

## SECURING HEALTH PHYSICS FOR TOMORROW

### EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF RADIATION PROTECTION SPECIALISTS

For nearly 70 years, the **Health Physics Society (HPS)** has played a critical role in promoting excellence in the science, practice, communication, and application of radiation safety and protection. HPS is the largest radiation protection society in the world and serves as a trusted resource to over 2,700 members. We bring together professionals from diverse industries including healthcare, nuclear power, national defense, mining, research, and more.

Since the advent of x-rays and radioactivity, health physicists have played a vital role in improving people's lives. As the field continues to evolve, the contributions of enthusiastic and innovative students are more crucial than ever. And yet, the numbers of specialists entering health physics continues to decline. This shortfall poses a significant challenge to maintaining and advancing the safety standards that protect both workers and the public.

*To ensure a safer future, we need more radiation protection professionals.*

#### FROM MANHATTAN PROJECT TO MODERN CHALLENGES

##### *Where have all the radiation safety professionals gone?*

Following the Manhattan Project in 1942, health physics careers grew steadily to meet the growing demand for nuclear technology, reaching their peak in the mid-1990s. However, insufficient funding for academic programs and student scholarships, along with changes in medicine and technology, have contributed to a steady decline in the number of radiation safety professionals entering the field.

**Currently, there are not enough radiation professionals to support the various disciplines necessary to meet national needs—now and in the future.** The shortage of radiation safety professionals impacts federal, state, and local environmental protection agencies, medical care facilities, nuclear reactor sites, national laboratories, and other radiation related organizations.

#### AN URGENT NATIONAL NEED



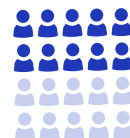
Only **19** health physics academic degree-granting programs in the U.S.

**53%** decrease in health physics degrees since 2009



**6** schools that have phased out health physics programs entirely since 2009

Over **50%** of HPS members are 50 years and older



*According to Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education and the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements*

# The Health Physics Academic Education and Research Center

Recognizing the acute shortage of health physicists across the nation, HPS established the **Health Physics Academic Education and Research Center (HPAERC)** in July 2023 to address the crisis.

The Center advances the work of the HPS by raising crucial funds to reinvigorate dwindling health physics academic programs and inspire and support the next generation of radiation protection specialists.

HPAERC will:

- Increase awareness for health physics careers.
- Assist university programs to grow and meet the need for health physics professionals.
- Support training radiation protection specialists in the field.

**Our goal is not only to sustain the radiation protection workforce but to equip professionals with the knowledge and tools they need to take on the challenges of tomorrow.**

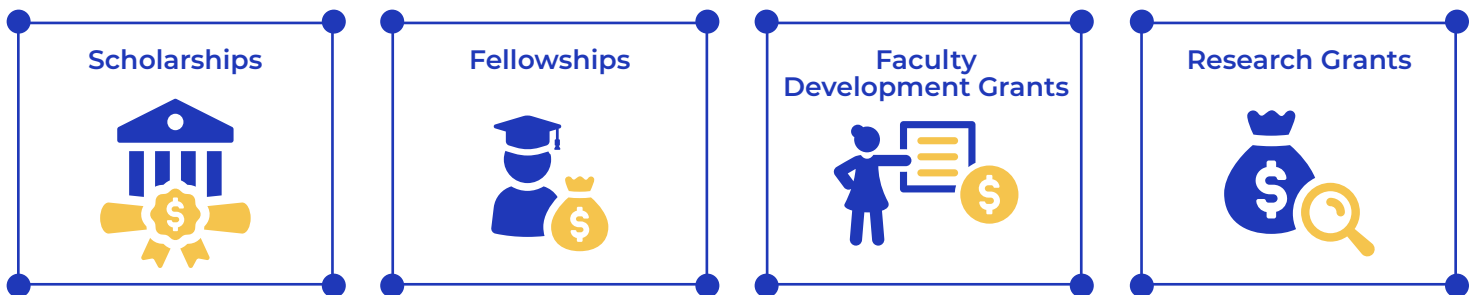
*The critical need for health physics professionals cannot be overstated.*

## OUR MISSION

To raise and disburse funds in the form of scholarships, fellowships, faculty development grants, research grants and other forms of financial support to worthy students and institutions that are engaged in training students to become employed as health physicists and radiation protection specialists.

## SCHOLARSHIPS & SUPPORT

HPAERC will award scholarships, grants, and other forms of financial support to worthy students and institutions engaged in training the next generation of health physicists and radiation protection specialists.



## Securing Health Physics for Tomorrow

To empower the next generation of radiation professionals, HPAERC has launched the **Securing Health Physics for Tomorrow campaign** and is preparing a multi-phased approach. An estimated \$1M is needed to prepare our infrastructure, launch the program, and begin distributing scholarships and grants. An Awards Committee will be established and tasked with developing the rules and criteria for the awards. Our aim is to award scholarships to two students in our first year. Following the successful completion of Phase 1 and with additional funding, HPAERC will increase the number of awards in the years that follow. Our ultimate goal is to establish an endowment to secure HPAERC's future and sustain our mission for future generations of health physics professionals.

**\$75,000**

The annual cost of 2 student graduate level scholarships— tuition plus a stipend

## OUR PATH FORWARD

### Phase 1 - \$1M

2025–2026

- Build out organization infrastructure
- Establish volunteer awards committee
- Formalize scholarship and grants program structure
- Launch outreach and awareness initiatives
- Announce first round of award applications
- **Distribute at least 2 student scholarships**

### Phase 2 - \$2M

2027–2028

- Hire programmatic staff
- Conduct Program assessment
- Expand outreach and awareness initiatives
- Announce second round of award applications
- **Distribute at least 10 student scholarships**

## HPAERC TIMELINE

**JULY 2023**

HPAERC is established



**OCTOBER 2023**

Initial board members elected



**JUNE 2024**

Updated bylaws approved by HPAERC board



*The future of health physics is bright.*

**This is a critical time for HPAERC, and your generosity is pivotal to our growth and future success.** Your support of the **Securing Health Physics for Tomorrow campaign** is more than a philanthropic gesture, it is a strategic investment in the future of radiation protection.

*All campaign donors will be listed on HPAERC's website. Pledges may be made over a two-year period, ending 2028.*

**Seal your commitment to the next generation of health physicists, today.**

## Get Connected

### Elizabeth Gillenwalters

President, HPAERC  
elizabeth.gillenwalters@  
siemens-healthineers.com  
(865) 237-9045

### Craig Little

Federal Agency Liaison, HPS  
Board Member, HPAERC  
agencyliaison@hps.org  
(970) 260-2810

### David Connolly

Board Member, HPAERC  
davidconnollyjr@gmail.com  
(202) 557-1728

**www.hps.org**

Health Physics Society  
950 Herndon Parkway, Suite 450  
Herndon, VA 20170