

Introducing Medical Physics to Students for Career Opportunities

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Keywords – Medical Physics, Career

As students advance through their academic programs, even with their major field of study decided, physics for example, there are often open questions about specific topics and areas of specialization to consider. Within the broad field of physics there are many. There are a variety of reasons why each of us chose our areas of work, Perhaps it was an admired professor and tutor, research opportunities, or perhaps the popularity and excitement of a field, astrophysics for example.

Knowledge of specific fields of specialization can be of significant value to students in making choices that will provide directions for their careers.

Those of us who are medical physicists have the opportunity, and perhaps the professional obligation to help students learn about “what we do” and the satisfaction it brings.. In some communities and institutions medical physics is not as highly visible as some other fields, astronomy, climate physics, etc. We are off in the hospitals and clinics doing our work.

We each have our opportunities to help students learn, and perhaps get interested and excited about medical physics. This includes having students come in and observe our activities, giving presentations to student groups, and maybe encourage academic programs, especially physics departments, to have seminars on medical physics topics.

Another opportunity that is provided here is an online document, like a book chapter, that can be distributed and passed on to students for them to explore. It describes one specific area of medical physics, imaging, which is the author’s specialization. Perhaps later than can be a similar article on radiation oncology.

For now, let’s use this article in the Appendix along with our personal activities to help students learn about our interesting profession of medical physics.

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ATTACHMENT