



THE AMERICAN BOARD OF MEDICAL PHYSICS

C/o Credentialing Services, Inc.
P.O. Box 1502, Galesburg, Illinois 61402-1502
Telephone: (309) 343-1202 Fax: (309) 344-1715

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**ABMP Announcement of ABR-ABMP Working Agreement
at AAPM Board of Directors Meeting**

July 26, 2001

The American Board of Medical Physics (ABMP) is pleased to announce that it has entered into a Working Agreement with the American Board of Radiology (ABR) effective July 9, 2001. This Agreement was approved unanimously by both the ABMP and ABR, and it creates an environment in which the two medical physics certification boards can work closely together for the benefit of medical physics. The ABMP believes this Agreement will unify the medical physics community and eliminate the confusion among entry-level medical physicists resulting from the two-board system. Furthermore, it will strengthen the certification process in traditional fields of medical physics by uniting the resources of both boards.

Under the terms of the agreement, the ABMP will continue to exist but will no longer offer to new candidates, certification examinations in the traditional fields of medical physics (namely radiation oncology physics and diagnostic imaging physics). The ABMP will focus its future certification efforts in the non-traditional fields of medical physics, currently MRI physics and medical health physics, and in the development of subspecialty certifications such as cardiovascular physics and neuro-irradiation physics. The ABMP will also retain its ability to rapidly expand into areas of new certification to meet changing needs in the medical physics environment.

Although the ABMP will no longer participate in certification in the traditional areas for new candidates, the two boards will participate jointly in the certification of medical physicists. The composition of the certification oversight committees will be equally divided among members appointed by each board. The ABMP will recommend three voting members to be appointed to the ABR Radiological Physics Examination Committee, and the ABR will recommend an equal number of voting members for appointment to an ABMP MRI Physics Committee.



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The Agreement allows candidates currently engaged in the ABMP certification examination process the option of completing their examination with the ABMP or the ABR. ABMP certified diplomates may apply for and receive an ABR letter of certification equivalence. This letter allows them the opportunity to become members of the American College of Radiology (ACR) and to be recognized as equivalent to the ABR diplomates in all guidelines, standards, regulations, and privileges of scientific, professional, and regulatory bodies. The ABR will issue full certification and listing in the American Board of Medical Specialties to any ABMP diplomate having an ABR letter of certificate equivalence and having satisfied all conditions of its future Maintenance of Certification program.

The ABMP invites and expects the American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM) to become a sponsoring organization. In the near future, the ABMP will modify its by-laws and develop future goals to meet its new strategic direction and role as established with this Agreement. At the AAPM Board of Directors meeting during the 2001 annual meeting of the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA), the ABMP will invite the AAPM to become a sponsoring organization and will request moderate funding assistance for its new mission.

The ABMP wishes to recognize the ABR physics trustees for their persistence and constructive demeanor throughout the negotiating process, which began at last year's AAPM annual meeting. We also thank the AAPM and its president, Charles Coffey, for hosting the meetings of the two Boards' representatives and for continued encouragement and support throughout the process.

This Agreement is an extraordinary event in the history of medical physics. It is the sincere hope of the ABMP that the spirit of cooperation and goodwill that prevailed during these negotiations will infuse the medical physics community so that we can all work together toward the advancement of our profession.