CAMPEP PROGRAM – Almost done? ... Now what?

**The Next Step** - As you near completion of your CAMPEP Program, you will want to start looking for a residency position around 3 months before your firm thesis completion date. Residencies are paid training positions that will instantly almost triple your student income upon graduation!

Residents are normally hosted by a cancer centre (radiation oncology specialty) or a hospital (medical imaging specialties), as opposed to a university. For example, Ontario cancer centres host approximately 20 residents at any one time. Because the program duration is nominally two years in duration, this translates to approximately 10 residency openings per year. Information about residencies sponsored by Cancer Care Ontario may be found at: [https://www.cancercare.on.ca/cms/one.aspx?pageId=9352](https://www.cancercare.on.ca/cms/one.aspx?pageId=9352)

Residency programs available across North America may be found on the CAMEP website: [http://www.campep.org/campeplstres.asp](http://www.campep.org/campeplstres.asp)

**The Application Process** – Application procedures will vary by jurisdiction. Most Centres in Ontario ([https://www.cancercare.on.ca/cms/one.aspx?pageId=9352](https://www.cancercare.on.ca/cms/one.aspx?pageId=9352)) do not have a firm deadline for applications. The greater Toronto Program, on the other hand, has stricter deadlines. American Centres may now prefer to use the Common Application Program through the AAPM ([http://www.aapm.org/CAP](http://www.aapm.org/CAP)).

In any case, compose an error-free covering letter (have a non-specialist proof read it) that highlights your knowledge and accomplishments as a CAMPEP graduate student (courses, publications, awards). Show a real commitment to a professional career in medical physics. State your motivation and long term goals.

Attach an up-to-date curriculum vitae (CV) showing the current status of all publications and awards. Publications that were submitted a year ago and have no conclusive publication date will raise doubt about your follow-through ability (an important asset in a clinical setting). “Tune” your cover letter to be relevant to the targeted training facility. Use their website to find out about current clinical procedures, research interests, and staff. If your application has been submitted electronically, follow up with a phone call a few weeks after submission. Leave a message, if necessary, but don’t overdo it!

**The Interview and Follow-up** - Dress professionally (but don’t overdo it) and learn about the particular facility in question. Know the host’s equipment list and specialties, and try to mesh with their clinical and R&D interests in a realistic achievable manner. Prepare some typical interview questions and practice delivering crisp answers orally. During the interview, ask questions specific to the facility (clinical procedures, patient load, expectations, evaluation, and accreditation status). Be prepared to deliver a great seminar and “teach” using lay language. Make sure you understand the career growth and certifications for medical physicists (e.g. CCPM, ABR). If an interview is not granted, phone the Program Director and politely get ideas on what you might have done better.

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