



American Association of Physicists in Medicine South West Chapter

Arkansas – Louisiana – Oklahoma – Texas



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Steven McCullough, PhD
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December 9, 2014

Dear colleagues,

As this calendar year comes to an end, so does my tenure as the president of our chapter. It has been an honor to serve you in that capacity and I will continue to assist in 2015 through my role as past-president. Dr Kudchadker will be assuming the reins of the chapter in January 2015.

This year was no exception and we had a very successful annual meeting in San Antonio with outstanding talks from our invited speakers and the young investigators. Thanks to the generous support from the vendors we were able to present several awards, and we hosted a very informative exhibit session and a dosimetry symposium.

My sincere thanks and appreciation to the officers of the board: Kyle Jones, Russ Tarver, Rajat Kudchadker, Dustin Gress, and Steven McCullough for their valuable assistance with the general meeting logistics, and to my colleagues at CTRC - Alonso Gutierrez, Sotirios Stathakis and Taki Mavroidis - for their help with the local arrangements and the meeting agenda. Special thanks to the residents and graduate students of our program for volunteering their time to assist with the registration booth and the meeting on-site logistics.

This year will also be remembered by the challenge we had to face when the Texas Sunset Commission recommended initially to remove the licensure requirement for medical physicists. Dr John Hazle and I testified in the spring at an open hearing that was held by the commission, and explained the reasons that licensure should be preserved. In addition, with the help of AAPM HQ and most notably Debbie Gilley and Lynn Fairbent, as well as several of our colleagues in Texas, we were able to visit the legislators' offices in Austin during the AAPM annual meeting and to lobby for the preservation of licensure. Our efforts were successful and the revised recommendation of the committee is now to maintain the licensure and to form an advisory committee under the Texas Medical Board (TMB). The SWAAPM leadership has been working closely with the Texas Radiological Society (TRS) under the leadership of Drs Childs and Hatab, and has found a strong ally in our efforts to not only preserve the licensure in Texas but to also preserve the board structure that will now be part of the TMB. Mike Grimes is the TRS lobbyist that is currently working on our behalf towards the goal of establishing an advisory board (instead of an advisory committee) under the TMB, thus preserving our current governing structure which was for years hosted under the Department of State Health Services

(DSHS).

As we wait to hear more about the outcome of those efforts, please consider joining your American College of Radiology State chapter and learn about the benefits, both professional and educational, that you receive from such membership. TRS <http://www.txrad.org/> has been a great supporter of our licensure efforts, and I encourage all our Texas colleagues not only to become members of TRS but to also attend the 102nd annual meeting in Austin in March 2015.

In closing, please consider volunteering for one of the many committees we have established to promote educational and professional activities for our chapter members (go to <http://www.swaapm.org/> for additional information). Please encourage your colleagues that are not yet members of the chapter to join us, simply by selecting the SWAAPM chapter option when they renew their AAPM membership. We look forward to seeing all of you at our annual meeting on April 23-25 2015 at the San Luis Resort Spa and Conference Center in Galveston, Texas.

I wish for you all to have a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Niko Papanikolaou', with a stylized, cursive script.

Niko Papanikolaou
SWAAPM President