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Newsletter



NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER OF THE HEALTH PHYSICS SOCIETY

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Visit our web site at www.nechps.org.

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Volunteers needed for the 2006 HPS Meeting in Providence!

*ATTEND THE PROFESSIONAL ENRICHMENT
PROGRAM (PEP) AND EARN CONTINUING
EDUCATION CREDITS FOR FREE!*

Simply volunteer to be an assistant proctor for the PEPs this summer in Providence. We need at least ten secondary proctors on Sunday and six secondary proctors per day during the week. We will provide all the training needed for you to assist the primary proctor.

INTERESTED? Contact John Salladay at
207-438-2273 *OR* by e-mail at
SalladayJL@mail.ports.navy.mil.

Visit the NECHPS website (www.nechps.org) for
more details about the annual meeting.

A New HPS Award *Ray Guilmette*

For those of you who attended the awards banquet at the annual meeting in Spokane last year, you should have noticed that there was a new award—the National Student Science Award.

This award was created to recognize outstanding contributions by students in grades 6-12 to the understanding of the applications of radiation and its impact on the environment and health. Eligibility for this award is to individuals currently in grades 6-12 who have contributed reports or presentations of projects on radiation benefits, applications, and impacts at local science fairs. This award is presented at a meeting of the nominating chapter or a chapter near the awardee's residence. Nominations for this award can be made by any plenary member of the Society or by a chapter.

Recognizing that most science fairs are held in the spring, the nominations must be submitted to the chair of the Awards Committee by 30 May. Each nomination should include either a report of the project that has been written by the nominated

student or a set of pictures that illustrate the student's display. The nomination shall also include a discussion of the criteria used by the nominator for selecting the nominee's project. Of course, additional supporting letters may also be included.

The Awards Committee may grant up to four awards in any year. Each award shall consist of a mounted certificate naming the awardee and the title of the project and a cash award that will not exceed \$1,000 total for all awards given in a year.

Within the last year, the Society has engaged the National Science Teachers Association, letting it know of the existence of our new award. But the real impetus for identifying talented students will depend on our efforts. Therefore, I strongly encourage each chapter to consider submitting nominations for this new award to the Awards Committee. It is a new outreach opportunity that should not be missed.

[Nominate a local student for this new award! Send your nomination to the NECHPS Officers and help a local student shine at the Providence Meeting!]

Dr. Edward Webster Passes Away at Age 83

By Bryan Marquard, Boston Globe Staff

Scheduled to have a major operation, Edward W. Webster arrived at the hospital well prepared – for work.

"His doctor said he had never seen anyone check in for open-heart surgery with a typewriter and a briefcase," said Dr. Webster's daughter, Susan MacPhee.

Dr. Webster was a radiologist whose devotion to his job was such that on another occasion, he had a minor heart attack on the way home from work and paid it little mind. The next morning, he collapsed at the Charles/MGH Red Line station and had to be dissuaded by another physician on the platform from dusting himself off and heading to his office at Massachusetts General Hospital.

The doctor told him, "You can't go to work, you're having a heart attack," MacPhee said.

Dr. Webster, 83, shed the Cockney accent of his London row house upbringing en route to becoming an international authority on radiology and professor emeritus at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Webster, who suffered from Alzheimer's disease, was hospitalized with pneumonia and died Dec. 17. He had been living at the Carleton-Willard Village retirement community in Belmont.

The American College of Radiology awarded a gold medal to Dr. Webster in 1991 for 40 years of contributions to the field, a decade before he retired. He formerly was director of the radiological sciences division at Mass. General and accumulated enough publications, honors, and high-level appointments -- from the National Institutes of Health to the US Department of Energy to the World Health Organization -- to fill a 38-page curriculum vitae.

"He came from very humble beginnings in the East End of London," said a son, Edward R. Webster of Topsham, Maine. "My father elevated himself through his academic achievements and accomplishments."

The only son among four children growing up in a home with no indoor plumbing or central heating, he earned scholarships and a chance at a university education.

"Once he excelled in school, he was one of these children who was retaught to speak . . . more or less along the lines of 'My Fair Lady,'" his son said. "If he had kept his Cockney accent, he never would have made it to university."

He graduated from the University of London with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering, with first-class honors, and a doctorate in the same subject three years later.

Dr. Webster first came to study in the United States in 1949, at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, then returned to England. He moved back to the United States for good in 1953, joining the radiology department at Mass. General and beginning to teach at Harvard Medical School.

His areas of expertise included the use of radiation in breast cancer and leukemia research and the impact

of low-level radiation on people. Dr. Webster invented a lightweight dental apron that offered protection from X-rays, his son said, but among his proudest accomplishments were two very different media experiences.

As an expert on radiation, he was a guest of Ted Koppel on "Nightline" after the Three Mile Island nuclear accident. And, his son said, he always was quietly proud of his entry in "Who's Who in America."

"Part of it also was the fact that it was 'Who's Who in America.' It wasn't 'Who's Who in Britain,'" Edward Webster said. At the ceremony when he was awarded the gold medal by the radiology association, Dr. Webster noted his pride in being an American.

While rising in the field of radiology, Dr. Webster's family grew. His first wife, Irene, was diabetic and died a few months after the birth of their second son. A few years later, friends set up Dr. Webster with Dorothea Wood, a widow with three children. It was April Fool's Day. They stayed up talking until 3 a.m. Six weeks later, they married.

"We all knew something was up because she started writing letters," said Peter Webster, one of Dorothea's sons.

MacPhee found some of the letters her father wrote while packing up her parents' home prior to their move to the retirement community and was surprised to see a different side of the scientist. "It was amazing to hear him so amorous," said MacPhee, who lives in Belmont. "It was very sweet."

"They were crazy about each other -- sometimes to the exclusion of the kids," said Peter Webster, who lives in Jamaica Plain. "It was a wonderful relationship in many ways."

The Websters were married for more than 40 years, living most of that time in Lexington. Dr. Webster was "always very proper. He was always a gentleman," recalled Beth Haire, his secretary at MGH for nearly 16 years. And always more than a little British, despite his affection for his adopted country.

On weekends, promptly at 9 a.m., he would rouse any child still asleep by calling up the stairs "wakey,

wakey, wakey," said another son, Mark Webster of La Crosse, Wisc. "You could almost hear his mom saying that to him when he was young."

And there was Dr. Webster's affection for kippers, "an acquired, British taste," Edward Webster said.

Merging the two families and growing up with a work-driven father with exacting standards left the children clinging, in different ways, as Alzheimer's weakened Dr. Webster. "None of the kids were ready to let him go," MacPhee said.

"It's strange to go from the beginnings of the family in 1961, when it was pins and needles and we didn't know what would happen, to the time of his death when I'm saying I'm proud to be his son," Peter Webster said.

In addition to his wife, sons, and daughter, Dr. Webster leaves another son, John of Londonderry, N.H.; another daughter, Anne Wolfe of Mahweh, N.J.; a sister, Margaret Bates of Bishops Stortford, England; and six grandchildren.

A service was held Jan. 27 at 2 p.m. at Carleton-Willard Village.

[Thanks to Mike Whalen for contributing this piece. If you'd like to contribute a piece, or even an idea for an article, contact the editor at dlamay@mit.edu.]

NECHPS Gets Involved at Local Science Fair Ninni Jacob

The Rhode Island Science and Engineering Fair was held at the Community College of Rhode Island, Warwick, RI on March 11, 2006. The New England Chapter participated by judging and giving out special awards.

The awards were given to science projects that are related to the effects of radiation, both ionizing and non-ionizing. This includes gamma, X-ray, microwaves, lasers, ultraviolet, electromagnetic and visible radiation. This year there were several projects meeting this criterion. There were two awards in the Junior division of \$50 each; and one award in the

Senior Division of \$100. NECHPS has given this award for the last five years. This year the national HPS has created a new Student Science award. This award will recognize outstanding contributions by students in grades 6-12 to the understanding of the applications of radiation and its impact on the environment and health.

The HPS would like to congratulate all the recipients, and their teachers and parents, who have worked very hard to put this together.

The winners this year are:

Junior Division

Kelsi Gorman – Sacred Heart School, for her project entitled: "Radioactive Taste- Does Radiation Remain in Food After it is Microwaved?"

George Tollefson – All Saints Academy, for his project entitled: "Will South Pole magnetic Field Affect the Growth of Sunflower Seeds"

Senior Division

Lauren Cunningham – East Greenwich High School, for her project entitled: "Sounds Like More Clean Water: The Effect of Ultrasound on Denitrifying Bacteria"

Lauren Cunningham was nominated for the national award, as well. If she is one of the winners, she will be present at the annual meeting in Providence in June 2006. It was interesting to note that this year the winners represented different aspects of non-ionizing radiation. Ninni Jacob was a judge and presented the awards on behalf of NECHPS.

New Address??

To change your address or contact information, visit the NECHPS website at www.nechps.org. Up-to-date information will ensure accurate entries for everyone in the NECHPS Membership Directory.

Upcoming Meetings

Visit the NECHPS website at www.nechps.org for information about other local professional society meetings that are scheduled for the coming months.

NECHPS ANNUAL MEETING

Date: May 31st, 2006

Location: Regency, Westford, MA

Program: 7:30 AM Registration / Vendor Set-up
8:30 AM Meeting Begins
11:30 Buffet Lunch (soup, salad, fish&meat entrees, veggies, desert, coffee&tea)
4:00 PM Meeting Adjourns

(coffee, tea, and soft drinks will be available during breaks)

Cost: \$65.00 Members, \$75.00 Guests, and \$10.00 Students

Tentative Presentation Topics:

Radiological Emergency Mass Screening System - Jennifer Stinchfield Fernandes, UMASS – Lowell

National Incident Management System and Compliance Goals - Thomas F. O'Connell, Mass. DPH

Fluoroscopy: New FDA Regulations and Dose - M. Terry LaFrance, MS, DABMP, RSO, Baystate Health

Radiation Medical Events in Hospitals - Victor Evdokimoff, CHP, Dade Moeller and Associates

Increased Security Controls – Regulatory Perspective - Robert L. Gallagher, Inspection Sup., Mass. Radiation Control Program

Increased Security Controls – Licensee Perspective / Culture Clash - Joseph Ring, Ph.D., RSO, Harvard University

On the Trail of the Atomic Garbage Man - James J. Cherniack, CHP, US FDA/WEAC

Environmental Radiological Assessment of Spent Fuel Storage Facilities - Eric Darois, MS, CHP, Principal, RSCS, Inc.

Radiological Safety in Transferring Spent Fuel into Dry-Cask Storage - a.k.a. - how do you do that?
Greg Babineau, Rad. Protection Manager, Yankee Atomic Electric Company

The registration deadline is May 24th, 2006!

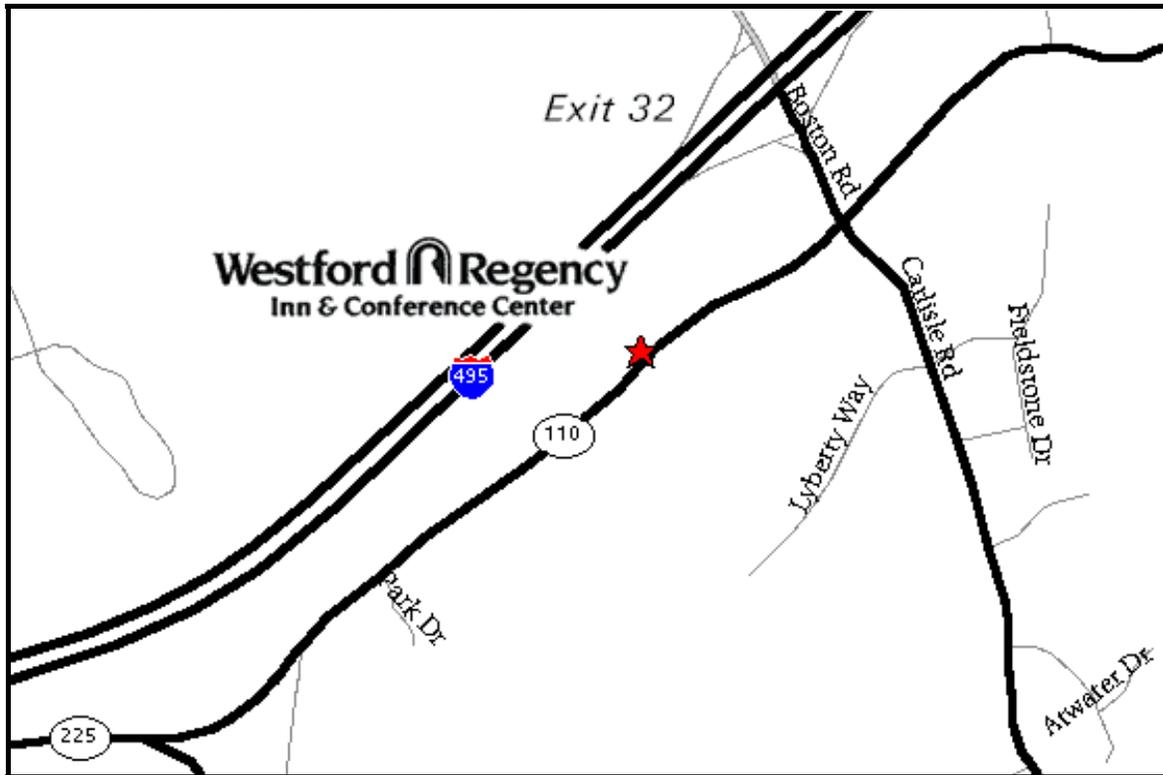
Please note, you can make payment up to and including the day of the event (pay “at the door”); however, no matter when you make payment, you must register by 5/24/06 AND you are responsible for payment if you register but do not attend.

To Register:

call : (617) 427-2944 x2020
or e-mail: michael.whalen@state.ma.us

DIRECTIONS TO THE WESTFORD REGENCY

219 Littleton Road, Westford, MA 01886



Directions

Traveling North:

On Interstate 495, take Exit 32 and turn right at the end of exit ramp. Proceed to the first intersection and turn right on Route 110 west. The Westford Regency is 1/4 mile on your right.

Traveling South:

On Interstate 495, take Exit 32 and turn left at the end of the exit ramp. Proceed to the first intersection and turn right on Route 110 west. The Westford Regency is 1/4 mile on your right.

For additional information please call: (978) 692-8200 or visit:

<http://www.westfordregency.com>.