



U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
**34th ANNUAL REGULATORY
INFORMATION CONFERENCE**

MARCH 8-10, 2022

PREPARING FOR
TOMORROW

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Health Physicists: The Next Generation Building Capacity for our Radiation Protection Future

Katie Tapp



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Health Physics – Growing Needs, Shrinking Capacity... Unless We Act!

- Experienced staff retiring or leaving the field
 - A retirement tsunami was predicted, and departures anticipated
- Need to hire and train new staff
 - Training takes time
 - Fewer available candidates in health physics / medical physics
- Need to retain and engage the staff we have
 - Community supports retention



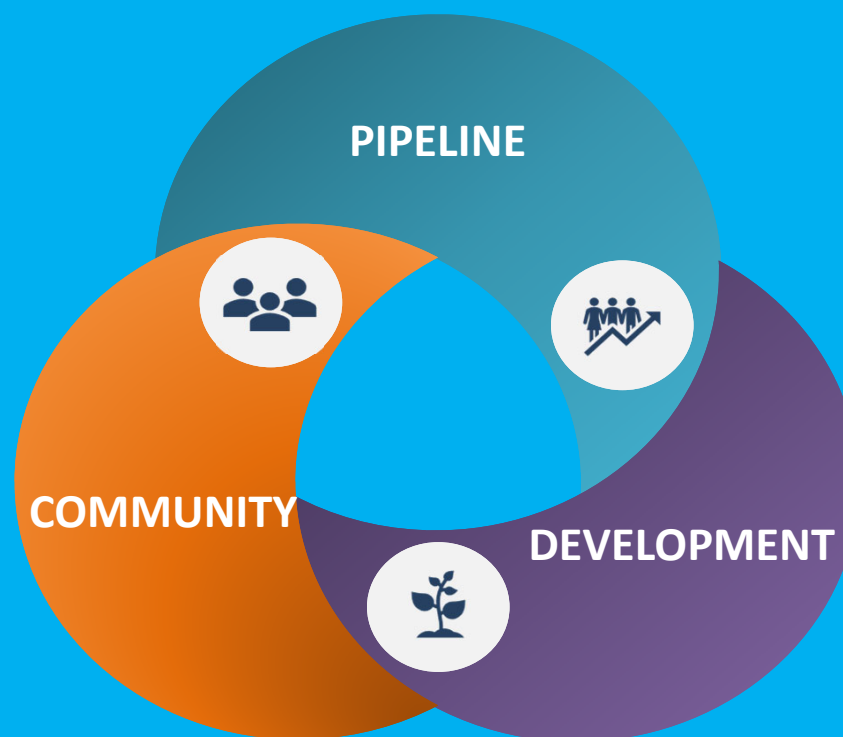
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**Partnering to
grow our
health physics
expertise**





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Pipeline

- Providing NRC grants for training of new radiation protection professionals.
- Increasing the number of “champions” for university outreach.
- Hiring in related fields to supplement traditionally trained health physicists.



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Development

- The NRC has numerous Health Physics classroom and laboratory courses to train NRC and Agreement State Staff
- NRC is building agility through cross-training, such as materials health physicists who can qualify as reactor health physicists.
- NRC supports numerous external training opportunities such as conference attendance and private courses.



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Community

- NRC Health Physics community is self-identifying in-house skills and gaps across various health physics specialties.
- Strengthening the network across the agency for health physicists to reach out to each other and meet work needs, including a new internal website containing staff contact info and specialties.
- Monthly community meetings with hot topic presentations and round tables to share interesting radiation protection projects.
- Established an agency-wide Certified Health Physics study group.





Partnering

- Collaborating with International Atomic Energy Agency and National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements.
- Participating in professional societies such as Health Physics Society.
- Working with Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors to design a framework for a resource-matching program that would provide for developmental rotations and/or allow qualified staff in one regulator's jurisdiction to fill a temporary need in another jurisdiction.

