Greetings from The Chair

To all our Alumni, Former Faculty and Staff, and Current Faculty and Staff:

On behalf of the entire department, I am pleased to provide you with the most recent edition of the Department of Medical Physics Newsletter. The past year has been a very busy one, with faculty and staff transitions and new hires, a new entering class of students, a new group of program graduates, and numerous research and educational program initiatives. This edition of the newsletter will highlight several of these significant events.

As always, we are eager to hear from our program graduates and former faculty and staff. Please send any informational updates and changes of address to JoAnn Kronberg at jmkroneberg@wisc.edu. For those who live outside of the Madison area, if your travels bring you to or near Madison, please let us know as we would be very pleased to schedule a visit to the department!

Please note that we have formally started a “History of the Department” initiative and plan to ultimately publish a book dedicated to the department, the people who made the department what it is, and the department’s many contributions to research, education, clinical practice, and society. Many emeritus and current faculty are involved in this exciting project. If anyone has photos, stories, or other documents you would like to provide, please contact JoAnn Kronberg by email at jmkroneberg@wisc.edu.

My sincere thanks to all active and past faculty, staff, students, post-doctoral fellows, and scientists who established, and maintain, the reputation of the Department of Medical Physics as a leader in innovative research, education, and service. It is truly an honor and a privilege to serve as chair of such a phenomenal department.

Sincerely, Ed Jackson
Welcome New Faculty

Kevin Johnson, PhD

Dr. Kevin Johnson was hired as Assistant Professor in the Department of Medical Physics (tenure home) in July 2016, and his efforts and funding are split 50/50 between Medical Physics and Radiology. He is a Badger through and through, as he completed his undergraduate degree in Biomedical Engineering as well as his Master’s and doctorate degrees at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Johnson joins the advanced magnetic resonance pulse sequence and image reconstruction operational area, where he will focus on development and applications. In the past several decades, major advances have been made in all of the commonly utilized medical imaging modalities such that imaging now plays an integral role in disease diagnosis, treatment planning, and therapy monitoring. With rapid advances in disease etiology, imaging must continue its evolution into a more quantitative, functional, and cellular tool. This is particularly true of MRI, which for all its potential, and despite tremendous hardware improvements, remains constrained by slow speed, low detection sensitivity, and imaging inaccuracies. Due to these factors, MRI is often not utilized for diseases in which it could provide superior diagnostic and prognostic information, and is rarely used for quantitative imaging. Dr. Johnson aims to enable the potential of MRI by accelerating acquisition speed, removing ambiguities and artifacts, and providing novel techniques for disease quantification. Through these advances, he will help develop a new era of quantitative and molecular imaging across a broad spectrum of diseases. Particular research interests include:

- MR pulse sequence development, non-Cartesian and non-Fourier imaging
- Signal encoding and decoding, sampling theory, recovery from incomplete samples
- Motion robust imaging, free breathing MRI, motion sensing
- Macro and micro vascular remodeling, perfusion, flow

Diego Hernando, PhD

Dr. Diego Hernando was hired as Assistant Professor in the Department of Radiology (tenure home) in July 2016, and his efforts and funding are split 50/50 between Medical Physics and Radiology. Dr. Hernando is originally from Valladolid (Spain), where he majored in Telecommunication Engineering. He continued his studies in the United States and earned his Master's degree in Computer Engineering at Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire. In 2010, he completed his doctorate degree in Electrical Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Hernando has joined the MRI operational area and will serve as the Director of Quantitative Body MR. Dr. Hernando’s research interests are focused on the development and validation of imaging techniques for rapid and quantitative MRI. He is particularly interested in contributing to transforming MRI into a truly quantitative imaging modality. By measuring physically meaningful properties of tissue, his research group aims to develop quantitative imaging biomarkers to improve the detection, staging and treatment monitoring of various diseases. Dr. Hernando will work closely with the UW Liver Imaging Research Program, in collaboration with Dr. Scott Reeder.

Jonathan Engle, PhD

Dr. Jonathan (Jon) Engle was hired as Assistant Professor in the Department of Medical Physics (tenure home) in November 2016, and his efforts and funding are split 80/20 between Medical Physics and Radiology. He leads the Cyclotron Research Group, which was established by Robert (Jerry) Nickles. Dr. Engle has Bachelor’s degrees in Religion and in Physics, a Masters in Science Education, and obtained his PhD from the University of Wisconsin’s Department of Medical Physics. In 2011, he moved to Los Alamos National Laboratory as a postdoctoral researcher in the Chemistry Division with the Department of Energy, Office of Science's National Isotope Program. One year later, he was awarded the Frederick Reines Postdoctoral Fellowship in experimental sciences at LANL, which he held for two years before accepting an appointment as a Scientist in Chemistry Division. In 2016, he returned to the University of Wisconsin.

Dr. Engle’s research interests are in the production and application of novel radionuclides for medical research and basic science investigations. In particular, his laboratory is focused on the novel diagnostics Mn-51 for assessments of functional beta cell mass in the pancreas and the investigation of Auger-, Koster-Cronig-, and conversion-electron emitting radionuclides as labels in targeted radiotherapeutic treatment of disease.
Primary PI Research Grants Awarded via Department of Medical Physics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principal Investigator</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Speidel, Michael</td>
<td>National Institutes of Health</td>
<td>Dual-Energy Subtraction Angiography for Transcatheter Interventions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bednarz, Bryan P.</td>
<td>Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation</td>
<td>A Concurrent Monte Carlo Dose Calculation and Fluence Optimization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emborg, Marina E.</td>
<td>Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation</td>
<td>Biomarkers of Cardiac Sympathetic Neurodegeneration and Neuroprotection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chen, Guang-Hong &amp; Strother, Charles M.</td>
<td>Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation</td>
<td>One Stop Shop Imaging for Acute Ischemic Stroke Treatment (U01 renewal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wakai, Ronald T.</td>
<td>National Institutes of Health</td>
<td>Optimized Measurement and Signal Processing of Fetal MCG (A year-19 competitive renewal!)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bednarz, Bryan</td>
<td>Virtual Phantom, Inc</td>
<td>ARCHER - An Extremely Fast Medical Radiation Dose Computing Software</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hall, Timothy J.</td>
<td>Mayo Clinic</td>
<td>Multi-parameter Nonlinear Elasticity Mapping of Breast Masses (NIH Subcontract Renewal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chen, Guang Hong</td>
<td>General Electric Healthcare</td>
<td>UW-GE Comprehensive Advanced CT Engineering Research Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engle, Jonathan W.</td>
<td>Department of Energy Early Career Award</td>
<td>Nuclear Data for Spallation Neutron Radioisotope Production</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ellison, Paul A.</td>
<td>Department of Energy</td>
<td>Production of Radiohalogens: Bromine and Astatine for Imaging and Therapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson, Edward F.</td>
<td>NIBIB/ Radiological Society of North America</td>
<td>Quantitative Imaging Biomarkers Alliance (QIBA®)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Faculty Promotions

**Bryan P. Bednarz, PhD**

Promotion to Associate Professor with Tenure in the Department of Medical Physics. Effective date of promotion, July 1, 2016.

**Bradley T. Christian, PhD**

Promotion to Professor with Tenure in the Departments of Medical Physics and Psychiatry. Effective date of promotion, July 1, 2017.
Partial Listing of Faculty and Student Awards and Honors
July 2016- August 2017

2017

August
• Andrew Santoso and Catherine Steffel received travel grants to IEEE International Ultrasonics Symposium
• Catherine Steffel and Amy Weisman were awarded WISELI Celebrating Women in Science and Engineering Grant
• Jordan Slagowski won 3rd place in the John R. Cameron Young Investigator Symposium Award
• David Adam and Andrew Shepard received 8th annual Standard Imaging Travel Awards

July
• Medical Physics alumnae Cynthia McCollough and Susan Richardson elected to AAPM leadership positions
• Dr. Charles Mistretta received the ICRU Gray Medal
• Dr. Weibo Cai named to UW-Madison Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professorship

June
• Christie Lin and IGT group received Alavi-Mandell publication award at SNMMI 2017
• Dr. Weibo Cai’s group receives numerous recognitions at the 2017 SNMMI Annual Meeting in Denver
• Dr. Bruce Thomadsen and co-editors published a new book “Clinical Brachytherapy Physics” (Med Phys Publishing)
• Graduate students Fang Liu, Jacob MacDonald, David Mummy, Leonardo Rivera, and Ben Cox receive Summa Cum Laude and Magna Cum Laude Awards at 2017 ISMRM
• Jose Guerrero Gonzalez awarded National Science Foundation (NSF) graduate research fellowship

May
• Christina Brunnquell, Ph.D., selected for AAPM Science Council Associates Mentorship Program

April
• Four of Dr. Weibo Cai’s group members won travel awards to the 2017 SNMMI Annual Meeting
• Jon Hansen won first prize at the 2017 NCC-AAPM Spring Meeting Young Investigator Symposium

February
• Calibration Lab students Manik Aima and Sameer Taneja won CIRMS Annual Meeting Travel Awards

2016

December
• Dr. Weibo Cai’s group members Emily Ehlerding, Christopher England, Dawei Jiang, and Shreya Goal received RSNA Travel Awards

November
• Calibration Lab students Natalie Viscariello and Jessica Fagerstrom received AAPM Expanding Horizons Travel Awards
• Dr. Guang-Hong Chen’s CT group members John Garrett, Xu Ji, and Yinseng Li received RSNA Travel Awards and Xu Ji and Yinsheng Li also received AAPM Expanding Horizons Travel Award

October
• Dr. Weibo Cai delivered plenary lecture at EANM Annual Congress
• Lindsey Drehtfal won Best Student Presentation at ITEC
• Michael Kissick published a new book on radiation physics

September
• Daniel Gomez-Cardona received 2016 RSNA Trainee Research Prize

August
• Matthew Scarpelli, Brandon Walker received John R. Cameron Young Investigator Symposium Awards

July
• Drs. Thomadsen and Smilowitz elected to AAPM leadership positions
• Dr. Cai’s group received multiple awards at 2016 SNMMI meeting
• Leonard Che Fru and Brandon Walker received AAPM Standard Imaging Travel Awards
Medical Physics 2017 Incoming Students
# Congrats to our Medical Physics Program Graduates

*(May 2016 through August 2017)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title/Role</th>
<th>Institution/Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 2016</td>
<td>Abigail E. Besemer, PhD</td>
<td>Human Oncology Resident/Research Intern</td>
<td>University of Wisconsin-Madison Madison, WI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2016</td>
<td>Christina (Lewis) Brunquell, PhD</td>
<td>Medical Physics Resident</td>
<td>University of Wisconsin-Madison Madison, WI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2016</td>
<td>Larry Hernandez, PhD</td>
<td>Currently pursuing employment as a Medical Physicist</td>
<td>San Diego, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2016</td>
<td>Reiner Hernandez, PhD</td>
<td>Radiology Research Associate</td>
<td>University of Wisconsin-Madison Madison, WI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2016</td>
<td>Alfonso Rodriguez Jr., PhD</td>
<td>Medical Physics Resident</td>
<td>University of Texas, Southwestern Dallas, TX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2016</td>
<td>Madhav Venkateswaran, PhD</td>
<td>RF &amp; Mixed Signal Design for Medical Imaging</td>
<td>GE Healthcare Madison, WI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2016</td>
<td>Svyatoslav Vergun, PhD</td>
<td>Data Scientist</td>
<td>Green Key Technologies Chicago, IL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2016</td>
<td>Lianggong (Bruce) Wen, PhD</td>
<td>Electro-Optical Scientist-Metrology</td>
<td>Corning Corporation Painted Post, NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2016</td>
<td>Connor Brennan, MS</td>
<td>Independent Singer/Songwriter/Performer</td>
<td>Producer at Connor Brennan Music Madison, WI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2016</td>
<td>Margo Batie, MS</td>
<td>Nuclear Engineering Graduate Research Assistant</td>
<td>University of California Berkeley Berkeley, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 2016</td>
<td>Camille Garcia Ramos, PhD</td>
<td>Medical Physics Postdoctoral Fellow</td>
<td>University of Wisconsin-Madison Madison, WI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 2016</td>
<td>Stephanie A. Harmon, PhD</td>
<td>Scientist</td>
<td>Leidos Biomedical Research Rockville, MD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2017</td>
<td>Kirby R. Campbell, PhD</td>
<td>Biomedical Engineering Research Associate</td>
<td>UW-College of Engineering Madison, WI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2017</td>
<td>Maria Daniela Cornejo Ramirez, PhD</td>
<td>Post-Doctoral Researcher</td>
<td>University of California - San Diego La Jolla, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2017</td>
<td>Jessica M Fagerstrom, PhD</td>
<td>Medical Physicist</td>
<td>Northwest Med Physics Center Lynnwood, WA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2017</td>
<td>Stephen Graves, PhD</td>
<td>Medical Physics Resident</td>
<td>University of Iowa Iowa City, IA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2016</td>
<td>Michael Lawless, PhD</td>
<td>Human Oncology Assistant Professor (CHS)</td>
<td>University of Wisconsin-Madison Madison, WI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2016</td>
<td>Megan A. (Wood) Hyun, PhD</td>
<td>Radiation Oncology Assistant Professor</td>
<td>U of Nebraska Medical Center Omaha, NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2017</td>
<td>Ricardo Pizarro, PhD</td>
<td>Postdoctoral Fellow</td>
<td>Montreal Neurological Institute Montreal QC CANADA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2016</td>
<td>Gary Stange, PhD</td>
<td>Fellow in the NNSA Graduate Fellowship Program</td>
<td>Pacific Northwest National Laboratory Richland, Washington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2017</td>
<td>Samantha J. Simiele, PhD</td>
<td>Radiation Oncology Resident</td>
<td>University of Michigan Ann Arbor, MI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2017</td>
<td>Kayvan Samimi, PhD</td>
<td>MIR Postdoctoral Fellow</td>
<td>Morgridge Institute for Research Madison, WI</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Congrats to our Medical Physics Program Graduates

*(May 2016 through August 2017)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Institution/University</th>
<th>City/Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 2017</td>
<td>Hector Valvovinos, PhD</td>
<td>Medical Physicist</td>
<td>National Institute of Cancer Nuclear Medicine</td>
<td>Mexico City, MEXICO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2017</td>
<td>Brandon Walker, PhD</td>
<td>Post-Doctoral Researcher</td>
<td>Morgridge Medical Engineering Institute for Research</td>
<td>Madison, WI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2017</td>
<td>David D. Campos, PhD</td>
<td>Radiation Oncology Resident</td>
<td>UC Davis Cancer Center</td>
<td>Sacramento, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2017</td>
<td>Haidy Nasief, PhD</td>
<td>Instructor</td>
<td>University of Wisconsin-Madison</td>
<td>Madison, WI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2017</td>
<td>David Dunkerley, PhD</td>
<td>Human Oncology Resident/Research Intern</td>
<td>University of Wisconsin-Madison</td>
<td>Madison, WI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2017</td>
<td>John W. Garrett, PhD</td>
<td>Medical Physics Assistant Scientist</td>
<td>University of Wisconsin-Madison</td>
<td>Madison, WI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2017</td>
<td>Everardo Flores-Martinez, PhD</td>
<td>Medical Physics Resident</td>
<td>UC San Diego</td>
<td>San Diego, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2017</td>
<td>Yongshuai Ge, PhD</td>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
<td>Shenzhen Institutes of Advanced Technology, Chinese Academy of Sciences</td>
<td>Shenzhen, CHINA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2017</td>
<td>Deb Horng, PhD</td>
<td>MRI Research Scientist</td>
<td>Cambridge, MA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2017</td>
<td>Miles Olsen, PhD</td>
<td>Currently pursing employment in the</td>
<td>Field of Medical Imaging</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2017</td>
<td>Courtney Morrison, PhD</td>
<td>Radiology Resident</td>
<td>Henry Ford Health Systems</td>
<td>Detroit, MI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2017</td>
<td>Patrick Lao, PhD</td>
<td>Currently pursuing post-doctoral</td>
<td>Training in utilizing PET imaging for</td>
<td>Drug development in Alzheimer’s Disease treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2017</td>
<td>Jordan Slagowksi, PhD</td>
<td>Radiation Oncology Resident</td>
<td>MD Anderson Cancer Center</td>
<td>Houston, TX</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We are very pleased to announce that the UW School of Medicine and Public Health Imaging Physics Residency Program in the Department of Medical Physics was accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Medical Physics Education Programs, Inc. (CAMPEP) in 2017. The successful initial accreditation was the result of the dedicated efforts of many individuals, especially Frank Ranallo, PhD (Program Director) and John Vetter, PhD (Program Deputy Director). Our thanks also to Jim Zagzebski, PhD, and others on the Steering Committee who spent many hours preparing and refining the program self-study and participating in the site visit. A big thank you as well to the first two residents in this newly accredited program, Christina Brunnquell, PhD, and Zhimin Li, PhD, who were not only a key part of the CAMPEP site visit, but who have provided active feedback that has been, and will continue to be, used to further refine and improve the program. The financial support for one of the two residency positions is provided through the efforts of the Department of Radiology, and this support is gratefully acknowledged.

Medical Physics Graduate Program Reaccreditation

In addition to the initial accreditation of the Imaging Physics Graduate Program, 2017 also marked a reaccreditation event for our Medical Physics Graduate Program. Having two site visits in less than six months, one for the graduate program and one for the residency program, required substantial effort on the part of many individuals and we sincerely thank all involved.

The UW-Madison Medical Physics Graduate Program continues to be the largest such accredited program in North America (and beyond).
Department Picnic 2017

Ever wonder what you could do with 100 brats, 80 burgers, 30 hot dogs, and a lot of corn on the cob? If you’re the Department of Medical Physics, you have a picnic! On the evening of Thursday, September 7, 2017, despite chilly weather and the forecast of rain, approximately 140 Medical Physics faculty, students, staff and family members (and a few puppies!) gathered for an evening of food, fellowship, and fun. In addition to this impressive turnout, many folks volunteered to set up, bring delicious side dishes and sweet treats, and help with the inevitable clean up. All the while, our very own Grill Masters (Lianna DiMaso, Ian Marsh, Natalie Vicariello, and Gengyan Zhao) manned the grills, and Rasmus Birn kept the hot corn on cob coming to the buffet table. All this help made the event a great success!

For more than 20 years, our department has been hosting the annual picnic, which usually takes place shortly after the beginning of the Fall Semester. This event is a fantastic opportunity for the incoming class to mingle with current students, staff and faculty in a relaxed social environment. Due to construction being done at our usual haunt, the Vilas Park Zoo Shelter, this year we gathered at a new location, the Rennebohm Park Pavilion, which featured plenty of tables for our large group, lots of cover from any potentially unfriendly weather, a basketball court and a nearby play structure for the children. This year was a transition year for us as Deb Torgerson passed the picnic torch to Lydia Ruch-Doll and Mary Paskey. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Deb for her years of hard work on this beloved Medical Physics tradition.

Thanks to everyone who participated in this year’s event! We hope to see you again in 2018!

Left to Right
David Mummy, Kai Ludwig, Blake Benyard, Sameer Taneja, Leonard Che Fru, Manik Aima, Oliver Wieben, and Carson Hoffman

List of Trainees Supported by the T32 Over the Past Year
Graduate Program, Radiological Sciences Training Grant

Principal Investigator: Timothy J. Hall, PhD

❖ The students supported by the training grant are required to give a 12-minute presentation (informational public level), with a 3-minutes between each talk for questions and transition to the next speaker.

Postdocs
1. C: Timothy Colgan / Advisor: Scott B. Reeder, MD, PhD
2. C: Camille Garcia-Ramos / Advisor: M.E. Meyerand, PhD
3. C: Annelise Malkus / Advisor: Sean B. Fain, PhD
4. P: Christopher England / Advisor: Weibo Cai, PhD
5. P: Leah Henze-Bancroft / Advisors: Roberta M. Strigel, MD, MS, and Walter F. Block, PhD

Predocs
1. C: Tobey Betthauser / Advisor: Brad T. Christian, PhD
2. C: Emily Ehlerding / Advisor: Weibo Cai, PhD
3. C: Quinton Guerrero / Advisor: Timothy J. Hall, PhD
4. C: Carson Hoffman / Advisor: Oliver Wieben, PhD
5. C: Sabrina Hoffman / Advisor: Bruce R. Thomadsen, PhD
6. C: Kai Ludwig / Advisor: Sean B. Fain, PhD
7. C: Andrew Santos / Advisor: Timothy J. Hall, PhD
8. C: Andrew Shepard / Advisor: Bryan P. Bednarz, PhD
9. P: Kirby Campbell / Advisor: Paul J. Campagnola, PhD
11. P: Stephanie Harmon / Advisor: Robert Jeraj, PhD
12. P: Michael Pinkert / Advisor: Walter F. Block, PhD and Kevin Elicieri, PhD
13. P: Kayvan Samimi / Advisor: Tomy Varghese, PhD
14. P: Samantha Simiele / Advisor: Larry A. DeWerd, PhD

(C: Current; P: Past)
**BOWLING 2016**

A huge thanks to all who bowled at the Medical Physics Bowl-O-Rama on November 20th, 2016 at Schwoegler’s Park Towne Lanes! The winners of the event, with an amazing performance, called themselves “The Resonators” and the team included Howard Rowley (vocals), Tom Gist (lead guitar), Pat Turski (bass) and Scott Reeder (drums)! There were other winners of the evening, Brandon Walker for highest single game score, Lyddie Ruch-Doll for lowest standard deviation of the three games, Howard Rowley for closest total score to the rest mass of the electron in keV, and Katie Banowetz for closest single game score to the k-edge of lead in keV and for the total score closest to the speed of light in km/ms.

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**Golf Outing 2017**

The 23rd annual UW Medical Physics golf scramble was a complete success. Thanks to all 44 participants who came out to play a round of 18-hole golf at University Ridge Golf Course on August 24th! This year’s competition was a close one, but congratulations to the winners who will have their names immortalized on the plaque outside of the Medical Physics offices: EJ Borman, Chris Guglielmo, John Khalil and Tyler Prout! We would also like to thank our amazing sponsors, including Standard Imaging, Landauer Medical Physics, UW Radiology, and also Gary Frank for his generous donation. We hope to see you in August 2018!
2017 Annual Alumni Reception

The 2017 Alumni Reception was held in Denver, Colorado on Monday, July 31, 2017, in conjunction with the 59th AAPM annual meeting. The event was held at Stout Street Social and was very well attended.

We would like to acknowledge and thank our 2017 sponsors:

- GAMMEX, A Sun Nuclear Company
- Midwest Medical Physics, LLC
- Radiological Imaging Technology
- Standard Imaging, Inc.
- Theragenics Corporation
- UW Calibration Laboratory

John R. Cameron Symposium 2017

Dr. Maryellen Giger
A.N. Pritzker Professor of Radiology - University of Chicago

We were very pleased to have Dr. Maryellen Giger present the 2017 John R. Cameron Symposium Lecture. Her presentation, titled Radiomics and Deep Learning in Medical Imaging for Precision Medicine, addressed many important issues for the future of medical physics and its roles in the era of Precision Medicine.

Women in Medical Physics Initiative 2017

As part of a larger student initiative on diversity, inclusion, and community engagement in the Department of Medical Physics, graduate students Catherine Steffel and Amy Weisman were awarded a grant through the Women in Science & Engineering Leadership Institute (WISELI) Celebrating Women in Science & Engineering Grant Program. The goal of Ms. Steffel’s and Ms. Weisman’s grant program is to facilitate participation and increased awareness of women in Medical Physics fields. Students, faculty, and staff will have opportunities to network and engage with enthusiastic female Medical Physicists in industry, clinical, and academic roles throughout the 2017-18 academic year.
Thank You, John Vetter!

John has a long-standing history with the Department of Medical Physics. He attended undergraduate and graduate school at University of Wisconsin-Madison and joined the department as a Researcher in 1992 before he became a faculty member. He quickly showed his expertise in managing the radiological physics quality assurance efforts and became the Director of Radiological Physics Services. When the Department Administrator at that time was recruited away, John was presented with the opportunity to serve as both a medical physics faculty member and department administrator, and he said YES! As they say, the rest is history. John managed the department budget, served as effort coordinator and credit card site manager, supervised the administrative team, and provided backup services for pre- and post-award grant management, all while maintaining his faculty responsibilities. During his tenure as Department Administrator, he was a key part of remarkable progress in the department, including increasing faculty size, expanding the graduate student program, planning new facilities, and moving the department from MSC to WIMR.

We are excited to have John remain in the department as a CHS faculty member and serving as Director of Radiological Physics Services (RPS), which provides medical physics services for the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics, UW Medical Foundation clinics, and other Madison area hospitals and clinics. As RPS Director, he manages four medical physics faculty and two imaging physics residents. In addition, he performs quality assurance testing on approximately 120 radiographic and fluoroscopic imaging systems, 25 mammography units, 6 nuclear medicine imagers, and 2 CT scanners. He designs and tests radiation shielding for x-ray and nuclear imaging facilities, performs patient dose calculations, and advises clinical staff on health effects of radiation exposure. John also teaches the CT portion of the Medical Physics 665 Rad Lab: CT, DSA and MRI Physics, and the mammography portion of Medical Physics 662 Rad Lab on Diagnostic Imaging Physics. In addition, he provides approximately 20 lectures for the course “Physics for Radiology Residents”. Finally, John serves as the Deputy Director of the recently CAMPEP-accredited Imaging Physics Residency Program.

John’s skill and expert knowledge has left a deep and important imprint on the department, and his countless hours and tireless efforts over the years have not gone unnoticed. Thank you to John for his years of service as Medical Physics Department Administrator. We look forward to his continued contributions towards the success of the department.

Left to Right: Frank Ranallo and John Vetter
New Administrative Core

In addition to faculty hires, the Department of Medical Physics recently hired a full-time Department Administrator, Amy Martens, MBA, in Spring 2017. Amy most recently served as the Department of Emergency Medicine Administrator for the past seven years where she was responsible for a $15+ million annual budget. Beyond her background in human resources, management, and health care, Amy previously served as Research Administrator for The Center for Health Enhancement Systems Studies (CHESS) as well as Grants & Contracts Specialist at Research and Sponsored Programs.

In addition to a full-time administrator, the Medical Physics administrative infrastructure has recently grown to include both a full-time Financial Specialist Senior, Kymmy Lomax, and a full-time Human Resources Business Partner, Kayla Gomez-Cardona. These hires are a joint partnership with the School of Medicine & Public Health Dean’s Office through a shared services model. Moreover, Charles Reinke, the department’s web developer has increased his FTE from 0.6 to 0.8 effective July 2017.

Given the opportunity to set the course for the next year, the administrative team developed the following mission statement:

Our mission is to support the Department of Medical Physics by consistently exceeding the expectations of our faculty, learners, and staff through excellence in administrative support and talent.

We strive to accomplish this by:

1. Building a collaborative environment where each person is valued and has an opportunity for personal and professional growth
2. Encouraging cooperation and collaboration among administration, faculty, and others to streamline processes and improve productivity
3. Striving to advance and empower faculty, learners, and each other
4. Strengthening relationships within our department, school, University, and surrounding community
Philanthropy and Support

As clearly demonstrated by the brief summaries of activities in this newsletter, the Department of Medical Physics continues to be a clear leader in medical physics education, training, and research. The faculty continue to be leaders in the fields of radiation metrology, radiation therapy, imaging (CT, MR, ultrasound, PET), and biomagnetism. The graduate program is the largest in North America and the students who matriculate each year are consistently among the best applicants to North American programs. The medical physics residency program in Radiation Therapy Physics is CAMPEP-accredited and the Imaging Physics Residency Program was accredited by CAMPEP in April 2017. Graduates of our graduate, post-doctoral, and residency programs have gone on to highly successful careers in academia, industry, hospitals and clinics, consulting groups, entrepreneurships, etc. We seek to continue to provide this level of UW-Madison leadership into the future, in spite of particularly competitive and limited funding availability for research grants and decreasing budgets from the state. To accomplish this goal, the extensive network of UW-Madison Medical Physics Alumni can help through tax-deductible donations, of any amount, to the John R. Cameron Memorial Fund, the Herb Attix Fund, or the Medical Physics Fund.

Contributions to the John R. Cameron Memorial Fund are used solely in support of research and education missions of the Department of Medical Physics. Contributions to the Herb Attix Fund are used to support graduate students selected by the faculty as Herb Attix Fellows. Contributions to the Medical Physics Fund are used for general support of the department’s education and research missions, and is the most general fund option. Please consider making a donation today! Any level of support will be greatly appreciated by the department’s faculty, staff, students, and residents.

To contribute, please go to http://www.medphysics.wisc.edu/aboutus/donation/ and select the fund or funds to which you wish to make a donation. Again, all donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

John R. Cameron, PhD

F. Herb Attix, PhD