

## ALUMNI NEWS

## WSU BOARD OF GOVERNORS APPROVES CREATION OF PROFESSIONAL DOCTORATE PROGRAM

The Wayne State University Board of Governors has approved the establishment of a Professional Doctorate in Medical Physics (DMP) effective for the Fall 2016 term. The proposal was submitted to the university last fall and approved by Board of Governors in April of this year. We anticipate submitting our proposal for CAMPEP accreditation for this program as soon as we admit our first student.



The shortage of accredited clinical residency programs in Medical Physics is well documented. The creation of the DMP Program in Medical Physics is one potential solution to this shortage. Three DMP programs are already accredited by CAMPEP and several more are in the process of creation, implementation, or accreditation. We anticipate that this program will not only fulfill an important clinical need, but will also keep the WSU graduate program competitive for the top prospective students.

The DMP consists of 90 credits and includes all required MS courses, 12 credits of directed research, 14 additional didactic credits, and 30 clinical credits representing 2 years of clinical training which are identical to our accredited residency program. Additional information about the program is now on the program website.

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### SUMMER 2016

The Wayne State School of Medicine Medical Physics Alumni Newsletter is a publication designed to keep our alumni up to date with program news and developments. In order to continue receiving this publication, please notify us of email changes by contacting Mandy Bullock @ [abulloc@med.wayne.edu](mailto:abulloc@med.wayne.edu).

## ANNUAL AAPM ALUMNI GATHERING

The annual meeting of the American Association of Physicist in Medicine runs from July 31st to August 4th, 2016. The Wayne State University Medical Physics Graduate Program annual alumni gathering will take place immediately following the awards ceremony (around 8pm) on Monday, August 1st, 2016. We will gather at RFD

Washington, which is a short walk from the Washington Convention Center. Please feel free to visit the [restaurant website at www.lovethebeer.com/rfd.html](http://www.lovethebeer.com/rfd.html). We welcome you to join us to catch up with old friends and meet new ones. You can look forward to meeting this year's Student Research Award winner, Rebecca Meerschaert, who will receive her award at the gathering.

In addition, our Distinguished Alumnus Award will be presented to this year's selected winner! All in all, we look forward to a good time with great people!

We will soon send out an Invite and RSVP email to all alumni to help us make arrangements. We hope you to see you there.

## American Association of Physicists in Medicine selects 26 Abstracts from WSU's Medical Physics Graduate Program

Wayne State University School of Medicine's Medical Physics Graduate Program will be well represented at this year's 58th annual meeting of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine, with 26 abstracts already accepted for presentation. The research involves nine faculty members in the Department of Oncology, fourteen students in the Medical Physics Graduate Program, two Radiation Oncology residents, and one Radiation Oncology Physics resident; representing a total of 13 oral presentations, 10 poster presentations, and 3 e-poster presentations. The large fraction of oral presentations this year is an indicator of the high quality of abstracts submitted from our program this year. For more information about our presenters and abstract names, please visit [www.aapm.org/meetings/2016AM/](http://www.aapm.org/meetings/2016AM/).

## Rebecca Meerschaert awarded AAPM/RSNA Graduate Fellowship

Each year the AAPM & RSNA award one fellowship to support the first two years of graduate study leading to a doctoral degree in Medical Physics. Students throughout North America apply for this award, making it extremely prestigious but also extremely competitive. This year's winner is one of our very own WSU students. Rebecca Meerschaert, who was also awarded a 2015 AAPM Undergraduate Summer Fellowship, is your 2016 AAPM/RSNA Graduate Fellow. Congratulations, Rebecca!



## To those of you who may not know me, Let Me Introduce Myself...

Hello! My name is Mandy Bullock and I am the current Program Coordinator for the Medical Physics Graduate Program at Wayne State University School of Medicine. After Mary Cerrulla's departure, I started the position mid June of 2015. Prior to working with the doctors in radiation oncology and the medical physics group, I had worked in epidemiology and WSU's Population Science department on a breast cancer study, YWHHS. My other work experience includes a past job as a certified senior pharmacy technician in retail pharmacy. I graduated from Purdue University in 2010 with a BS in Earth and Atmospheric Science. I am excited to work with the faculty and the students and have enjoyed my time here so far. I look forward to meeting alumni as I continue in this position!



4201 St. Antoine UHC 1D  
Detroit, MI 48201  
(313) 576-9624

<http://medicalphysics.med.wayne.edu/>

Program Director  
Jay Burmeister, PhD

WSU Faculty /  
KCC Physics Group  
Todd Bossenberger, MS  
Jay Chen, PhD  
Robert Halford, MS  
Michael Joiner, PhD  
Kathryn Masi, MS  
Adrian Nalichowski, MS  
Joseph Rakowski, PhD  
Michael Snyder, PhD  
Ling Zhuang, PhD

Medical Physics Residents  
Geoff Baran, MS  
Brian Loughery, MS

## WSU SOM MEDICAL PHYSICS GRADUATE RESEARCH AWARD

Our annual Graduate Student Research Award competition was held on June 14th. Five excellent presentations were delivered by our graduate students - Marisa Leney, Brian Loughery, Rebecca Meerschaert, Evan Silverstein, and Kurt Van Delinder. Our judges included Drs. Colin Orton, Mark Zaki, and Ning Wen.

The winner of the 2016 WSU Medical Physics Graduate Student Research Award is Rebecca Meerschaert for her presentation

entitled, "A Comprehensive Evaluation of Adaptive Daily Planning for Cervical Cancer HDR Brachytherapy".

Thanks to the generous donations of our alumni, Rebecca will receive a \$1000 stipend to attend the annual AAPM meeting in Washington, DC. Those who can attend the alumni gathering will get a chance to meet and congratulate Rebecca. She will also give an oral presentation on this research project on Sunday, July 31st (SU-C-202-2).

We would like to thank our generous alumni donors, without whom this award would not be possible: Joe Rakowski, Ning Wen, Anthony Doemer, Jason Shen, and Jay Burmeister.

Additional funding is derived from our annual mock oral exam. We would like to thank those who served as examiners this year: Patrick McDermott, Adrian Nalichowski, Colin Orton, Michael Snyder, and Jay Burmeister.

Finally, thanks to our judges and presenters for their efforts in making this another outstanding competition.



**MEDICAL PHYSICS GRADUATE RESEARCH AWARD  
DONATION FORM**

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*Funds collected will be used for travel expenses to the 58th Annual AAPM Meeting for the recipient of the 2016 Medical Physics Graduate Research Award.*