



Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska

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2019 Chapter Officers



President Megan Hyun, Ph.D.
President Elect Neelu Soni, M.S.
Past President Sridhar Yaddanapudi, Ph.D.
Secretary/Treasurer Aba Mensah-Brown, Ph.D.
Chapter Representative Blake Dirksen, M.S.

Highlights

- According to the AAPM online directory, the MRV chapter has nearly **200 members** across the four states
- MRV AAPM hosts at least one meeting per year. In 2018-2019 we held **spring meetings** in Kansas City, MO and St Louis, MO as well as a fall **TG-100 workshop** in Omaha, NE
- During the spring meeting, the chapter holds a **Young Investigator Symposium (YIS)**. The YIS is named in memory of James S. Sample, the first medical physics resident to graduate from the University of Iowa medical physics residency program
- We hosted our 7th year of ABR-style **Mock Oral Exams** at the 2019 spring meeting. An average of 10 examinees benefit from this mock exam each year.
- The chapter held its first **Med Phys Slam** competition at the 2019 spring chapter meeting during a themed session on medical physics public engagement



In 2017 the chapter nominated **Dr. Lakshmi Santanam** of Washington University in St. Louis as a candidate for AAPM Fellow. Dr. Santanam was recognized as Fellow at the 2018 annual meeting. Her focus is the improvement of patient safety, inter-connectivity, standardization and automation in radiation oncology. She is the Vice Chair of WGROLIS and the Multidisciplinary Quality Assurance subcommittee, and she is an active member of the AAPM Quality Assurance Subcommittee, IHERO, ROHAC, and several AAPM task groups.



Photographs from the fall 2018 **TG-100 workshop** held at the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center in Omaha, NE.

History

In the Spring of 1971, 6 to 8 medical physicists met in a small room in the radiation oncology department of the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City. There were two from Washington University in St Louis, at least one from the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, and a few from the Kansas City area. The purpose of the meeting was to organize a chapter of the AAPM. Those present recognized the need to promote recognition of medical physics locally within the academic and scientific communities, and to support those practicing clinical physics, primarily in the rural areas of the region. However, the immediate goal was to obtain formal recognition by the AAPM as a regional chapter and to offer to host the 1974 annual AAPM meeting in Kansas City. A committee was selected to formulate a constitution and bylaws and to apply to the national organization for recognition as a *bona fide* chapter. At that initial gathering it was decided that Ernest (Curly) Jones of Omaha would be the Chapter's first president and Arnold Feldman of Washington University would be the Chapter's representative to the Board of Directors. Late in 1971 the Missouri River Valley Chapter, to cover the primarily rural area of Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, and Nebraska, was recognized by the AAPM as a regional Chapter. In 1974 the Chapter hosted the annual meeting in Kansas City. *(Written by Palmer Steward, PhD, FAAPM)*



Photographs from the **spring 2019 chapter meeting** in St. Louis, MO. Top row (from left to right): the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners from the 2019 Young Investigator Symposium and the inaugural winner of the MRV Med Phys Slam accept their awards. Bottom row (from left to right): the view of the St. Louis Gateway Arch from the conference venue, and attendees enjoying dinner out during the conference.