



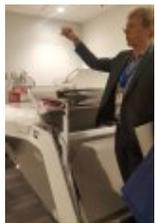
THE *BILLET* STC NEWSLETTER

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER of the STATE of TEXAS CHAPTER of the HEALTH PHYSICS SOCIETY

Volume 41, Number 1 • Specialists in Radiation Safety • March 2020

The STC-HPS Annual Student Presentation meeting CANCELLED

In view of the recent concerns related to the novel coronavirus, the STC-HPS Annual Student Presentation meeting originally scheduled for April 25 (Saturday) at Texas A&M University College Station is CANCELLED. However, the Student Presentations are planned to be hosted with the STC Fall Conference, Affiliates' Fair September 2020. The date and location of the STC Fall Conference, Affiliates' Fair will be finalized as soon as arrangements are made. More details to follow!!



Recap of the September 2019 Affiliates' Fair and Chapter Meeting

The conference focused on Emerging Technologies and featured presentations from the Medical Center's faculty.

STC-HPS Student Assistance: 2019 in Review

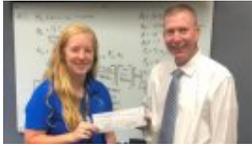
Linda Morris highlights student assistance programs and student winners from 2019 and upcoming events for 2020 such as the scholarship competition.

The Billet STC
Newsletter Home

Future STC Meetings

Executive Council
Meeting Minutes
September 2019

April 24–25 Student
Presentations
Cancelled
Executive Committee



TAMU Radiological Safety Team Wins CSHEMA-2019

The Radiological Safety division within the Texas A&M University Environmental Health and Safety Office (EHS-RSS) won the CSHEMA Innovation Award-2019 for their development of Electronic Document Submission and Repository.

meeting to be held remotely

Affiliates Roster

Chapter Leadership

Subscribe



STC-HPS Appointed to the Texas Radiation Advisory Board

Governor Greg Abbott appointed William "Will" Pate, Dr. P. H., C.H.P., of League City, Texas; John P. Hageman, M.S., C.H.P., of San Antonio, Texas; and Kenneth V. Krieger, M.S., C.H.P., of Georgetown, Texas.



IRPA 15 Congress to be held in Seoul, Korea, January 18-22, 2021



More information about the meeting and how it is affected by COVID-19 can be found in <https://www.irpa2020.org/>.



STC-HPS members attended the HPS midyear meeting in Bethesda, MD, January 26–29, 2020.

Photos from the HPS MidYear Meeting in Bethesda, Maryland.

Annual Student Presentations Postponed to September 2020

STC-HPS Executive Council meeting will be held remotely

By: Latha Vasudevan, CHP, PhD, Public Relations Chair

In view of the recent concerns related to the novel coronavirus, the STC-HPS Annual Student Presentation meeting originally scheduled for April 25 (Saturday) at Texas A&M University College Station is CANCELLED.

However, the Student Presentations are planned to be hosted with the STC Fall Conference, Affiliates' Fair September 2020. The date and location of the STC Fall Conference, Affiliates' Fair will be finalized as soon as arrangements are made. More details to follow!!



Recap of the September 2019 Affiliates' Fair and Chapter Meeting

By: Latha Vasudevan, Ph.D., CHP, Past President and Public Relations Chair

The State of Texas Chapter of the Health Physics Society (STCHPS) held its Fall conference and affiliates' fair at the UT South Western Medical Center in Dallas, Texas, on Monday, September 23, 2019. The conference focused on Emerging Technologies and featured presentations from the Medical Center's faculty.

The Chapter Executive Council meeting was held on September 22. The team discussed budget, memberships, outreach activities, and future meeting venues. An evening reception was held at the Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center Radiation Oncology Building that included a presentation from Dr. Hak Choy, MD, Chair of Radiation Oncology. Dr. Choy provided a brief overview of emerging technologies at the oncology center. This was followed by a tour of UT Southwestern radiation oncology center where the members had the opportunity to visit the CyberKnife and LINAC treatment systems. The highlight of the tour of course, was the one of-a-kind Xcision GammaPod (second in the world).

The September 23 Monday meeting started with a sumptuous breakfast and networking with affiliates. We had more than 65 attendees for the meeting and a great show of vendors as well. The meeting featured a wide variety of presentations, including NRC updates – 10 CFR Part 30, 32 and 35 revisions, cyclotron decommission experience, Lutathera treatment for neuroendocrine tumors, compounding radiopharmaceutical, GammaPod innovation in breast cancer treatment, therapeutic strategies to mitigate radiation damage to the gut and thymus, etc. The vendors had an opportunity to talk about their new products and upcoming technologies. Linda Morris discussed the student assistance program and posed the question as to what we can do as a chapter to increase the student membership considering the current decline in the HP programs.

Latha Vasudevan presented [an overview of the status of the chapter](#), with specific historic highlights showing the progress of the chapter over the years with membership and the finances. She thanked all the members and affiliates for their continued support. The chapter honored Amanda Sullivan with the president's plaque for all the services provided for the chapter during her tenure as president. STC-HPS President-elect Matt Amen and his team from UTSW did an outstanding job in setting up the venue and the tour. A raffle prize giveaway from the affiliates added more excitement at the conclusion of the meeting.

The September 2020 meeting and affiliates' fair was a tremendous success, and the chapter expresses its appreciation to all the members for their participation and cooperation. Our next Fall meeting is planned for September 2020.

Due to the unpredictable nature of COVID-19 situation that is currently affecting the Nation, our Student presentation meeting that is scheduled for April is being rescheduled to be hosted with the Fall meeting. We are planning to have a two-full-day meeting to support student presentations and affiliates. More details to follow. Please participate in the meetings and provide your continued support. See you all at the next meeting.



The Xcision GammaPod. Photo courtesy of Latha Vasudevan



Thank you to our friendly affiliates. Photo courtesy of Latha Vasudevan



Networking with affiliates. Photo courtesy of UT SW medical center



Latha Vasudevan (President 2018) handing over president's plaque to Amanda Sullivan (past-president 2017)



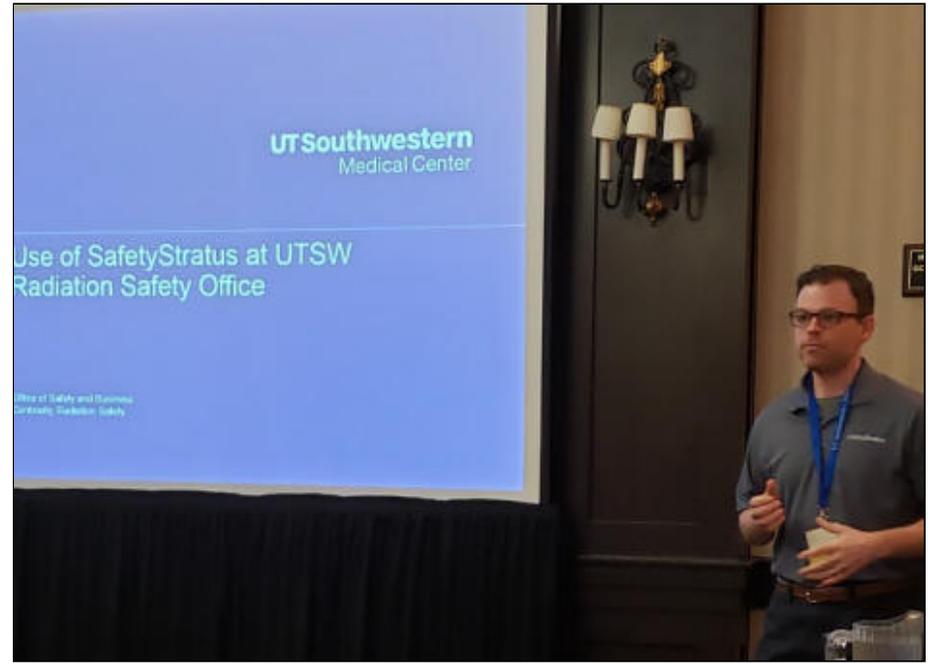
Break time while waiting for the next set of presenters



*NRC Region IV Health Physicist
Michelle Hammond providing the
NRC update on 10 CFR 30, 32, and 35*



Linda Morris discussing the student assistance program Linda Morris discussing the student assistance program



SafetyStratus representative discussing the use of their program at UTSW Radiation Safety Office



*Latha Vasudevan giving the Overview
of the Chapter Highlights*



STC-HPS Student Assistance: 2019 in Review

By: Linda Morris

One of the most important missions of the State of Texas-Health Physics Society is education: encouraging the study of radiation protection. The STC has broadly interpreted this objective to include not only students in higher education, but also middle and high school students. Several activities are conducted throughout the year. In this article, Student Assistance programs and student winners from 2019 will be recognized, and upcoming events for 2020 such as the scholarship competition will be highlighted.

Science & Engineering Participation Spring 2019

Science & Engineering Fair of Houston: STC members Stan Bravenec and Otu Inyang judged this fair February 2019. Taking first place was Yasmin “Jenna” Jackson with her project entitled “Coal Ash: Testing the Effect of Fly Ash on Radiation Soils at Texas Coal Power Plants.” She also won in 2018 and was nominated for the national HPS Science Fair award, which she won. She presented her project before the STC membership at the Spring 2019 Student Presentation at the University of Houston. The second-place winner was Alexandra Tan from Ball High School in Galveston. Alexandra’s project was titled “Mitochondrial Effects of High-Energy High Charge (HZE) Irradiation on the Liver.” She also won the State STC award at the Texas Science & Engineering Fair in College Station at the end of March 2019. Alexandra displayed her poster at the STC meeting in Houston.

Dallas Regional Science & Engineering Fair: Sylvia Revell and her team judged the 2019 fair for the first-time participation by the STC. They made two awards and an Honorable Mention. First Place went to “Determining Bone Health Utilizing Visible Light” by Sophie Krajmalnick from Shepton High School in Plano, TX. Second Place went to the team of Aryan Karthik and Rishi Leburu from Heritage Middle School in Frisco, TX. Their project was titled “The Effect of Non-Ionizing Radiation on Plant Cells.” The Honorable Mention went to Hannah Menter from Robinson Middle School in Plano, TX. Hannah’s project was titled “Radish vs. Radiation – Effect of Microwave Radiation on Radish Seedlings.” Several of these students presented their projects at the STC April 2019 meeting in Houston.

Texas State Science & Engineering Fair was judged by Linda Morris and Latha Vasudevan on March 29. The winner was Alexandra Tan. As noted in Item 1, Alexandra received our 2nd place award at the Houston Fair. [Please see the photos](#) in the August

2019 issue of *The Billet*.

April 2019 Student Presentation Meeting

Students from middle school through graduate school made presentations at the STC annual student meeting hosted by Otu Inyang at the University of Houston on April 6, 2019. More than 20 graduate and undergraduate student presenters competed for cash awards ranging from 3rd place with \$50 up to a 1st place award of \$250. Topics covered many aspects of health physics with presentations on nuclear medicine, cyclotron decommissioning, various radiation detection systems, emergency response, and diagnostic x-ray systems. Awards were made in three categories: undergraduate, masters, and PhD. The Science Fair students attending were given gift cards for their efforts. [Please see the photos](#) in the August 2019 issue of *The Billet*.

This year's Student Presentation meeting takes place at Texas A&M University on Saturday, April 25. So, students, sign up to present this year to have an opportunity to compete for these cash awards! Contact President-Elect Matt Amen at Matt.Amen@utsouthwestern.edu for more information about how you can participate.

STC Travel Grants

The State of Texas Chapter helps student members who are also members of the national HPS to travel to the annual meeting. Last year TAMU graduate student Alex Perry was awarded \$350 to defer expenses associated with travel to Orlando. Students are reminded that the first year of membership in the HPS is free. HPS student members may apply for HPS travel assistance also. In exchange for working at the meeting, the student is provided with hotel, meeting registration, and a monetary award. Travel grants from HPS are awarded in the late spring, but the deadline to apply is in March. The STC travel grant supplements the HPS funding. Students: *If you plan to attend the national HPS conference in summer, and could use some extra funding, please contact Student Assistance Chair Linda Morris at lkmorris288@gmail.com to see if you are eligible for an STC travel grant.*

2019–2020 Education Grant Awardees

Two graduate students and one undergraduate student were awarded \$1000 education grants. Winners were Alexander Perry (TAMU graduate student), Kate Saucke (UTHSC-SA Medical Health Physics graduate student), and Ernesto Ordonez (TAMU undergraduate).



President-Elect Matt Amen (left) is presenting TAMU Graduate Alexander Perry his check.

Grant Applications

Applications are currently being accepted for next year's Education Grant. Applicants must be members of the STC-HPS and must be studying health physics or a closely related field at an accredited institution in Texas. There will be three grants awarded at the Fall 2020 STC meeting. Applications are available at the [stc-hps.org website](http://stc-hps.org). They are due by the end of May 2020.

Coming Up

- STC Judging at Dallas and Texas Science & Engineering Fairs
- STC Student Presentation Meeting in April postponed until September 2020
- STC Education grants applications accepted until May 31, 2020
- Travel grants for HPS meeting in National Harbor, MD, July 5–9, 2020

For more information regarding Student Assistance, please contact Chair Linda Morris at lkmorris288@gmail.com.

TAMU Radiological Safety Team Wins CSHEMA-2019

Submitted by: Latha Vasudevan, CHP, PhD, Public Relations Chair



The Radiological Safety division within the Texas A&M University Environmental Health and Safety Office (EHS-RSS) won the Campus Safety Health Environmental Management Association (CSHEMA) Innovation Award-2019 for their development of Electronic Document Submission and Repository.

EHS-RSS manages several hundred permits for radioactive material, radiation producing device, and laser use. A critical part of the permitting workflow is the approval of permit documentation through the faculty-led Radiological Safety Committee (RSC). The permit process required the EHS-RSS to print, sign, and scan documents for distribution through email, track which of the RSC members had not yet responded, follow up with those RSC members to get the signatures, and then print and compile the complete permit application and amendment packets for filing. Creating and tracking all of this documentation was cumbersome and inefficient. It was identified that digital document management system can improve the work flow and improve the overall process efficiency.

The EHS-RSS investigated multiple document management software systems ultimately settling on a combination of Laserfiche and DocuSign because they were products already purchased by Texas A&M University and supported by the in-house Information Technology (IT) group. An Application Programming Interface (API) was written by Texas A&M IT's embedded Laserfiche specialist to connect the DocuSign and Laserfiche systems enabling an automatic "sign and store" process in the repository. EHS-RSS worked with the In house EHS IT professional to create an online portal through which new permit applications and /or amendments were submitted and tracked. Implementing a digital document management system and repository leveraging two off-the-shelf software packages (DocuSign and Laserfiche) has eliminated more than 1,100 sheets of paper each year and greatly improved document retrieval efficiency.

The members of the team were Latha Vasudevan, Erich Fruchtnicht, Abdallah Mirza, Jonathan Pequeno, Caitlin Kurwitz, Derek Phillips, Daniel Menchaca and Theresa Collins. The members would like to express their appreciation for Robert J. Dennis (IT Professional) whose dedicated effort and support made this all possible.



Three from STC-HPS Appointed to the Texas Radiation Advisory Board

Submitted by: John Hageman, M.S., C.H.P.



Will Pate

Governor Greg Abbott appointed William “Will” Pate, Dr. P. H., C.H.P., of League City, Texas, to the Texas Radiation Advisory Board as the Hospital Administration representative in 2019.

Dr. Pate will serve on the Radiation Advisory Board until April 2025. Will is the Radiation Safety Officer for The University of Texas (UT) Medical Branch at Galveston. He is secretary of the State of Texas Chapter of the Health Physics Society, and previously served as president. He is a professional member of the American Society for Healthcare Engineers, a member of the Health Physics Society and the NFPA Laser Fire Protection Technical Committee, and a plenary member of the American Academy of Health Physics. Additionally, he is vice chair of the UT System Radiation Safety Advisory Group and a member of the Laser Subcommittee of the American National Standards Institute. He is a Certified Health Physicist and a licensed Medical Physicist specializing in Medical Health Physics.

Dr. Pate received a Bachelor of Science in biology from UT San Antonio, a Doctor of Public Health in environmental and occupational health from UT Health Science Center at Houston, and a Master of Business Administration from Texas A&M Corpus Christi.

John Hageman

Governor Greg Abbott reappointed John P. Hageman, M.S., C.H.P., of San Antonio, Texas, as the Health Physics representative for the Radiation Advisory Board in 2019.

John has served on the Radiation Advisory Board since 2008 and is the Board’s Chairmen, whose term will expire in 2023. John is a Radiation Safety Consultant for Southwest Research Institute and served as their RSO for 20 years. He is a member of the American



Association of Health Physicists. He is a Past-Treasurer and Fellow of the Health Physics Society. Additionally, he is the treasurer of the Bexar County Local Emergency Planning Committee.

Hageman received a Bachelor of Science in Physics from The University of Texas (UT) at Arlington and a Master of Science in Radiological Health from UT Health Science Center at San Antonio. John has served as the President of the South Texas Chapter of the HPS, now the State of Texas Chapter. He is editor of The Billet, the newsletter of the State of Texas Chapter.



Ken Krieger

Governor Greg Abbott reappointed Kenneth V. Krieger, M.S., C.H.P., of Georgetown, Texas, as the Industry representative for the Radiation Advisory Board in 2016.

Ken is the Board's Secretary and his term will expire in 2021. Ken Krieger is the Radiation Safety Officer, Health Physicist and Laser Safety Officer for Radiation Technology Inc. He is an expert in industrial gauging devices, their manufacturing and their dismantlement. He is a consultant with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for the consolidation of sealed sources for borehole disposal.

Mr. Krieger has two Bachelor degrees and a Master's Degree in Health Physics from Texas A&M University. He has more than 30 years of experience in radiation safety and more than 26 years of experience in industrial safety, having had over 100 specific industrial safety training courses. He has served in many positions in the Health Physics professional organizations.

He was the Secretary for the American Academy of Health Physics, Chairman of the Public Education Committee, now the Public Information Committee, on the Program Committee, and has been on the Part II Panel for the American Board of Health Physics. He was a member of the Board of Directors for the national Health Physics Society, He is also a Certified Health Physicist, by the American Board of Health Physics in 1999.



IRPA 15 Congress to be held in Seoul, Korea, Jan. 18-22, 2021

Submitted by: Latha Vasudevan, CHP, PhD, Public Relations Chair

More information about the meeting and how it is affected by COVID-19 can be found in <https://www.irpa2020.org/>. The letter is below:



<IRPA15 ICOC postpones IRPA15 congress due to COVID-19>

The International Congress Organizing Committee of IRPA15 has decided to postpone IRPA15, originally scheduled for May 11-15, 2020, due to concerns related to the novel coronavirus.

The postponed date is **18-22 January 2021** and the deadline for registration and abstract submission will also be postponed accordingly.

The key schedule is as follows, so please see the dates below.

- **Poster Abstract Submission Deadline: 31 August 2020**
- **Full Paper Submission Deadline: 30 November 2020**
- **Early Registration Deadline: 16 October 2020**
- **Standard Registration Deadline: 31 December 2020**

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the IRPA15 secretariat's office, and additional detailed information will be provided by email to all registrants and abstract submitters separately.

Jong Kyung KIM

Chairman, IRPA 15 International Congress Organising Committee

Members who plan to attend the congress are:



*Latha Vasudevan, HPS Board
of Director & AAHP Liaison,
Board Delegate*



*Edgar D. Bailey, Chair of AAHP
Nominating Committee, General Delegate*



Photos from the HPS MidYear Meeting in Bethesda, Maryland

Submitted by: Latha Vasudevan, CHP, PhD, Public Relations Chair

STCHPS members attended the 53rd HPS midyear meeting in Bethesda, MD. The meeting started with a welcome reception on Sunday, January 26, 2020, where the members got the opportunity to meet with friends with colleagues. The Health Physics Society (HPS) Board meeting and American Academy of Health Physics (AAHP) executive committee meeting was scheduled on Sunday from 8 am–5 pm. Janet Gutierrez serves as secretary for the AAHP. Latha Vasudevan attended the HPS board meeting on January 25, 2020. She serves as HPS Board of Director. Some of the items discussed and voted on are as follows.

- In 2018, the Board voted that Midyear 2020 would be the last mid-Year meeting in its traditional format. The Board discussed the suggestions that were offered on the form of an alternative meeting and appointed a new Task Force to examine the options for a new format for Mid-Year meetings.
- HPS announced the “Tesla” raffle to all members. The money collected goes to the HPS Fund. The money comes into the Society as a donation and is tax deductible to the donor (except the one that wins the Tesla). The drawing will be held at the Annual meeting in National Harbor, MD in July 2020. Donations are \$50 per ticket, with a total limit of 2,000 donations accepted.
- HPS Strategic plan and the annual priorities for FY2021 was discussed.
- Rules committee produced several documents for the board to approve, and one of the items was the STC-HPS charter and bylaws. Both are approved with minor changes.

Robert Emory and Janet Gutierrez from University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston provided Professional Enrichment Program (PEP) lectures on “Contemporary Topics Affecting Radiation Safety Program Operations”.

Two technical tours were scheduled. The "Tour of the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute (AFRRI)" was on Monday, January 27. AFRRI conducts research in the field of radiobiology and related matters that are essential to the operational and medical support of the Department of Defense.

The tour of the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (USNRC) Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was on Tuesday, January 28.



STC HPS members meet and greet at the midyear meeting welcome reception L to R Edgar Bailey, Janet Gutierrez, Latha Vasudevan and Ken Krieger



Latha Vasudevan and Janet Gutierrez with HPS president Eric Goldin and other members of the society



State of Texas Chapter of the HPS
Executive Council Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2019; Dallas, TX

Attendees:

Otu Inyang - EC Member
Latha Vasudevan - EC Member
Matt Amen - EC Member
Tracy Tipping - EC Member
William Pate - EC Member
Ken Krieger – Committee Chair
Amanda Sullivan – Committee Chair
Jennifer Cerecero – Committee Chair
Janet Gutierrez – Committee Chair
John Hageman – Committee Chair
Linda Morris – Committee Chair
Karen Blanchard - Member

Call to Order: 3:38 PM

Minutes from May 2019 EC meeting conducted via teleconference

Janet moved to approve; second by Latha. All voted in favor of approving the minutes as presented

President's Report (Tracy Tipping)

Thank you to Matt and others at UT Southwestern for putting together the Fall Conference and Affiliates' Fair.

We have managed to update a few things in the past few months. We updated (completely remodeled) the STC-HPS website. We switched to a new credit card processing method to allow credit card use without going through PayPal (some organizations have restrictions on using PayPal for official business). We updated the meeting fee policy to reflect the needs of our student presenters and family members. In addition, we updated the bylaws (and had them approved by membership) to reflect current operations and to provide additional operating flexibility. Thanks to the many folks that helped make these updates happen.

While I was unable to attend, rumor has it that the breakfast meeting at the national HPS meeting was well attended and all had good times. Thanks to Matt for organizing this meeting.

Past-President's Report (Latha Vasudevan)

- Online EC meeting (May 12, 2019) on By Laws discussion /revision was successful.
 - Thanks to Tracy on submitting the revisions.
 - Thanks to Will for sending it out to members for voting
 - Bylaws revision passed and I have sent the revised Bylaws (Aug 2019) to National HPS.

- Bob Cherry nomination for HPS President was filed on May 2019
- Ed Bailey requested nomination for IRPA 15 and I think Tracy nominated Bailey on behalf of chapter
 - However, on HPS Orlando meeting in July 2019, Bailey was one among the 16 general delegates who got voted for IRPA 15
 - I was elected for IRPA 15 and am representing as HPS Board delegate. IRPA 15 meeting is in Seoul, Korea on May 2020
- Submitted summary of HPS breakfast meeting in Orlando in August Billet
- I will be submitting our September meeting article to HPS news
- April 2020 student presentations meeting will be hosted at Texas A&M University
 - Erich Fruchtnicht and myself will arrange the venue and assist with the meeting
- HPS board annual priorities/Chapter/Committee commitments
 1. Develop additional meeting resources for local chapters
 2. Better engage chapters to provide public education/outreach

Chapters-STC-HPS, Deep South, Northern California, North Eastern NY

Annual report for chapter –chapter president submits every august. Not sure Tracy has already updated the info on HPS site.

Our chapter is becoming a role model for other chapters and I am facilitating a channel between chapters and HPS.

Thank you STC-HPS team for making the chapter successful

- As part of HPS Science Support Committee (board commitment), I have nominated Ken Krieger as chair for leading the committee and he will be working with me in resurrecting the committee
- The Health Physics Society endorses the AAPM public position regarding the use of gonadal and fetal shielding in x-ray imaging (discontinue gonadal shielding).
- AIHA folks are collaborating with quite a number other organizations in the worker safety field. HPS is making its entry with them to stake our claim for radiation safety and advertise our HP career.
- Stan will not be able to attend the meeting, so Latha will attempt to take photos of the meeting and EC meeting for the next edition of The Billet and HPS News.

President-Elect's Report / Program Committee Report (Matt Amen)

- Agenda for this meeting is set with several good speakers; presentations will touch on a lot of recent changes on the medical side
- USP 825 change presentation as it will impact nuclear medicine
- Would like to receive feedback of the meeting afterwards

Secretary's Report (William Pate)

- Sent out the Bylaw update revisions to the Chapter
- Communication related to the September meeting
- Assisting Alana with website transition activities

STC-HPS Treasurer's Report September 2019

Chase Accounts			
Buisness Checking			\$ 16,584.71
Money Market	#5464	(Scholarship)	\$ 5,124.17
Money Market	#0279	(Sci Teachers)	\$ 3,994.59
			\$ 16,584.71

Investment Accounts			
Cash			\$ 94.06
Annuities	#699	\$ 10,241.32	
	#700	\$ 10,241.35	
	#701	\$ 10,246.97	
			\$ 30,729.64
Mutual Fund			\$ 144,420.09
			\$ 175,243.79
			\$ 191,828.50

Recommendation that future Treasurer's reports include a statement of change for the accounts as well as income statements to know how much is being spent and on what.

There was a discussion on the process to transfer Treasurer-elect into the Treasurer role so that the same delay that occurred before would not happen again in the future.

Affiliate Committee Report (Jennifer Cerecero)

1. Affiliate Members to Date – 17 paid, 2 honorary – SWRI & TSTC
2. Affiliate Meeting
 - a. 12 vendors
 - b. \$2700 donations for the meeting; sign is placed outside in the lobby to recognize the donors; several of the vendors will be presenting
 - c. Raffle prizes will be available

The Billet Editor Report (John Hageman)
Upcoming STC-HPS Meeting Dates

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Deadline</u> for <i>The Billet</i>
Sept. 22-23, 2019	UT Southwestern Dallas, TX	STC Fall Conference and Affiliates' Fair	NA
January 26-29, 2020	Bethesda, MD	53 rd and possibly the last Midyear HPS Meeting	NA
April 25, 2020 Fri. and Saturday	Texas A&M College Station, TX	STC Student Presentations & Annual Business Meeting	February 7±, 2020
July 4-9, 2020	TBD	65 th Annual HPS Meeting	NA
Sept. __, 2020	San Antonio, TX	STC Fall Conference and Affiliates' Fair	July 3±, 2020
April __, 2021 Fri. and Saturday	TBD	STC Student Presentations & Annual Business Meeting	February 5±, 2021
July 25-29, 2021	Phoenix, AZ	66 th Annual HPS Meeting	NA

Tracy suggested that a date for A&M be decided upon within the next 30 days. Jennifer discussed that there were some conflicts with UT System Risk Management Conference on one of the weekends. After reviewing the schedule, a date was decided for April 25, 2020.

John is the Chair of the Texas Radiation Advisory Board; they have delayed reappointments and/or appointments in the interim. In the meantime, they are looking at the structure of the TRAB website; question was asked about how many people look at the TRAB website. John asked people to see if they have the chance to look at the website and to provide any feedback or ideas on improvement. Otu asked about whether the Board is a priority for the Governor; Texas law requires the Board, but the Governor's office is delayed in appointments.

It was mentioned that there will be a DOE Laser Safety Workshop at UT Austin in late March 31 – April 2.

Student Assistance Committee Report (Linda Morris)

Science & Engineering Fair Participation: The winners of our Spring 2019 fairs were reported at our last meeting. It was anticipated that the STC would nominate our state fair winner, Alexandra Tan, for the national HPS Science Fair Award as we have done in years past. Alexandra, however, declined the nomination stating that the universities with whom she worked required confidentiality. I spoke with her as well as the director of her regional fair in Houston to no avail. Her project did qualify for the International Science & Engineering Fair.

We are signing up volunteers for the 2020 science fair season.

Fair	Date	Location	2019 Judges	2020 Judges
Science & Engineering Fair of Houston (SEFH)	<u>Fri-Sat</u> February 14-15, 2020	University of Houston	Stan Bravenec and Otu Inyang	
Central Texas Science & Engineering Fair (CTSEF)	<u>Tue-Wed</u> February 18-19, 2020	Texas State Technical College Waco	Linda Morris (no qualifying projects)	Linda Morris
Austin Regional Science Fair	<u>Wed-Thur</u> February 19-20, 2020	Palmer Events Center Austin	Linda Morris (no qualifying projects)	Linda Morris
Dallas Regional Science & Engineering Fair	Saturday February 22, 2020	Centennial Hall Fair Park Dallas	UTSW Sylvia Revell & Team	
Alamo Regional Science & Engineering Fair	End of February 2020	St. Mary's University San Antonio	New for 2020	Maj. Kent Fisher and/or Nick Nicholson??
Texas State Science & Engineering Fair	<u>Fri-Sat</u> March 27-28, 2020	Texas A&M University College Station	Latha Vasudevan and Linda Morris	Probably Latha and Linda

Judges will need to register for their respective fairs. Awards, in most cases, are mailed directly to the fairs. Good outreach for students, with several science fair winners going further to present at our student meetings.

STC Travel Grants: A \$350 award was made to TAMU NE graduate student Alexander Perry to help with expenses associated with attending the national HPS conference in Orlando. Alex assisted with a PEP course and attended the STC breakfast meeting. He is an officer in the TAMU Student Branch. We have budgeted up to \$1000 to help students attend HPS conferences.

2019-2020 Education Grant Awardees: The Chapter has budgeted for three \$1000 awards. Originally, one award was to be made to an associate degree, undergraduate degree, and graduate degree student. Since Texas no longer has an associate degree academic program, and TAMU has phased out its RHEN and MS-HP degrees, we are seeing mostly graduate student applicants. There was one undergraduate applicant, but he did not qualify because he missed

the deadline, was not a student member, and had already won the award in the past. While the last item does not automatically disqualify an applicant, it is weighed into the awarding decision. Six graduate level students applied. It was the recommendation of Student Assistance Committee members Linda Morris and Karen Blanchard that three awards be made to the top graduate applicants. President Tipping agreed and this year's winners are:

Alexander Perry	TAMU NE
Kate Saucke	UTHSC-SA Medical Health Physics
Ernesto Ordonez	TAMU NE

Factors considered include major, career goals in health physics, GPA, letters of recommendation, financial information, and involvement in STC. One of the six applicants had won the award twice in the past. Alex Perry is attending the reception this evening, but he cannot stay for meeting tomorrow. *Can we give him his check today?* He will see Ernesto tomorrow and they have promised us a photo of the two of them with their checks. Kate also cannot attend, and we should mail her check. She will send a photo also.

Neff-Poston Endowed Scholarship Fall 2019: The Nuclear Engineering Department at Texas A&M has selected John Tchakerian (s-tchakerian@tamu.edu) and Alfredo Cortez (cortfrea@tamu.edu) for the awards. I emailed both to congratulate them and ask for information to share with our STC membership. Both have since responded to her. Alfredo is an NE major interested in reactor research and criticality safety. John is a NE major and is interested in transport. It should be noted that neither student is a member of the HPS or the STC. Could/should we offer a complimentary student membership to get them on our mailing list? Decision was made to grant them a complimentary membership and a code would be provided to them to use to "redeem" the coupon.

Discussion ensues about selection eligibility for the Neff-Poston website. Latha and Linda will discuss with the group making the selection of the Neff-Poston website.

TAMU Nuclear Power Institute no longer exists. They did a lot of outreach work that helped to support the STC-HPS mission.

TAMU Student Branch: Several months ago, TAMU Student Branch President Audrey Nguyen requested that the STC donate \$250 to help the chapter establish its tax-exempt status. Our Chapter requested additional information which was not received until much later. Can we provide this funding? Having lost two academic programs in health physics, they can use the help.

Latha moves to support the \$250 for TAMU Student Branch. Otu seconded. All voted in favor of this action. Jay and Audrey need to talk to figure out who to get the check made out to.

We will provide a complimentary membership to members of the TAMU Student chapter. Students should contact Amanda Sullivan to be registered.

Miscellaneous: The Student Assistance Committee needs additional members to join Linda and Karen. If anyone is interested, please let the Chair know.

It is recommended that a student member, faculty member, and Student Assistance Committee email list be created. Notifications targeting students and their faculty advisors would be helpful in getting out information on opportunities for scholarships, travel awards, etc. and the deadlines associated with these. Discussion on requiring that they provide their personal email address when they register so we can continue to be in contact with them once they graduate. Will add to the email student list faculty advisors and Linda Morris so that they can receive useful information that they can then distribute to their students; they would not get full membership emails unless they are also STC-HPS emails.

Science Teacher Workshop Committee Report (Ken Krieger)

No information to report

Membership Report (Amanda Sullivan)

Summary

	Category	2019	Comments	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
1	Honorary Lifetime Memberships	3	Hageman, Poston, Morris	3	1	2	2	2
2	Individual Memberships	103		105	117	111	116	130
3	Student Memberships	14		12	11	62	10	11
4	Science Fair Winners	2		2	3	2	0	2
	Sub-Total	122		122	115	176	127	143
5	Affiliate Memberships	23		16	15	23	22	22
	Total	145		138	135	199	149	165

(Numbers of 2019 Members, above, includes New Members listed below)

New Members

Mariano	Craig	Texas A&M University	Regular
Ordonez	Ernesto	Texas A&M University	Student
Adhikari	Upendra	UT Southwestern Medical Center	Student
Mohammas	Samina	UT Southwestern Medical Center	Regular
Kurwitz	Caitlin	Texas A&M University	Regular
Tan	Alexandra	Ball High School	Science Fair Winner

Leburu	Rishi		Science Fair Winner
Kalay	Muruvet	Texas A&M University	Student
Dewji	Shaheen	Texas A&M University	Regular
Norman	Edward	Texas Division of Emergency Management	Regular
Bartholome w	John	Versant	Affiliate
McDonought	Kevin	PL Medical Dosimetry	Affiliate
Barnes	Jaime	Cook Children's Medical Center	Regular

Janet moved to approve the new members; Otu seconded the motion. All members voted to approve the new members.

Nominations Committee Report (Sandra Ramirez)

No report from Sandra. Janet moved to nominate Dr. Emery as a fellow of the HPS; Matt seconded. Discussion took place about the need to get a copy of his resume as well as three supporting letters from other Fellows. All voted in favor of the motion.

Public Relations Committee Report (Latha Vasudevan)

Will try to submit an article for The Billet after the September Meeting and also announce the April meeting. Will send this out to the National HPS as well.

Charter Update Committee Report (Latha Vasudevan)

Got information back from Jennifer and Amanda on the revised Charter. That had been checked, corrected, and sent on to the national HPS. Have not received back a certificate back for the Charter yet; we have done what we need to do and it is in their court.

Website Update (Tracy Tipping)

Discussed in previous report

Funding for TAMU student branch (Linda Morris)

Discussed in previous report

New Business from the Floor

Karen Blanchard: at last meeting some discussion about whether or not we would have a regulatory conference; adoption of Part 35 will likely not take place until 2022. Have requested permission now to open the rules for adoption. A meeting in Fall of 2020 would mean there really would not be a whole lot going on to fill content.

There are two trains of thought at the state related to a regulatory conference: definitely will need to be a meeting for Part 35 and based upon NRC experience and issues, can have the conference to provide that information prior to rule goes into effect, or could wait until after the rule goes into effect to present on Texas issues identified with roll-out. Second train of thought: conference after rules go into effect; registrants tend to really like to have the one-on-one time with the State so

could address hot topics and other trends. Also some have the idea of doing a webinar in the interim in a way similar to how the NRC does it in case an interim conference not feasible.

There was one question about if we could have a TDSHS session as part of a STC-HPS meeting; might be possible but attendance from the public may be iffy.

The consensus from attendees appeared to be that having the conference prior to the rules going into effect would be of the greatest benefit to registrants. Otu also mentioned support of Tracy's idea of having someone from the TDSHS attend and present a session annually to the STC-HPS.

Matt mentioned that Dr. Choi will come in and provide welcome comments. Will provide a tour this evening of gamma pod, gamma knife, and some linear accelerators.

Motion to adjourn made by Otu at 5:18 PM.