

## Response to Mark Harvey Regarding the Educational Curricula for Students Interested in Health Physics

Dear Editors:

WE WOULD like to voice our concurrence with Mark Harvey's recent *Health Physics Journal* Letter to the Editors regarding the educational curricula for students interested in health physics.

As Harvey mentions, here at UTHealth, we have experienced a significant shift in the use of radiation sources over the past 30 y, from mainly benchtop research with radioactive materials to an increased use of x-ray producing devices and lasers (Gutierrez and Emery 2022). We are similarly supportive of Harvey's comments about specifically supporting HBCU institutions in this regard, which is an effort that could be led by the Health Physics Society.

Our joint effort with Harvey and his students regarding the characterization of our cyclotron as part of decommissioning efforts proved to be mutually educational, with the students not only learning basic health physics but also the process to

move their work forward through the publication process so that others can learn from it (Zapata et al. 2021).

ROBERT EMERY  
JANET GUTIERREZ

*University of Texas  
Health Science Center at Houston  
Environmental Health & Safety  
1851 Crosspoint  
OCB 1.330  
Houston, TX 77504*

## REFERENCES

- Gutierrez JM, Emery RJ. A 30-year radiation safety prospectus describing organizational drivers, program activities, and outcomes. *Health Phys* 122:352–359; 2022.
- Zapata JR, Stewart J, Kelly KO, Taylor AR, Martinez EI, Amoako K, Gutierrez JM, Emery RJ, Cheng SY, Patlovich SJ, Harvey MC. A cyclotron decommissioning radiological assessment exercise performed by student mentees underrepresented in the radiation safety profession. *Health Phys* 120:105–111; 2021.

