



Florida Chapter

American Association of Physicists in Medicine



Chapter Beginnings

What was to become the Florida AAPM chapter began in the early 1980s as Florida physicists met once or twice a year at the University of Florida for Nuclear Engineering lectures organized by Genevieve Roessler and Chuck Roessler. The lectures had a Health Physics emphasis, with medical physics represented by Lawrence Fitzgerald. By the mid-80s, attendees added Farmer chamber intercomparisons to the gathering using nearby Co-60 machines, and the meetings began to occur at regional hospitals and medical centers. In 1987, Daljit Saini and Bill Simon from Sun Nuclear hosted a full-day meeting at Holmes Medical Center in Melbourne, FL, the first meeting with vendor support (six vendors for that first meeting). By the late 1980s, the group had grown larger yet, and became an AAPM chapter in 1990. The first formal Florida AAPM chapter meeting was held in Tampa, FL in 1991, with Bill Huff as President and Daljit Saini as President-Elect.

F⁷
Fifth Florida Fizicists
fun & food
Fraternity Festival

Greeting sign for 1989 annual meeting. Faiz Khan, Ph.D. (AAPM President at the time) was the featured speaker, and recommended the formation of a Florida chapter.

The Florida AAPM Chapter gratefully acknowledges the invaluable assistance of Daljit Saini, M.S. and Art Glenn in preparing this presentation.

1990s

Throughout the 1990s, chapter meetings were held in the Spring and included current professional topics (e.g. HDR was the new thing at that time), panel discussions on licensure for Florida medical physicists (license law passed in 1997), and presentations by University of Florida graduate students in medical physics.



In 2003, the Florida AAPM Chapter created the Walter Mauderli award for lifetime achievement in medical physics education, research, and service. Here, recipients of the Mauderli Award attend the Spring 2010 Florida AAPM Chapter meeting in Orlando, FL. (L-R, Frank Bova, Ph.D., Rick Morin, Ph.D., Libby Brateman, Ph.D., Chris Serago, Ph.D.)

2000s

In 2001, a Fall meeting, held jointly with the Florida chapter of the Health Physics Society, was added to the chapter's annual schedule. Meanwhile, the licensing of Florida medical physicists included a requirement for 24 hours of continuing education during each two-year license cycle. Florida chapter meetings became a cost-effective way to earn all required credits needed for licensure, although the AAPM Annual meeting remained a popular CE choice as well. In the late 2000s, Florida added requirements for an hour each of Medical Errors and of HIV/AIDS training for each license cycle, making the Florida chapter meeting even more important for members. Changes in ABR board certification policies, especially Maintenance of Certification (MOC) compelled the Chapter to adapt. FLAAPM began to offer CAMPEP accreditation for its meetings in 2007, and began to offer Self-Assessment Modules (SAMs) in 2008.



(Top) Walter Mauderli, D.Sc. in his workshop. (Bottom) Lawrence Fitzgerald, Ph.D., for whom the Florida AAPM Chapter annual award for Best Student Presentation is named.

2010 and Beyond

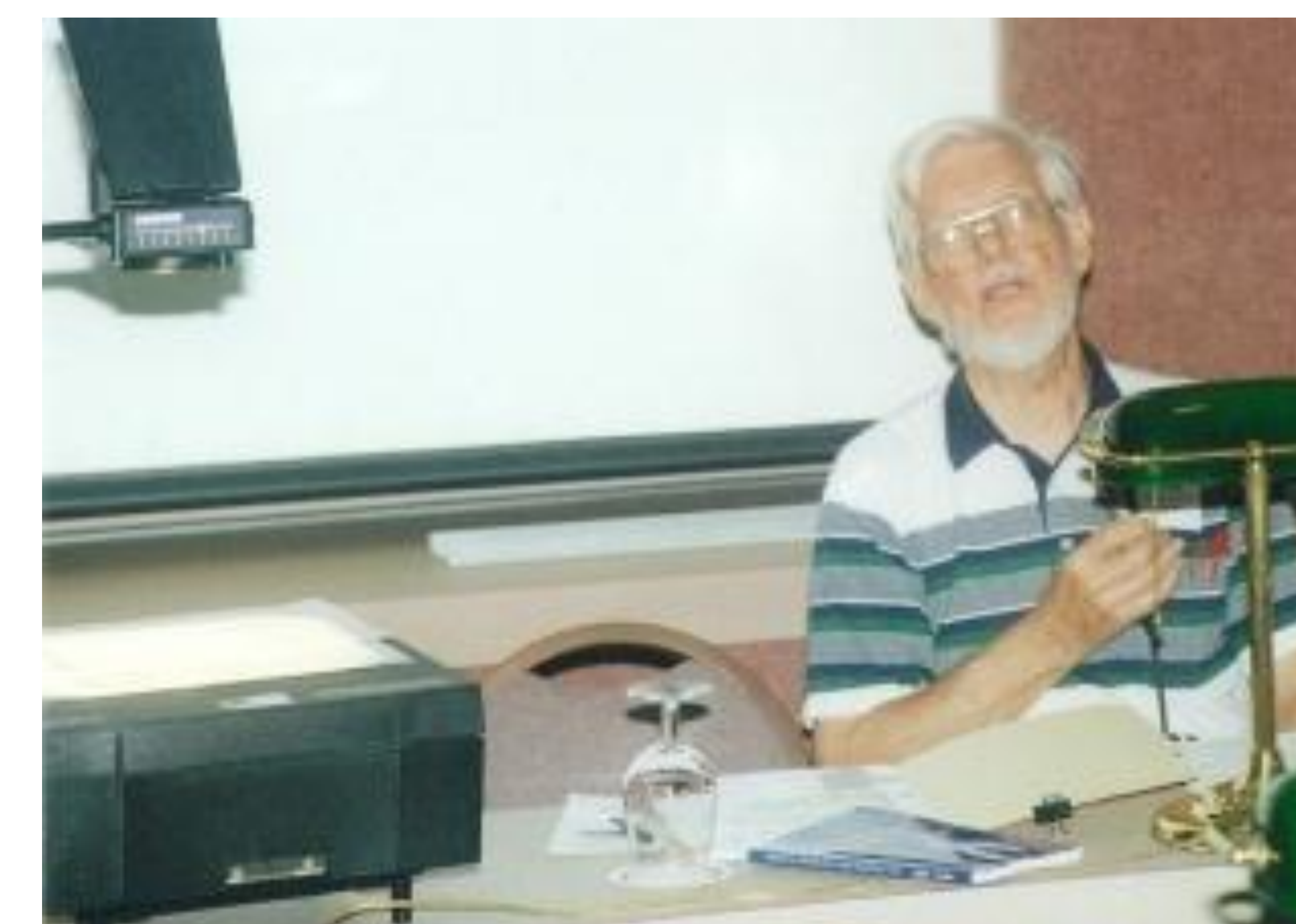
The Florida chapter has grown immensely in numbers and activity from its early self. The 1.5 day Spring chapter meeting is the main meeting event of the year, generally drawing well over 100 attendees and more than forty vendors. Each Fall, a one day meeting is held jointly with the Florida HPS. In total, the chapter offers twenty license CE credits each year, including the all-important and otherwise elusive Medical Errors and HIV/AIDS credits. ABR MOC participants receive CAMPEP and SAM credits from chapter meetings. The chapter website includes SAM presentations and credits for chapter members and for a large number of out-of-state MOC participants.



FLAAPM has traditionally enjoyed strong vendor support at chapter meetings.



Pre-chapter days: 1985 pre-chapter President William Huff, Ph.D. prepares to lecture.



Former AAPM President John Cameron, Ph.D., lectures at a FLAAPM chapter meeting circa 1991. Dr. Cameron frequently "wintered over" in Florida during the 1990s.