

The CHP Corner, December 2021

For CHPs, aspiring CHPs, and anyone else on the bell curve.



The American Academy of Health Physics

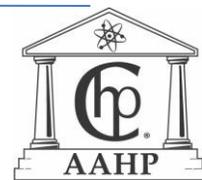
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DECEMBER PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Scott Schwahn, CHP, AAHP President

Dear fellow CHPs, I realize that my article in last month's CHP Corner started with thanks (as did my first letter as president way back in January), but I just can't help but continue to give thanks in this month's letter. Serving as president, I have had the opportunity to see all of the ins and outs of the organization, to include all of the good and all of the not-so-good (i.e., "needs improvement"). This year has seen some of the biggest changes in the Academy and the Board in a long time. While not all of the changes were smooth, and few were error-free, I am quite pleased with the direction that we are all heading.

I appreciate all of you who constructively reached out to me or to the Secretariat or to other leaders to point out where we have made mistakes or where we were in need of improvement. Being silent or complaining to others does nothing to help. Bringing a problem to our attention is a great second-place option to bringing a solution to our attention!

The following colleagues are finishing up their term of service at the end of this month, though many will continue service in other areas. If you can make the opportunity, please thank them!

Executive Committee

Wei-Hsung Wang, ABHP Chair

James "Jay" Tarzia, Past President

Pat LaFrate, Past Treasurer

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Jeff Vollmer

Appointees and Liaisons:

ABMP: Brian Methé

You can see the full list of those serving the Academy here: www.aahp-abhp.org/organization. Please consider offering them your thanks as well! I would also like to thank the folks at CMA for their efforts at working through a difficult first year of transition into being our Secretariat and all of the challenges that entailed. There is quite literally NO good time to jump into the annual cycle of our organization and expect it to go smoothly. I have full confidence that as we go through their second year that the lessons learned and improvements made in every aspect of Academy and Board operations will result in a very clear improvement from this year to next.

I wish all of you a joyful holiday season!

Scott

PART 2 PROFESSIONAL REPORT INFORMATION

Wei-Hsung Wang, CHP, ABHP Chair

Candidates applying for Part 2 of the ABHP exam are required to submit a [written report](#) demonstrating that they have produced *professional level* work in health physics. To meet this requirement, your report must address each of the following criteria:

- It must be a report on a health physics topic, such as those included in the CHP exam;
- The report must demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of health physics;
- The report also must demonstrate either:
 - Your ability to independently develop acceptable judgements in health physics and to apply appropriate decision making based on those judgements, or;
 - Your ability to independently develop an acceptable health physics program and to apply the appropriate knowledge and decision making to properly enact that program, or;
 - Your ability to design a health physics project and collect and analyze its relevant data (including appropriate statistical analyses) and determine if the project's goal or hypothesis is met;
- The report lastly must be performed and written solely or principally by you (the candidate).

In short, an acceptable professional report will be able to answer each of the following questions:

- What health physics related problem are you trying to solve?
- What health physics knowledge is required to solve it?
- What is the goal or hypothesis of this work?
- What information or data was collected to help solve that problem?
- Did you either:
 - Use that information to develop an appropriate set of actions to solve that problem?
 - Use that information to develop a new health physics program?
 - Perform a comprehensive study to collect those data, analyze those data, and develop conclusions based on those data?

-Are you the primary or sole author of this work in its entirety?

NOTE: if you are not the sole author of this work, then you will be required to obtain your coauthor's signatures that endorse your role as a primary author.

Given these conditions, here are examples of report topics that would not meet the ABHP requirement for professional level health physics work:

- A radiation survey, contamination, or radiological sample analysis record (it doesn't demonstrate your ability to analyze data and develop appropriate conclusions or actions based on that analysis);
- A radiation work permit created using a set of existing work instructions or template (it doesn't demonstrate your ability to develop appropriate health physics judgement and apply reasonable decisions based on that judgment);
- A license application or ALARA review designed based on a regulatory guide (it doesn't demonstrate your ability to develop a professional program in health physics and apply your health physics knowledge to enact that program);
- A radiation worker training program that restates definitions and basic safety requirements (it doesn't demonstrate in-depth knowledge of health physics);
- The creation of a database or program to record health physics related information (it doesn't demonstrate your ability to evaluate information and develop appropriate health physics actions);
- The creation of a program to calculate health physics related data (it doesn't demonstrate your ability to analyze the resulting data and develop appropriate conclusions based on that analysis);
- A thesis or dissertation that is a topic chosen by your advisor, is a continuation of your advisor's work, and the experiment methodology already is in place or is primarily based on pre-existing procedures (you are not the primary author of this work, *and* this work doesn't demonstrate your ability to design a health physics project).

If you have any questions on the validity of a report that you would like to submit, please contact the Executive Director at director@aahp-abhp.org.