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Medical Physics Residencies-101: The What's, Where's, and How's

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Medical Physics residencies serve as an excellent bridge between putting together the didactic knowledge obtained from a graduate program with practical experience in a Medical Physics sub-specialty. Most residency programs are within the Radiation Therapy sub-specialty, although Diagnostic Imaging-based residencies are slowly starting to become more prevalent over recent years. Residency programs prepare one to take a board examination in order to become a board-certified Medical Physicist. The boards which an individual can apply to are the Canadian College of Physicists in Medicine (CCPM) and the American Board of Radiology (ABR). Residencies can be accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Medical Physics Educational Programs (CAMPEP) body or are non-accredited. Since CAMPEP states minimum requirements to be met in order to ensure adequate coverage of residency program content, there is a continual push for an increase in the number of CAMPEP-accredited residencies. CAMPEP also accredits Medical Physics graduate programs. Enrolling in an accredited graduate program ensures that the individual graduating obtains a minimum standard of didactic knowledge, which will serve him/her for successful completion of a residency program. This talk will serve to inform the individual of how to prepare for applying to a residency program, what one can expect from a residency program, and where one can apply to residency programs. Participants will also be exposed to how one can prepare for taking a board examination, as well as the general scheme of how the board examinations are administered. CAMPEP requirements for residency and graduate programs will also be discussed.

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