

RENEE L DICKINSON, M.S.
Medical Physicist, Diagnostic Imaging
University of Washington Medical Center, Department of Radiology



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EDUCATION

2005-2007

Masters of Science, Specialized M.S. Medical Physics Program, University of Texas Health Science Center Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Houston, Texas

2001-2005

Bachelors of Science, Physics, Cum Laude, College of Arts and Sciences, Stetson University, Deland, Florida

BOARD CERTIFICATION

Board Eligible, American Board of Radiology (ABR)
Specialty: Diagnostic Radiological Physics
Part 1 – Completed and passed, August 20, 2008

WEBSITES

<https://www.rad.washington.edu/radiology-personnel/rdickins> (includes my Curriculum Vitae)
<https://www.rad.washington.edu/academics/academic-sections/diagphys> (UW Diagnostic Physics)

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

2008-present Full member, American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM)
Education Council: Education & Training of Medical Physicists: Minority Recruitment Subcommittee Member (MUSE)
2005-2007 Student member, American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM)

OTHER MEMBERSHIPS

2004-present Member, Sigma Pi Sigma, Physics Honor Society
2003-present Zeta Tau Alpha
2005 Mortar Board, National College Senior Honor Society

OPEN LETTER TO PHYSICS MAJORS:

I was very lucky to spend most of my childhood and college years in the wonderful state of Florida!! I grew up in Pensacola, FL and moved to Deland to attend Stetson University... I remember when I toured Stetson as a high school senior, I absolutely fell in love with the buildings and layout of the campus. As a student, my friends and I used to regularly sit in the grass at the quad and enjoy the warmth of the hot sun and an iced coffee from the kiosk. To this day, I still enjoy strolling through the campus and city with my college friends when we return for visits. My tentative plans to visit Stetson

next is in the Spring of 2011... I hope to meet the current students of the Physics Department at that time.

My professional development – a little about how I got to where I am now...

I graduated from Stetson University in 2005 with a Bachelor's degree in Physics with a minor in Mathematics. During my undergraduate studies, I had the opportunity to complete my senior research project by accepting an internship in Bioengineering at Clemson University. The work was funded by the National Institute of Health and the National Science Foundation and focused on undergraduate students applying their respective disciplines to bioengineering research and education. I completed a nine-week research project focused on the design of a force sensor using strain gages for real-time tension testing of cell/material constructs.

In 2005, I was accepted as a Medical Physics Master's Candidate at The University of Texas Health Sciences Center at Houston. This program is one of twenty-five accredited Medical Physics graduate programs in the United States and Canada (approved by the Commission on Accreditation of Medical Physics Educational Programs, Inc). I received my Master of Science degree in 2007. As a graduate student, I completed both didactic course work as well as a Master's thesis research project under the supervisor of Richard E. Wendt III, PhD. My Master's thesis was entitled Technical Improvements of Lymphoscintigraphy; the two main focuses were to develop a 2-D localization methodology for breast lymphoscintigrams using 3-D SPECT/CT scanners with the aim of reducing radiation dose to the patient and to determine the most efficient collimator type for planar scintigram imaging.

My current position of Medical Physicist at the University of Washington Medical Center (UWMC) is to provide physics support to the personnel in the Department of Radiology. My main focus is to oversee and implement regular quality control programs to ensure superior diagnostic imaging across all modalities (general radiography, computed tomography (CT), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), fluoroscopy/angiography, and ultrasound) and to minimize patient exposure to ionizing radiation. I also regularly assist with obtaining and maintaining our American College of Radiology (ACR) accreditation for computed tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance image (MRI) modalities as well as teaching imaging physics principles to UWMC Radiology Residents. My role here is a fine balance that allows me to practice professionally in a clinical environment, while enjoying the opportunities to teach and perform clinically-relevant research. In fact, my research is being presented at two annual meetings in 2010: the national meeting for American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM) in June 2010 and the international meeting for the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) in November 2010. Please check out my CV (on my website) for information on my abstracts!



UWMC Radiology Physics Section:
Dr Kalpana Kanal, Dr Brent Stewart,
and Renee Dickinson

Here we are performing the acceptance testing of a new Philips flat-panel detector angiography suite at Harborview Medical Center.

Although I have finished my course-work, I am currently in the process of obtaining certification as a Diagnostic Radiological Physicist by the American Board of Radiology (ABR). This process takes several years to complete (at least 24-36 months). It requires practical experience for a specified number of months (either on-the-job or as a physics resident at a CAMPEP accredited residency) as well as passing two initial qualification written exams – a general physics/clinical exam and a specialty exam – and one oral examination in the candidates specified specialty. I have currently satisfied my clinical experience requirements and have passed part I of III for the exams.

My personal adventures since graduation...

So if you've followed my professional development, you'll know that I've moved a bit since my undergraduate years! From Florida to Texas to Washington state....

But let's back up a bit first. Although I grew up in Florida and went to school there, my family is actually all from the great state of New York... UPSTATE, although I love spending time in NYC as well!!! Every summer since I was in middle school, my family has vacationed to Keuka Lake where we swim, boat & water ski, and jet ski. If you ever have the chance in your life to visit the NY Finger Lakes region, you will experience a great treat!

Although I didn't have much "free time" in graduate school, I had a great 2.5 years in Houston, TX. I have to say, studying in the Texas Medical Center – the largest medical center in the world – was a real treat and researching at MD Anderson Cancer Center – ranked #1 in cancer care for 7 of the past 9 years, including 2010 – was sort of surreal!! When I wasn't studying or writing abstracts or finishing my thesis work, I spent time in Texas scooting around Austin (...think 6th Street Nighlife) and San Antonio (...think Riverwalk) or enjoying the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. I think that



Hike to Ross Dam on Hwy 20 (the Cascade Loop Hwy) – Renee & Jack with Tucker

RodeoHouston was the highlight of my Texas adventures... it has the world's largest livestock exhibition, draws some of the world's biggest country stars (Brooks & Dunn and Gretchen Wilson were among my favorites), and all the typical Rodeo action including bull riding and bucking broncos.

And now SEATTLE! By far one of my favorite homes to date! I moved here in December 2007 and have enjoyed a wide variety of activities and opportunities in the city and surround countryside. In one view, you can see the Puget Sound flanked to the east by the Cascade Mountains and to the west by the Olympic Mountains. Although I love my job, I have really enjoyed my **!!FREE TIME!!** after work on and weekends. I got a dog (Tucker) in 2008, so we spend a lot of time outside hiking and swimming at Lake Washington. I have even learned to snow ski this year! Although the saying goes that "Seattle is a rainy city..." in all reality, it is more an *OVERCAST* and mild climate city so it's pretty easy to get outside year round. Every year, I have plenty to keep me busy... football games at

Qwest Field (either Seahawks or Sounders FC... I like both footballs!), enjoying a hot dog at Safeco when the New York Yankees come to town, meeting friends at a local pub downtown to watch the UF Gators football games, shopping at the Public Market (home to the famous flying fish), traveling out to the mountain passes for a day on the slopes, hiking in the desert east of the Cascade Mountains, drinking a glass of wine from one of the hundreds of vineyards in Oregon or Washington, or heading to the Gorge (a natural amphitheater overlooking the Columbia River) for some good music... I really have grown to love everything about my life in Seattle (both at work and at home).

My “take-home” point for this letter... you know... like the summary slide in a PowerPoint presentation!!!

Often life has so many opportunities and choices to make. To date, I’ve had two major cross-roads in my life where I’ve had to make what I consider to be major decisions. One was where to go to graduate school (after all the great years I spent at Stetson both on campus and studying in the Physics lounge... I knew that I wanted to continue my physics education). My choice in graduate schools landed me a great job at a nationally renowned hospital. My second choice was whether I wanted to stay on the west coast or move back east... although I really miss my family and friends back home, I have found a really fun & reasonable balance between a great job at the University of Washington and all the adventurous possibilities Seattle has to offer. So for the time being, I’ll be sticking around the Emerald City! BUT, I’m always interested in entertaining the idea of any new adventure that may cross my path!

I consider myself blessed to have been offered all the wonderful opportunities I have shared with you in this letter... maybe you have just taken note of a good location for a vacation based on my experiences, but maybe you’ll see that either during your years at Stetson or shortly thereafter you’ll be making big decisions for yourself!

I wish you all the best in your futures!!

Renee Dickinson



Fall River Falls near Winthrop, WA



My sister, Nicole, and I at the top of Snoqualmie Falls.
(Snoqualmie, WA)