

ACMP Annual Meeting
Virginia Beach, May 5th, 2009

Board Certification Program in Hong Kong

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Program Pre-history

- ◆ The Board certification program arose when the Hong Kong Association of Medical Physics (HKAMP) was preparing to initiate a Medical Physics Residency Program
- ◆ It was decided to make Parts I and II of the Board exams part of the residency program requirements

Board Development

- ◆ The scheme for certification of Medical Physicists was endorsed by the HKAMP in January 2005
- ◆ A one-time inaugural certification without examination was established
 - *47 HKAMP members met the stated requirements and were certified*

Requirements for Inaugural Board Certification

- ◆ Submit an application within a specified deadline
- ◆ Be practicing medical physicists in the specialties for which they are applying and have at least 10 years recognized full time equivalent working experience in medical or health physics
 - *and/or be already certified by the ABR or ABMP*

Documents Prepared

- ◆ Procedures & Requirements for Certification
- ◆ Syllabus
- ◆ Application Procedures & Requirements
- ◆ Exam System and Format
- ◆ Guidance Notes for Candidates
- ◆ Instructions for Candidates
- ◆ Instructions for Invigilators of Part I exam
- ◆ Notes for Examiners of Part II exam

Part I Exam

- ◆ The 1st Part I Exam was given in December 2005
- ◆ All questions had been vetted by an External Examiner (me, and in subsequent years Stu Bushong and Bruce Thomadsen) during preparation of the exam
- ◆ Three candidates took the exam: two passed and one failed

Exam Content

- ◆ The exam consisted of 80 multiple choice questions on
 - *Radiotherapy physics: 20*
 - *Imaging physics: 20*
 - *Engineering physics: 20*
 - *Radiation safety and protection: 20*
- ◆ The current exam consists of 100 questions

Subsequent Exams

- ◆ Further Part I Exams have been held July 2006, July 2007, February 2008, and January 2009
 - *the current pass rate is 71%*
- ◆ Part II exams have been held January 2007, January 2008, and February 2009 with Drs. Bushong, Thomadsen or me as External Examiners
 - *the current pass rate is 80%*

Further Requirements

- ◆ After at least two further years of supervised professional practice candidates
 - *submit a portfolio of their work for assessment and*
 - *appear before a Professional Assessment Panel in order to demonstrate that they have achieved the required level of knowledge and competence to practice*
- ◆ Only then are they granted certification

Continued Professional Development

- ◆ A continued professional development scheme is being devised to ensure continued competence of practitioners
 - *this will be similar to those of other professional institutions such as the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine*

Hong Kong physicists involved

- ◆ Dr. KY Cheung, President of HKAMP and initial Chairman of Examination Committee
- ◆ Ms. Joyce Leung, Vice President of HKAMP and Chairman of EC from 2008
- ◆ Dr. PM Wu, Secretary of HKAMP
- ◆ Mr. Ricky Chan, Secretary of EC & Chairman of Engineering Physics Sub-Com

Hong Kong physicists (cont'd.)

- ◆ Dr. KK Chan, Chairman of Radiotherapy Physics Sub-Com
- ◆ Dr. Ben Yu, Chairman of Imaging Physics Sub-Com
- ◆ Mr. Clement Cheng, Chairman of Health Physics Sub-Com