture 2008

Giacacchino Failla (1891-1961)

From left: Edith Quimby, Shirley Quimby, Emma Goodwin, Paul Goodwin, John Laughlin, Shirley Vickers, Barbara Heller, Mary Lou Meurk, John Laughlin

NY Academy of Sciences

For the same kVp and filament current, three phase operation of an x-ray tube produces greater __________ than for single phase operation:

a) x-ray quality
b) tube current
c) focal spot sizes
d) anode rotation speeds
e) 2,3,4         3. x-ray output

Questions from RAPHEX 1974 – Diagnostic:

1. subtraction of one image from another
2. tube current
3. dark adaptation is not necessary
4. image amplifiers work at low kVp
5. anode rotation speeds

Image intensifiers have replaced conventional fluorescent screens because:

a) 1,2,3
b) 2,3,4
c) 3,4,5

d) 1,2,3,4,5
e) 1,2,3,5

Questions from RAPHEX 1974 - Physical of Radiation Therapy:

In 1968, in order to assist the training of residents in the various radiophysics specialties, RAMPs appointed a committee to prepare an examination on radiophysics. This examination was administered on a voluntary basis to radiological residents in the city at a session held at the New York Academy of Medicine with the cooperation of the New York Roentgen Ray Society. The response was so enthusiastic that this examination has become an annual event. It is now being used throughout the United States through the courtesy of RAMPs and of the AAPM.

Teaching has always been an important activity of the medical physicist in his/her institution and the establishment of this examination procedure was a method of assisting the education of residents in the physical aspects of radiology.

"...it is our hope that this collection will help serve the needs of the many who are trying to understand the importance of our role as physicists and the many who are involved in the development of this field..."