

PROFESSOR GEORGE STARKSCHALL AWARDED THE HAROLD JOHNS MEDAL, 2022



George Starkschall is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Radiation Physics at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, at which he first arrived in 1985. However, since 2010, he has served as the Executive Secretary of the Commission on Accreditation of Medical Physics Educational Programs, known as CAMPEP. This is a fitting position for George, as he has held a long-standing interest in education, particularly that of medical physicists.

Immediately after arriving at MD Anderson, George was appointed to the Radiation Oncology Residency Training Committee. He was subsequently appointed to the Curriculum Committee of the Graduate School of the Biomedical Sciences, and to the Medical Physics Graduate Program Steering Committee. He went on to Chair the Steering Committee, and served on, or chaired numerous other committees related to education at MD Anderson. A key position was as Director of Education in the Department of Radiation Physics, during which he was also Director of the Medical Physics Graduate Program.

As Director of Education, George introduced several teaching innovations into the medical physics graduate program. Chief among these were Peer Instruction, Flipped Learning, and Problem-Based Instruction. These techniques were substantial improvements on the conventional lectures offered by many educators, and George's success prompted several of his colleagues to emulate his style.

In addition to his passion for education, George put his skills and interests in programming to good use. He

contributed to the development of one of the first clinical three-dimensional treatment planning systems, a radiotherapy picture archival and communication system, and an early method for obtaining time-dependent computed tomography image data sets.

During this time George was promoted to full Professor in the Department of Radiation Physics. He served in that position until his formal retirement in 2010, after which he returned in a part time capacity as a Research Professor and Distinguished Senior Lecturer. This enabled him to continue to contribute to the Department's education programs and allowed him focus on the quality and standardization of education.

It was at this time that George began his work with CAMPEP, which has set standards for quality for graduate and residency training programs. Accreditation by CAMPEP is now effectively a requirement in the U.S. and assures that graduates meet the requirements for medical physicist certification by the American Board of Radiology.

Between them, George and his wife Frada Boxer have four children and five grandchildren. They divide their time between Houston and the mountains of southwestern Colorado.

The IOMP is delighted and honored and to name George as the recipient of the 2022 Harold Johns Medal.

Congratulations on behalf of the IOMP Executive Committee.

Prof. Geoff Ibbott
Chair IOMP Scientific Committee