

History

In the Spring of 1971, 6 to 8 medical physicists met in a small room in the radiation oncology department of the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City. There were two from Washington University in St Louis, at least one from the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, and a few from the Kansas City area. The purpose of the meeting was to organize a chapter of the AAPM. Those present recognized the need to promote recognition of medical physics locally within the academic and scientific communities, and to support those practicing clinical physics, primarily in the rural areas of the region. However, the immediate goal was to obtain formal recognition by the AAPM as a regional chapter and to offer to host the 1974 annual AAPM meeting in Kansas City. A committee was selected to formulate a constitution and bylaws and to apply to the national organization for recognition as a *bona fide* chapter. At that initial gathering it was decided that Ernest (Curly) Jones of Omaha would be the Chapter's first president and Arnold Feldman of Washington University would be the Chapter's representative to the Board of Directors. Late in 1971 the Missouri River Valley Chapter, to cover the primarily rural area of Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, and Nebraska, was recognized by the AAPM as a regional Chapter. In 1974 the Chapter hosted the annual meeting in Kansas City. *(Written by Palmer Steward, PhD, FAAPM)*

2022 Chapter Officers

				
President Aba Lippuner, Ph.D.	President Elect David Dunkerley, Ph.D.	Past President Jeffery Snyder, M.S.	Secretary/Treasurer Sarah Wisnoskie, M.S.	Chapter Representative Abby Besemer, Ph.D.

Recent Highlights

- According to the AAPM online directory, the MRV chapter currently has 188 members across the four states.
- MRV AAPM typically hosts one Spring meeting and a Fall workshop.
- In November 2021, we held a workshop on “Patient Communication for Medical Physicists” lead by UCSD physicists Dr. Derek Brown and Dr. Todd Atwood. The workshop was very engaging and interactive and allowed attendees to practice their communication skills through simulated physicist/patient consults.
- In March, we hosted our 9th year of Mock Oral Exams. To match the virtual format of the new ABR exams, we have now transitioned to fully virtual Mock Oral Exams. There were 10 examinees and 10 examiners that participated this year.
- In May 2022, we will hold our Spring Chapter Meeting. Friday night will be focused on public engagement with the Early Career Investigator Symposium, Med Phys Slam Competition, and a public outreach demonstration illustrating radioactive decay using M&M’s! The sessions on Saturday will be focused on focus on Adaptive Radiotherapy and will include an interactive debate to keep the audience engaged.

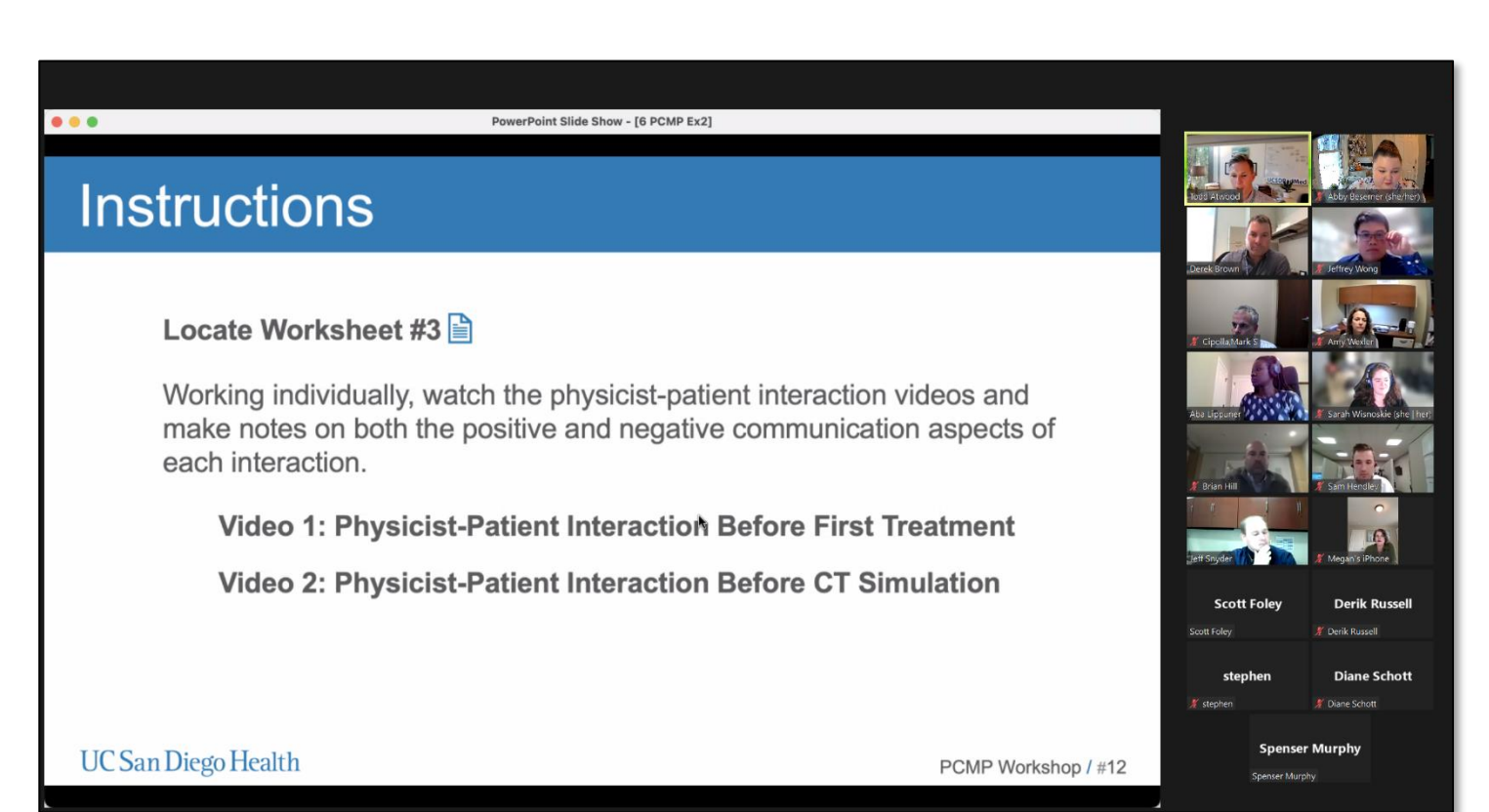
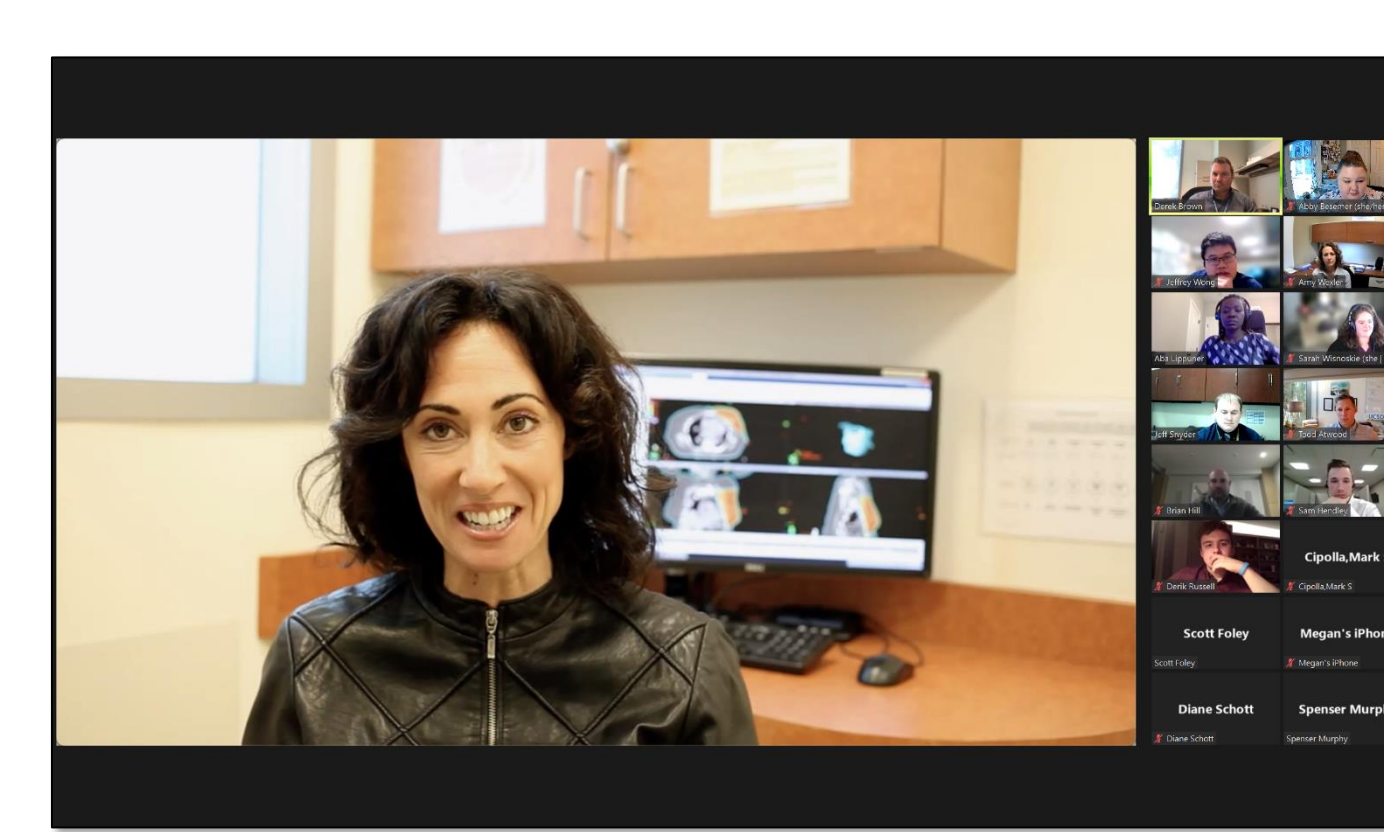
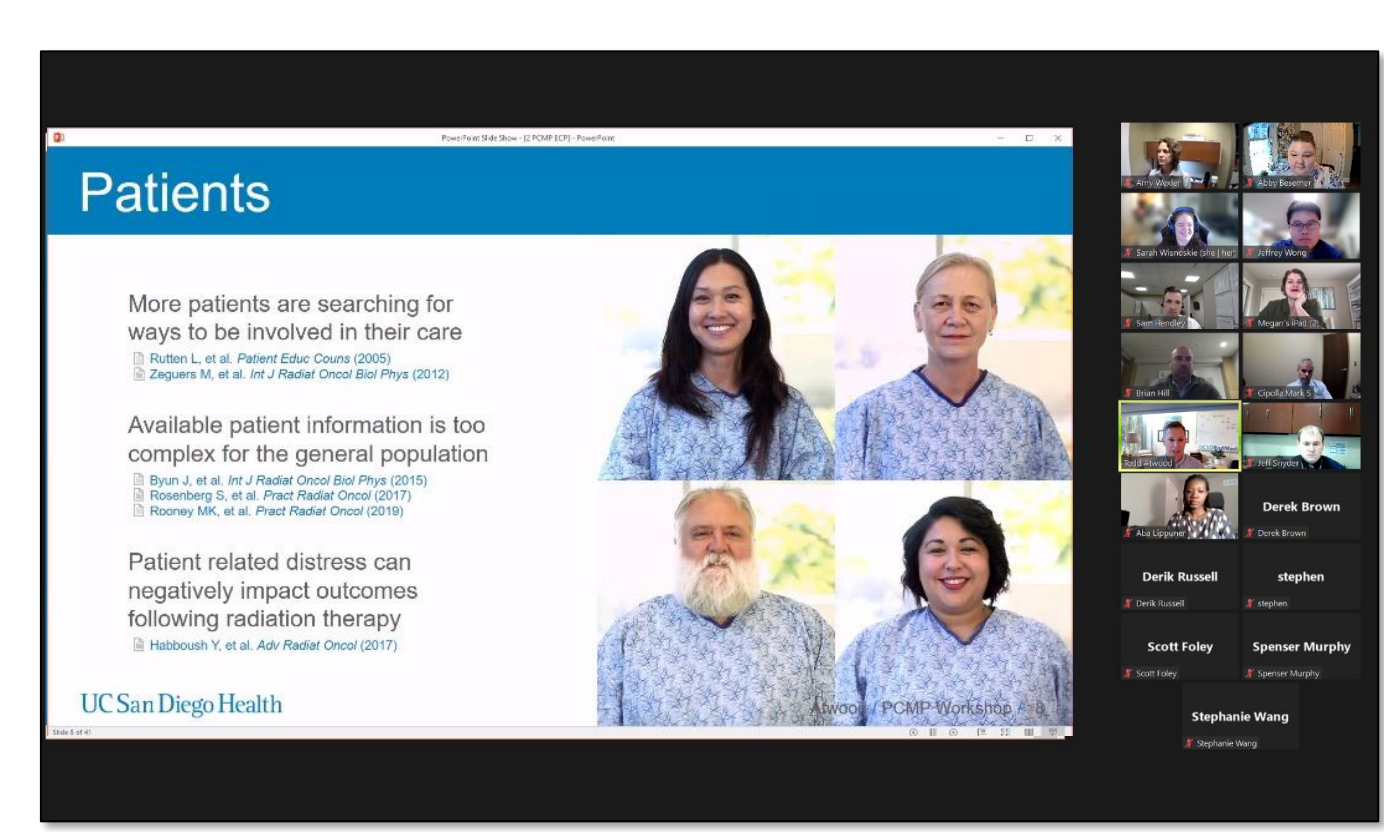
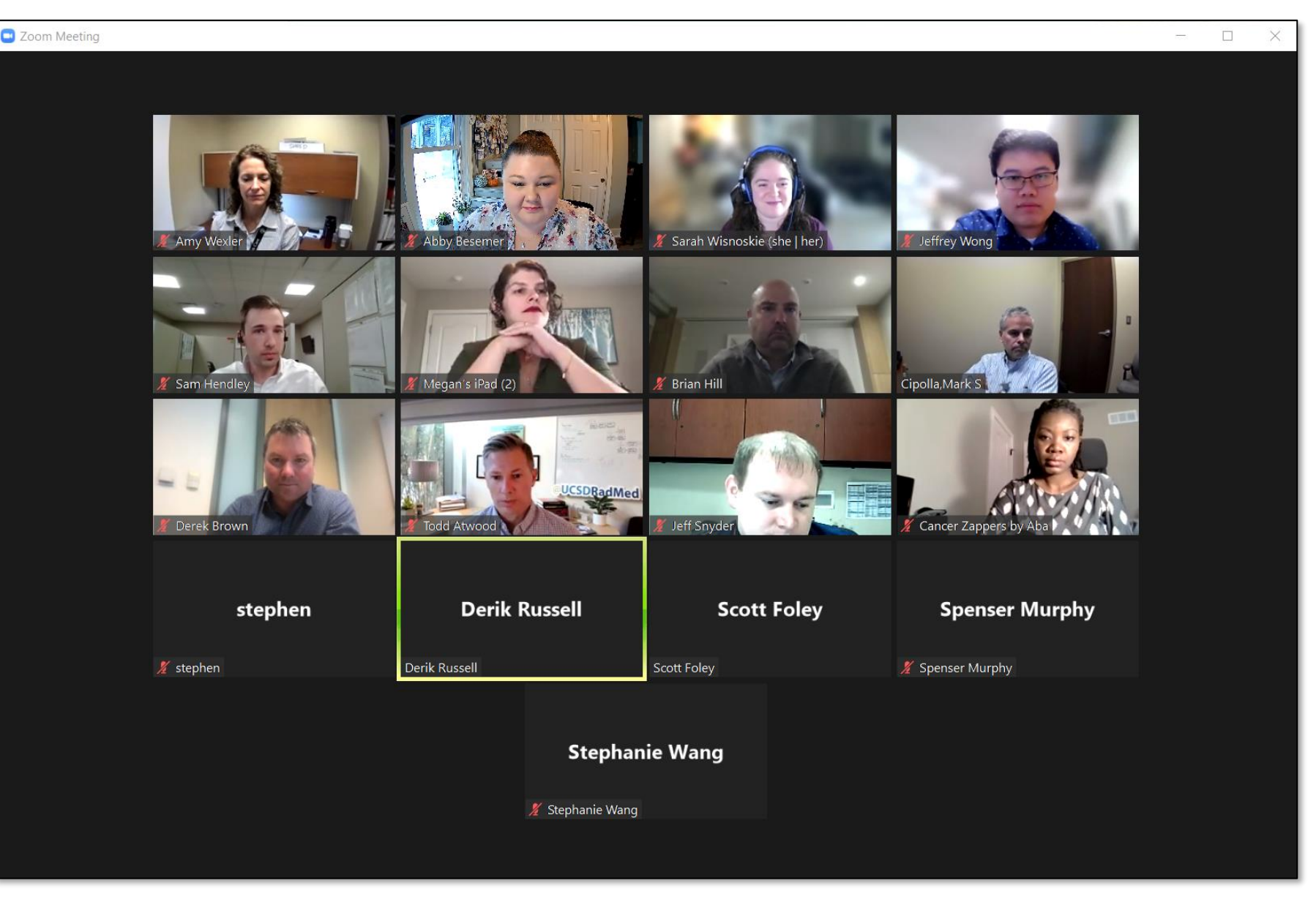
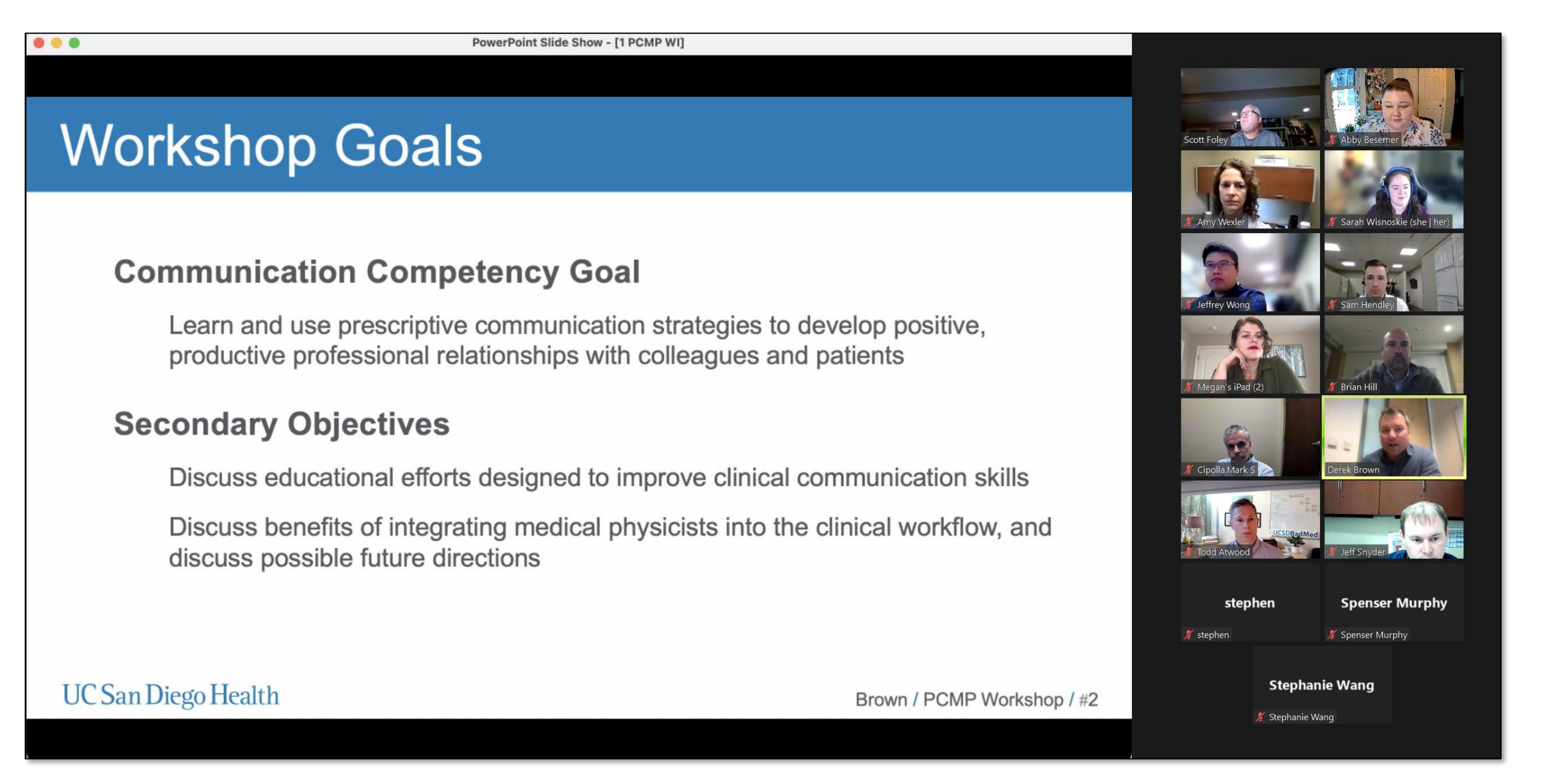
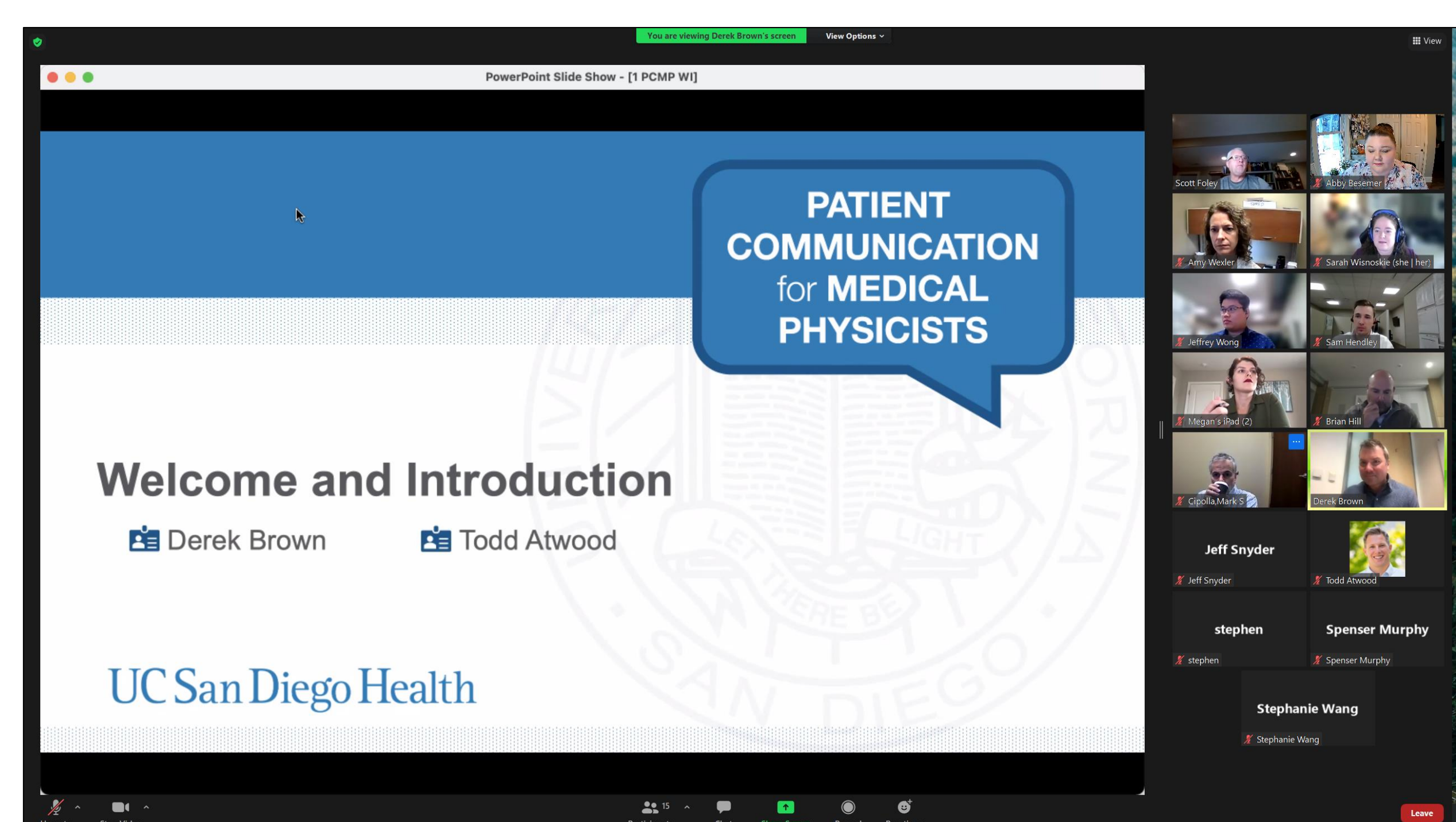
New Student/Trainee EXCOM Member!



Sam Hendley, Ph.D.
Medical Physics Resident
University of Nebraska Medical Center

We are proud to announce the first ever MRV AAPM student/trainee EXCOM member, Sam Hendley, PhD! The student/trainee EXCOM member will attend all MRV meetings and help with the planning of chapter meetings, workshops, and other events. The goal is that the EXCOM student/trainee member will gain insight on the AAPM chapter activities and initiatives as well as valuable leadership experience.

About Sam: A physicist to the core, I modeled my career path after the tortuous paths of electrons! I started in Florida, where I received my B.Sc. in physics while studying condensed matter physics at the University of Florida. Later, I traded my swimsuits for scarves as I moved to the Windy City and attended the University of Chicago. After receiving my Ph.D. in medical physics, I continued my trek west as I joined UNMC as the incoming physics resident for 2021. My journey has taught me that we scientists have an obligation to train future scientists and that good science happens when we work together. I have already seen first-hand how our MRV chapter strives to fulfill these values, from organizing our chapter meeting (including a public outreach night!) to helping prepare soon-to-be-board-certified physicists at our mock oral exam. As the EXCOM trainee, I plan to learn from the excellence set forth by our chapter so I can help illuminate the path for the next generation of physicists.



Images from our Fall 2021 Workshop “Patient Communication for Medical Physicists”