March Spotlight

Dr. Eric Cameron, Medical & Radiation Physics, Inc., San Antonio, TX

Eric Cameron received his PhD in Diagnostic Medical Physics from Purdue University in 2019. During his time at Purdue, he worked with Dr. Ulrike Dydak, primarily focused on MRI image processing and analysis in patients with Essential Tremor which led to his thesis: “Differentiation and Evaluation of Disease Progression in Essential Tremor Utilizing MRI Biomarkers”. Eric enrolled in the MedPhys match program in the hopes of matching with a diagnostic medical imaging residency. He was successfully matched to his top choice and, following graduation, began his residency with Medical and Radiation Physics in San Antonio, TX. His work primarily consisted of learning to operate and evaluate diagnostic equipment of every vendor, make, and model from the thousands of pieces of equipment overseen by the company. His work covered radiography, fluoroscopy, CT, ultrasound, MRI, mammography, and nuclear medicine. Following the completion of his residency, Eric will begin work with a private practice medical physics group (Colorado Associates in Medical Physics) as a diagnostic physicist. Apart from day-to-day operations of my in-house hospital work and equipment inspections, Eric will be working to optimize and unify MRI procedures for the greater Colorado health networks.

What is some of the advice you would give to current students/postdocs?
Don’t stretch yourself too thin. There will always be additional opportunities knocking at your door and it’s important to learn how to say ‘No’ for your sake and the sake of your current projects.

What are some of the valuable skills and experiences you gained from your time at Purdue?
The most valuable skill/experience I gained at Purdue was learning to operate both the Siemens and GE MRI scanners that are on campus. Having already learned the basics of scanner operation gave me a huge advantage starting off in diagnostic medical physics.

What do you miss most about Purdue?
I miss the campus and the school spirit/pride. It was a rare day that you walked through campus and didn’t see anyone wearing Purdue gear or hear a chant or the marching band playing in the distance.

What is your favorite memory from Purdue?
My favorite memory is walking on campus on a nice cool summer day when the campus was essentially empty. It was like the campus was frozen in time between all of the normal hustle and bustle.

What was your first job out of graduate school?
My first job was a diagnostic residency with a consulting physics group called Medical and Radiation Physics (MARP) in San Antonio, TX.

What is your typical day like now?
My typical day consists of a site visit to do an equipment performance evaluation on one or more radiology machines. How many machines and how long it takes depends on what is scheduled for that day. Then a bit of office time to write up the reports.

What are your overall responsibilities, as well as day-to-day tasks?
My overall responsibilities include performing equipment performance evaluations and writing up the reports, working on various small projects that pop up to help optimize the company workflow, and working on residency specific assignments and activities.

Where do you see yourself in the future? What are your next steps?
I have just recently accepted a diagnostic physicist position with a private practice medical physics group, Colorado Associates in Medical Physics. I hope to use my MRI experience to aid in optimizing and unifying protocols for the hospital networks the company serves in addition to my other in-house and consulting duties.

When you’re not working, what do you like to do for fun?
When I am not working I love to spend time with my wife and two boys playing outside or going to the zoo.