

GMED Newsletter Spring 2026

Note from the Chair

Welcome to the Spring 2026 edition of the GMED newsletter! With the new executive committee elected, we are excited by this year's goals. With your help, we are planning to increase our recruitment efforts to GMED, increase our industrial relationships, and provide a more expansive and robust Global Physics Summit program. GMED is a unique community that offers a synthesis of medical science with cutting-edge physics not available anywhere else. With your help, we can continue to get the word out about our mission and provide the right place at the right time for your next scientific breakthrough!



Michael Gramlich, PhD
Associate Professor
Auburn University

2026 GMED Election Results

Congratulations to all new Executive Committee members, whose terms started in March 2026:

Vice Chair: [Hyeri Lee](#) (03/26–03/27)
Ohio State University

Secretary/Treasurer: [Yutaka Natsuaki](#) (03/26–03/29)
University of Southern California

Member-at-Large: [Steven J Schiff](#) (03/26–03/29)
Yale University

Member-at-Large: [Wesley P Gohn](#) (03/26–03/29)
Siemens Medical Systems, Inc

Early Career Member-at-Large: [Jaida Alyssa Hernandez Dones](#) (03/26–03/28)
East Carolina University

Thanks to all the volunteers who have served on GMED's Executive Committee! If you would like to be more involved with GMED, there are open opportunities to help. Please check the committee website here: <https://engage.aps.org/gmed/governance/committees>

Announcement of 2026 GMED Fellow

Congratulations to **Lawrence Wald**, Professor at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, who was elected an APS Fellow in 2025. The citation reads: For groundbreaking innovations in MRI methodology, impactful collaborations with industry that resulted in clinical translation of MRI technology, and dedicated mentorship in medical physics.



Lawrence Wald (right) with Michael Gramlich (Chair, GMED) at the business meeting.

Previous APS Fellows nominated by GMED:

2024: **Thomas Bortfeld**, Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School

2023: **Donald C. Chang**, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

2022: **Robert Jeraj**, University of Wisconsin.

2021: **Matthew S. Rosen**, MGH/Martinos Center for Biomedical Imaging

2020: **Scott Smith**, GE Research

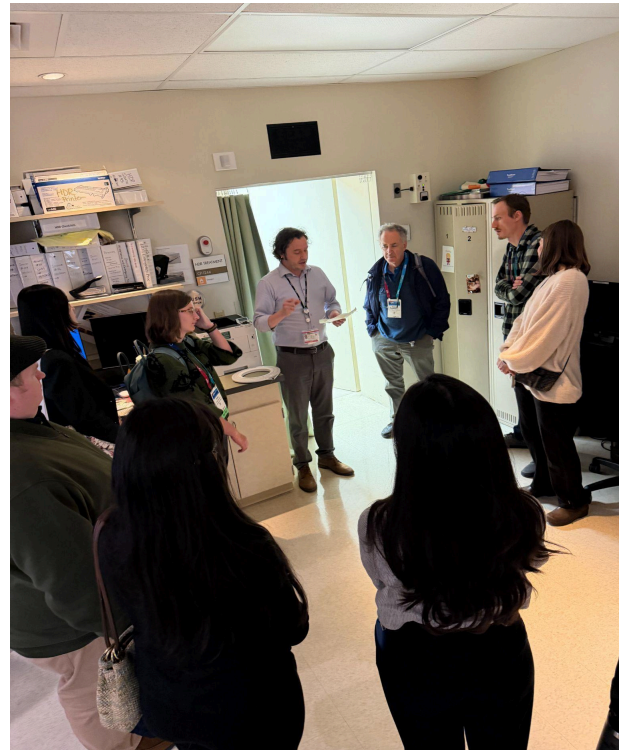
2019: **Theodora Leventouri**, Florida Atlantic University

2018: **Richard G. Spencer**, National Institutes of Health

Highlight of the past Global Summit meeting 2026

Tour of the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Center

On Monday, March 16, the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Center welcomed about 20 GMED members from the GPS for a tour of the Radiology and Radiation Oncology facilities. The tour and bus to take attendees to and from the convention center were organized by GMED Executive Committee members Sarah Ashmeg and Stephen Russek. UC faculty members generously volunteered to stay after hours to give the tours, and attendees thoroughly enjoyed learning about the clinical side of medical physics. A few photos from the tour are below.



The tour started with a short didactic session given by Leah Schubert (left). Then other UC faculty, including Adam Mahl (right) moved attendees through the facilities, explaining what they were seeing along the way.



Heidi Urquidi and Adam Mahl demonstrated the use of immobilization devices during radiation therapy treatment and the acquisition of a CT scan as the beginning of the process.



Michael Silosky describes the SPECT/CT unit for attendees.






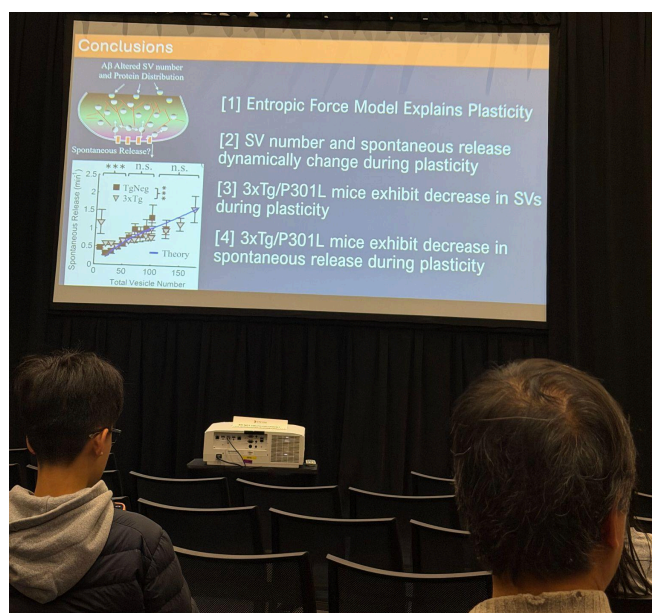
Rebecca Milman demonstrates the use of the Siemens radiography unit.

GMED session highlights

GMED organized a number of sessions at this year’s Global Physics Summit in both the April and March sections of the meeting, as shown in the slide below. Many of the sessions were well-attended, especially the contributed sessions. GMED has already started planning for its sessions at next year’s GPS, and GMED members will receive an email asking for their suggestions as well. Below are photos of GMED Chair Michael Gramlich captured by Sarah Ashmeg during his talk in Tuesday’s session on the “Physics of Disease, Diagnosis, and Treatment.”

GMED AT THE APS GLOBAL PHYSICS SUMMIT

 2026  		
https://engage.aps.org/gmed		
<h3>Monday</h3> <p>APR-B81: Physics of Medical Imaging Technologies 10:30-11:42 Room Capitol 2</p> <p>APR-C83: Advancing Physics for Medical Imaging and Therapies 1:15-3:03 Room Capitol 4</p> <p>MAR-C56: Probing the Physics of End-Stage Cancer Metabolism 3:30-5:54 Room BlueBird C1</p>	<h3>Tuesday</h3> <p>MAR-F56: : Magnetic Particle Imaging and Physics of Tracers 8:00-11:00 Room BlueBird 1A</p> <p>MAR-G57: : Physics of Disease, Diagnosis and Treatment 12:00-2:36 Room BlueBird 2A</p> <p>MAR-J57: Physics, Statistical and AI Modeling of Spatiotemporal Medical Imaging 3:30-5:42 Room BlueBird 2A</p>	<h3>Wednesday</h3> <p>MAR-L61: : Physics of Immune System and Immunology 8:00-10:24 Room BlueBird 2E</p> <p>MAR-M57: : Medical Physics Analysis and GMED Dissertation Award 12:00-2:36 Room BlueBird 2A</p> <p>MAR-P57: <Quantum 4 Medicine> 3:30-5:30 Room BlueBird 2A</p>
<h2>GMED Business Meeting Wednesday 6:45 – 7:45 pm Bluebird 2B</h2>		



GMED Career Panel and Table Topics

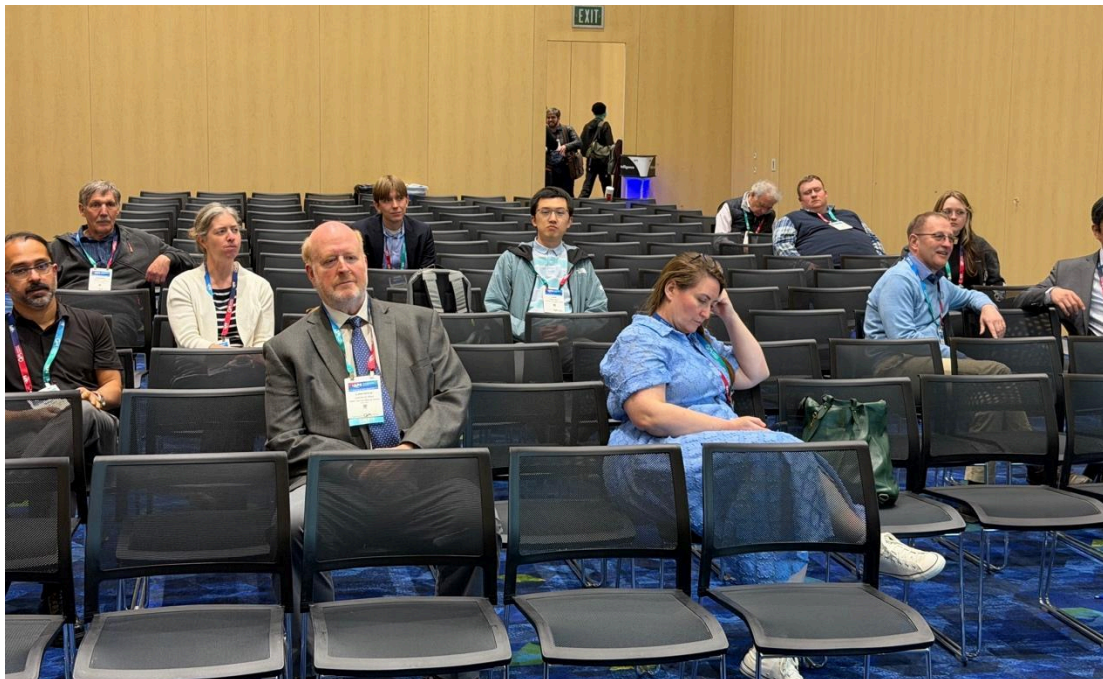
New this year, APS offered the option for units to organize a session in the Industry Rooms, separate from the scientific sessions. GMED organized a career panel with four representatives from different areas of medical physics. Jennifer Pursley from the Mayo Clinic presented the clinical perspective; Ramin Abolfath from Howard University represented the academic perspective; Stephen Russek from NIST showed the government perspective; and Alexey Galda from Moderna represented the industry perspective. The panel took place on Wednesday, March 18, at noon, and the room was packed with about 50 attendees. The four panelists answered questions from the audience for all 45 minutes.

Jennifer Pursley, former Chair of GMED, invited attendees to join her immediately after the career panel upstairs in the Exhibit Hall at the APS Table Topics section. The Table Topics were also a new initiative this year, intended to extend the Industry Room programming by offering additional small-group, high-touch conversations. There were 6 separate areas in the Table Topics section, and on Wednesday, March 18, GMED took over one of those areas from 1-3 pm. Each area had 10 chairs provided, but the Medical Physics careers section overflowed, and students had to grab a couple of extra chairs from other tables to join the group. Over the two hours as students came and went, the group consistently stayed around a dozen, asking all kinds of questions about careers in medical physics - what's it like to work in the clinic or in industry or in research; what skills from my physics major will carry over into a job; what's the education pathway from undergrad physics into a medical physics career? It was a nonstop conversation and an opportunity for students to connect with each other as well as Dr. Pursley. Based on the resounding success of this first year, GMED plans to organize a career panel and Table Topic every year at the Global Physics Summit.



Alexey Tonyushkin (Chair-Elect) and Michael Gramlich (Chair) at the GMED table.

Minutes from the 2026 GMED business meeting



GMED business meeting

This year's business meeting was held on Wednesday evening during the Global Physics Summit. The meeting highlighted the 2026 Global Physics Summit program and GMED's plans for the year. We introduced the newly elected members and thanked the outgoing executive members. The 2026/2027 GMED calendar was outlined and discussed. The organization of the year and how to improve the timeline of several initiatives was highlighted.

Incoming chair Michael Gramlich outlined the plans for the 2026/2027 year building upon successful GMED initiatives from previous years. GMED will continue the monthly Executive Committee meetings, the Newsletter, an online journal club, and organizing sessions for APS conferences. Two major goals this coming year are to expand our outreach/recruitment efforts to undergraduate students and to enhance partnerships and integration with the medical industry, which could lead to increased opportunities for GMED members to interact with industry or receive sponsorship from industry partners.

GMED finances remain robust and continue to support our award opportunities. GMED gained sponsorships from individual donors last year, and we expect to expand these partnerships to offer more awards and opportunities to students. While this year saw a decrease in awards given, it was due to limitations in advertising. We expect to increase the number of award submissions/nominations in the coming year.

The end of the meeting opened the floor to discussions and goals about the coming year. Multiple attendees requested a strengthening of the industrial partnerships and continued improvement of the current offerings. Several suggestions were discussed about how to reach out and expand medical physics students/researchers attending the 2027 Global Physics Summit.

GMED Journal Club Events 2026/2027:

Last year saw multiple online journal club events organized and hosted by GMED Member-At-Large Ramin Abolfath. These were extremely successful events that led to multiple post-event discussions and manuscript submissions. Ramin will plan to host several more events this coming year with speakers on different topics. Please reach out to Ramin (through our Executive Committee page) if you would like to present or have suggestions for presentations.

GMED March Meeting Awards

This year, GMED has awarded two Outstanding Doctoral Dissertations in Medical Physics Awards. The recipients are:

Zan Klanecek for his work: Advanced Methods of Medical Image Analysis for Breast Cancer Risk Prediction;

Christopher McDonough for his work: Design and Characterization of a Single-Sided Field-Free Line Scanner for Magnetic Particle Imaging.



Zan Klanecek with Michael Gramlich (Chair, GMED) at the business meeting.



Christopher McDonough with Michael Gramlich (Chair, GMED) at the business meeting.

GMED Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation in Medical Physics Awards

To encourage activity and excellence in medical physics research, GMED awards up to two Outstanding Doctoral Dissertations in Medical Physics Awards on an annual basis. These awards will be presented at the APS Global Physics Summit in April 2027. Awardees will present an invited talk and receive both a \$500 prize and up to \$250 towards travel expenses for in-person attendance. The student must be in the final year of his or her Ph.D. (or equivalent degree) program, and both the student and his or her advisor must be current members of GMED.

Nomination packages will consist of a nominating letter, often provided by the student's doctoral advisor, an extended abstract of the thesis (approximately 3 pages, including figures and references), and the nominee's full CV and publications list. These documents are to be submitted by the student's advisor or another senior scientist who is closely familiar with the student's work.

The nominating letter should address the following regarding the student:

- Quality and independence of the work
- Assessment of potential as a research scientist
- Oral presentation ability

Date of successful thesis defense: Any time from **June 1, 2026 through May 31, 2027**. Nominations should be submitted at <https://engage.aps.org/gmed/honors/prizes-awards>, by **September 1, 2026**.

Join GMED

Link to join: Go to my.aps.org and sign in with your APS member login. Find “Manage My Units” on the left sidebar. Find GMED and select “Add to Cart.” Email our Treasurer (Michael Boss) to get **fees waived for the first year**.

QR code to our Engage page (engage.aps.org/gmed):

