

AIRRS leadership team

Message From The President

In support of the society's vision to incentivize young, energetic health physicists, sustaining the HP pipeline, AIRRS is excited about its opportunities to implement the joint venture initiatives afforded by the recent Memorandum of Understanding with the Campus Radiation Safety Organization (CRSO). My fellow officers and I are proactively pursuing avenues to utilize the funds received from CRSO in a timely manner, many of which are being directed to students conducting research and involved with innovative projects. Section members are invited to participate in these initiatives and may do so by bringing forth your ideas to our officers. While we are focusing on what can be accomplished during this fiscal year, your ideas, thoughts, and suggestions will serve as a platform for executing long term initiatives. AIRRS encourages everyone to be a part of this journey. I would like to personally invite section members who wish to contribute to or actively participate in our periodic zoom calls to inform any officer of your desire, so that you can be included in our discussions. The officers are also working to enhance the AIRRS website. This leadership profile is but one example of a new feature. We solicit your help in making the website more enticing, exciting, useful, and beneficial for everyone. This is a very exciting year for AIRRS with all the resources that have been made available to this section. I am privileged to be its current President at this time with a great team!

President: Carl Tarantino



Carl currently works as a Health Physics consultant with Multi Industrial Services, Inc., is certified by the ABHP and a Fellow of the HPS. Carl was an MSC Radiation Health Officer in the Navy, received his M.S. in Health Physics, Environmental Engineering from University of Florida, his M.B.A. from Averett University, and worked as a Power Reactor Health Physicist for Dominion Energy for 33 years. Carl has served many leadership positions at both the national and local HPS levels, has a passion for teaching the general public about radiation, enjoys hiking, tennis, travel, and spending time with family.

President-elect: Latha Vasudevan



Latha is the Asst. Director/ Radiological Safety Officer (RSO) for Texas A&M University. She is certified by the American Board of Health Physics and is a Fellow of Health Physics Society. Latha holds M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Health Physics from Texas A&M University and has more than 25 years of work experience as a professional Health Physicist in the University Radiation Safety Program. She has served in many leadership positions with the Texas Chapter and national HPS and is currently serving on the HPS Board of Directors.

Secretary-treasurer: Caitlin Root



Caitlin is a health physicist for ORAU in the Professional Trainings Programs (PTP) group. She earned a B.S. in health physics from Bloomsburg University and an M.S. in environmental health physics from Clemson University. Caitlin has experience working in a university health physics program and currently trains individuals on various health physics topics. She has been a member of the HPS since 2013 and is excited to encourage and promote younger individuals to become health physicists.

Board Member: Danny McClung



Danny is the health physicist and radiological consultant for Health Outcomes Military Exposures (HOME) in the Veterans Health Administration. He has a B.S. in Nuclear Technologies from Excelsior College and more than 35 years experience in radiation safety. Danny served 21 years in the US Army, to include duty at the Nevada Test Site, NRC-licensed SRO at the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute, instructor of Army HP at the Academy of Health Sciences, and did 2 stints at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He is a Fellow of the HPS and Military Section recipient of the John C. Taschner Leadership Award. Danny has served HPS as President of the Military Section and Chair of the Nominating Committee. He is beginning a second term on the NRRPT Board of Directors and has served on the Exam Panel since 2009.

Board Member: Steven Dewey

Steven Dewey is the Chief of Health Physics for the NIST Center Neutron Research. He has a Master's and PhD in Radiological Health Engineering from the University of Michigan. Steve has more than 25 years as an HP. Steve served for 20 years in the Air Force as a Health Physicist. Steve joined the HPS in 2001 and is currently the Chair of the ABHP Appeals Committee.



Board Member: Alexander Bakken

Alex is currently a Radioisotope R&D Specialist at Niowave, Inc. in Lansing, MI. He holds a Ph.D in Health Physics as well as an M.S. in Nuclear Engineering, both from Purdue University. Alex has 13 years of experience working in NRC licensed facilities, and is currently pursuing certification from the ABHP. He joined the HPS in 2014 and is excited for the opportunity to contribute as a newly elected AIRRS board member in 2021.



Past-president: Daniel Menchaca

Daniel Menchaca holds degrees from Texas A&M University in Nuclear Engineering (BS), Radiological Health Engineering (BS), and Health Physics (MS). He is certified in health physics by the American Board of Health Physics. He previously worked for the General Electric Company at various power reactor sites. He currently works for Texas A&M University at the Cyclotron Institute.

