



## 2021 BWCHPS Annual Meeting Summary



On 7 May 2021, the Baltimore-Washington Chapter of the Health Physics Society (BWCHPS) held its 2021 Annual Meeting, virtually. Turnout was excellent with 70 participants attending. We want to thank all the participants for supporting the meeting.

The Meeting consisted of two parts, a Business Meeting and a Technical Program.

### *Business Meeting*

The Business Meeting summarized the activities of the Chapter for the last fiscal year, from 1 June 2020 to 31 May 2021. A copy of the Business Meeting presentation can be found at <https://bwchps.org> under Events/Past Events.

Despite the pandemic the Chapter accomplished a number of notable actions. For the last year the technical program has had a full slate of monthly presentations with national and international speakers, including those from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR), Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA), Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA), Health Physics Society (HPS) and the BWCHPS and ANS-DC Section. All the presentations have been posted on <https://BWCHPS.org> under Events/Past Events.

Additionally, recommendations related to improvements in Chapter operations were made to and accepted by the Executive Committee during the chapter fiscal year –

1. Ryan Tan (NNSA Graduate Fellow) was appointed to the new position of Faculty -Student Liaison. This position is responsible for providing a touchpoint for students and faculty to contact/coordinate with for membership, ideas for student papers at meetings, and working with the Membership Chair to represent the student/faculty community.
2. David Stuenkel and Holly Arrigoni revamped the newsletter design and content.
3. The Executive Committee agreed to provide our Affiliates with more value for their membership fee. An affiliate will receive one free half-page ad in a newsletter edition, per year.
4. In response to the impact of the global pandemic brought about by SARS-COV-2, the Executive Committee established a new fee structure, for the upcoming year, beginning 1-June 2021:
  - a. To encourage young members and students to join BWCHPS, an introductory membership will be offered at a rate of \$5.00 for the first year and revert to the student membership fee thereafter. Student members and early-career members will be encouraged to present their research work at the annual meeting, first Friday in May.
  - b. For current (Plenary) members in good “dues” standing, their renewal membership rate for the next year of their period of renewal is \$5.00 and then revert to the regular membership fee thereafter.
  - c. For previous (Student or Plenary) members, whose membership has lapsed, their renewal rate, for one year, will also be \$5.00 and revert to the regular membership fee thereafter.

- d. For Affiliate Members in good standing, their next renewal period rate for the year will be one-half of the nominal rate of \$250.00, that is, \$125.00. To encourage new affiliates to participate in BWCHPS, an introductory offer will be extended with a one-year rate of \$125.00 and revert to the regular affiliates fee thereafter. A concerted effort will be made to encourage affiliates to publish a single, half-page advertisement in the monthly newsletter, each, once per year.
5. David Borrego and Matt Mille lead and completed the effort to transition the move from our previous Wildapricot website to a new BWCHPS.org.
6. Jeff Chapman, President, stood up a Task Group on Adapting Scientific Conferences to the Realities Imposed by COVID-19. This Task Group recommended a series of actions, which could be taken to improve the Chapter's activities. Among those actions for consideration are --
  - a. Pursue the use of a hybrid format for future meetings,
  - b. Establish a BWCHPS Memorial Award Advisory Committee,
  - c. Use Meeting Polls to engage on-line participants,
  - d. Expand website to support member recognition,
  - e. List former BWCHPS officers on website,
  - f. Link HPS link to Health Physics Degree Programs on website,
  - g. Facilitate networking of members and affiliates,
  - h. Expand Social Media platforms.

The next President, Mike Wangler, will pursue implementation of these recommendations. In addition, he will conduct a survey of the membership to get a better assessment of member desires for chapter engagement.

This past year the Chapter held its election for new Officers. The elected individuals are Korressa Williams-Lee, President-Elect, Jonathan Gill, Secretary and Mike Stewart, Affiliates Director. The Executive Committee for 2021-2022 are the following:

- President: Michael Wangler
- President- Elect: Korressa Williams-Lee
- Past President: Jeffrey Chapman
- Treasurer: William Blakely
- Secretary: Jonathan Gill
- Affiliates Director: Mike Stewart
- Membership Director: Gary Chen

Committee and Other Assignments for 2021-2022 are the following:

- Webmasters: David Borrego and Matthew Mille
- Nominations and Awards: TBD
- Newsletter Editor: David Stuenkel
- Historian: Ed Tupin
- Education and Training: TBD
- First Responder Assistance Training Program Director: Katharine McLellan
- Student-Faculty Liaison: Ray Tan

Finally, it is anticipated that until the local restaurants are opened to large groups, all our upcoming meetings will be held virtually. As such establishments begin to open, we will determine if a hybrid approach is appropriate and how it will be implemented.

#### *Technical Program*

In addition to the Business Meeting, the Annual Meeting had a four-hour Technical Program on a wide range of health physics issues. There were eight speakers who spoke on the following topics:

1. Future Energy Systems,
2. Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board,
3. Eye Dose Dosimetry,
4. First Responder Training,
5. Early-Response Multiple-Parameter Biodosimetry,
6. IAEA Model Validation,
7. Soil Screening Level Guidance and
8. Lack of Validity of LNT for Cancer Risk

All the presentations for these topics have been posted on <https://BWCHPS.org> under Events/Past Events.

#### *In Memoriam*

Finally and sadly, four of our members passed away since our last annual meeting, Neil Barss, Alan Brodsky, Jim Cassata, Ray Johnson and Bernard Schleien. All were long-time members of the Chapter and actively participated in Chapter activities. They will be missed.