

Admissions

Interviews

As we approach the interview scheduling date, we have reached out to all internship sites to determine their status via a survey tool. Since we are back to on-site interviews, if there is an internship site that cannot accommodate on-site interviews, they will most likely be removed from the list of interview sites for applicants.

If you are planning to interview *internal applicants only*, you will not be listed as a potential site for qualified applicants; however, you must let us know that you plan to interview and you must adhere to our outlined interview process. We will need the name(s) of the potential applicant(s) to assure they meet the admissions requirements. If you have any questions please reach out for clarification.

Observation Hours

The advisory committee recently reviewed the observation policy to determine if radiation therapists (Track A applicants) could submit half of the required hours compared to non-radiation therapists (Track B applicants). The decision was unanimous in that radiation therapists could complete 20 hours of observation only. This decision was made based on the prior experience with dosimetry during RTT school and/or current employment. If they prefer to do more observation, that is welcomed since the admissions process is very competitive.

JRCERT

The JRCERT is continually in need of medical dosimetry site visitors. The ideal candidates are clinical instructors. As an affiliate of this program, please [visit the JRCERT](#) for more information on how you can be a site visitor.

Didactic Instructor Positions

We are seeking didactic instructors for upcoming 2023 program courses.

- The fall 2023 DOS 518 Professional Issues course is in need of an instructor.
- We also need an instructor for DOS 541 Radiobiology in the summer of 2023.

Please reach out to us if you have an interest in teaching one of these courses.

Commencement

Students in the 2022 cohort will complete the program on Friday, December 16. Commencement will take place that weekend on Sunday December 18 in La Crosse. Graduates will receive their transcripts and diploma via mail within 6-8 weeks later. They are eligible to sit for the board exam in September 2023.

MDCB Exam Results

We had outstanding MDCB exam results again with the cohort graduating in Dec 2021.

The official report from the MDCB, shows that we had 22/22 graduates who passed on 1st attempt resulting in a **100% pass rate** for their cohort!

The new 5 year (2017-2021) exam pass rate for our program is 95% (114/120).



MEDICAL DOSIMETRY | FALL NEWSLETTER 2022

Clinical News You Can Use

Orientation for Incoming 2023 Cohort

The Clinical Orientation period will begin for students on Monday, January 9, 2023. Students will spend full 8 hours/day, 5 days/week) in the clinic. NOTE: this is 8 hours not including lunch or breaks. On Monday, January 23, 2023 formal class will begin and students will spend 6 hours of scheduled time in the clinic for 5 days/week (30 hours/week). Please see the Current Students website: (<https://www.uwlax.edu/grad/medical-dosimetry/current-students/>) and the Preceptors website: (<https://www.uwlax.edu/grad/medical-dosimetry/clinical-preceptors/#tab-clinical-management>) for upcoming semester schedules.

All 2023 clinical instructors and students will be entered into the Typhon clinical management system after the 2022 cohort of students graduate on December 16, 2022. Clinical instructors and students will receive an email with their access password and instructions for the clinical management system prior to Orientation in early January. Please contact Anne Marie (avann@uwlax.edu) if you have any questions.

Student Daily Clinical Hours

Reminder: All students are required to complete 6 hours per day of clinical internship. Because they are not there 8 or more hours, they do not get a 1 hour lunch. They get 30 minutes for lunch. This is why they are physically present for 6.5 hours each day. If you are allowing a 1 hour lunch, then the student is technically only there 5.5 hours per day. This is NOT permitted. If they want an hour lunch, they need to be there 7 hours per day for clinic.

2023 Clinical Site Visits

In Spring semester, Anne Marie generally visits each clinical site, preceptor and student to assess their adherence to program requirements and policies. Anne Marie will be contacting each site in early January to determine the feasibility of an on-site visit and/or the possibility of an alternative remote meeting. A date will then be determined for the on-site or virtual meeting.

Clinical Adjunct Faculty Appointments

Reminder!! Any medical physicist or dosimetrist at our clinical internship affiliate sites can apply for clinical adjunct faculty appointments at UW-La Crosse.

Why would you want to do this? For some individuals, this is important to add to their CV or resume but you also have some benefits at UW-L (particularly the library). We have the information listed on the [Clinical Preceptor Website](#) welcome page. You will see a link for Clinical Adjunct Faculty Appointments. Contact [Nishele](#) if you are interested.

Social Media

Follow our [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) page. On our Facebook page, we post updates regularly while also posting job openings for current students and/ or alumni. If you have a job opening or something you would like to share on our program FB page, contact Nishele.

2022 Clinical Educator Award of Excellence

We solicited nominations from the students for the 2022 Clinical Educator Award of Excellence. Nominations were evaluated based on the quality of submission by the student and the qualifying characteristics listed within the nomination.

Congratulations go out to the top Outstanding Clinical Educators who were nominated for this respected award.

Nominees

- Joann Li - University of Rochester Medicine - Wilmot Cancer Institute, Rochester NY
- Wesley Zoller – The James Cancer Center @ Ohio State University, Columbus OH
- Nick Piotrowski – Froedtert Hospital, Milwaukee WI
- Lon Marsh – Spectrum Health - Lakeland, St. Joseph MI
- Susan Gehr - University of VA Medical Center - Couric Cancer Center, Charlottesville VA
- Lloyd Campbell - Georgetown University Hospital, Washington D.C.
- Kimberly Lovell - Baylor Scott and White - Rock Prairie, College Station TX
- Matt Tobler - Renown Regional Medical Center, Reno NV
- Hanaan Habibulla - NY Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital, Brooklyn NY
- Zeke Ramirez - UCSF, San Francisco CA
- Charity Rogstad - Bismarck Cancer Center, Bismarck ND

After careful review of nominations and qualifications that stood out as impressive, the 2022 Clinical Educator Award is presented to:

Wesley Zoller

Clinical Preceptor and Instructor

**The James Cancer Center at The Ohio State University
Wexner Medical Center**

2022 Clinical Educator Award of Excellence

The characteristics **Wesley** exhibits are found in the nominations from 2 students:



“Wes is not only an exceptional medical dosimetrist, but an incredible teacher. He approaches everyday with a very positive attitude and makes students feel like they are a member of the team. Wes puts patients first and teaches students to always look out for the patients’ best interest. Wes works hard to ensure that students get a hands-on learning experience. Students are able to work on practice cases from a vast database of different treatment sites. Wes doesn’t tell students how to do the plan at first, instead he lets them problem solve and try their best to come up with a good plan. This helps students learn how to approach difficult cases which will be very useful in their career. Then, students present their plans while Wes gives them positive feedback and advice. In the beginning of the program, I presented a case that I didn’t feel very confident in. When I was done, Wes explained why my plan was well thought out, but also explained some of the factors that I hadn’t considered. After that lesson, I was able to apply his advice to create exceptional treatment plans. Wes also makes sure to check in on students to see how we are doing and if there are specific goals that he can help us work towards. He keeps us involved in the clinic by taking us back to CT and to the machine for difficult set-ups. When he has a unique case that he is working on, he presents the case in the dosimetry classroom so we can be involved in the problem-solving process. By keeping students involved and leading by example, Wesley Zoller helps students grow to become excellent medical dosimetrists and is unquestionably deserving of recognition with this clinical educator award.”



2022 Clinical Educator Award of Excellence

(Continued from p. 4)

“Throughout this clinical year, Wes has consistently gone above and beyond to challenge students’ skills in dosimetry and create a healthy learning environment that supports students in the transition from students to professionals. While taking on the roles of lead dosimetrist, clinical advisor, research advisor, and didactic instructor for the radiation therapy program at Ohio State, Wes continues to find time every day to spend with students to offer guidance and ensure that they feel supported. His leadership, professionalism, and commitment to student growth has served as the foundation for the strong dosimetry clinical education program at the James Cancer Hospital. One of the greatest strengths Wes brings to his role as a dosimetry clinical educator is his ability to gauge student competency and adapt his teaching and mentorship styles to best benefit each of his students. He is particularly adept at determining when students need guidance and when to provide them space to engage in their own problem-solving process to complete a treatment plan. This approach allows students to build confidence as independent dosimetrists while offering a ‘safety net’ so they never feel that they will take on a case they cannot handle. Wes has always had the goal for his students to have the confidence to ‘hit the ground running’ when they graduate and to be fully self-sufficient in any clinical environment when they start their careers. To further facilitate student growth, Wes has created a large digital library containing dozens of anonymized practice cases that students regularly use to test their skills. He curated this database to include interesting and challenging cases that encourage students to find creative solutions that combine multiple treatment

planning techniques at once. Upon completion of each practice case, Wes has students present their treatment plans to peers and instructors to receive feedback and expand their repertoire of treatment planning tools for use in future cases in the clinic. When giving feedback, Wes always encourages students to find ways to improve their treatment planning skills; even when students create an ‘acceptable’ treatment plan, he consistently works with students to find ways to make them excellent. Throughout the clinical year, Wes seamlessly integrates these practice cases into his students’ workflow to align with the treatment sites and techniques that students are working on at a specific time. Wes has done particularly well helping students navigate changes to the clinical environment resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. His clinic has transitioned to a hybrid work environment that includes several days per week working from home, which means students work with different groups of dosimetrists each day in the clinic. Wes communicates with other dosimetrists and physicists daily to ensure educational continuity and ensure that students are receiving support in the clinic on days he is not present. Wes always exhibits a positive attitude, is invariably approachable, and has been an invaluable resource and friend to his students and peers. His long-standing dedication to students both inside and outside the clinic makes him more than worthy of recognition.”

Congratulations Wes!