

EDITORIAL

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During the last 15 years the number of medical physicists globally increased with some 40%. This is directly linked with the increased attention to medical physics education and training. Alongside with the established education and new training schemes of USA and UK, many other countries opened new educational activities in the field. Following the first International Conference on Medical Physics Education (Budapest 1994) medical physics courses in Europe doubled, especially in Eastern Europe; the rapid development of such courses in Asia is clearly seen in the myriad of regional Conferences; ALFIM in Latin America puts its emphasis in education; IOMP is now helping FAMPO to start a program for professional development in Africa, etc.

Several EU projects, supported also by EFOMP and IOMP, developed new e-learning materials, now used in many countries, as well as the first e-Encyclopaedia of Medical Physics with Multilingual Dictionary of terms, used currently by almost 9000 colleagues per month. The collaboration between IOMP and the publisher Taylor & Francis opened a new book Series in Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering.

All these activities show a growing emphasis on professional and education activities and this way the creation of the new professional Journal of the IOMP Medical Physics International (MPI) was a logical consequence of this line of events, triggered at the World Congress in Beijing (WC2012).

The quick start of the Journal was possible with the full support of the IOMP Executive Committee and the President Prof. KY Cheung, and with the hard work of

the Editorial Board, specially mentioning the web site created by the Technical Editors. The fact that this first issue was compiled only for 3 months shows also the appreciation of the medical physics community.

Medical Physics is a very dynamic profession. Its rapid growth is supported by the need of healthcare, but at the same time this creates tension for the workforce to constantly follow the new developments. MPI Journal will invite educational papers describing new methods and equipment in a way useful for teaching. The educational resources will also include publications from leading Laboratories and industry about their newest developments.

Medical Physics is both innovative and practical profession. A number of very useful methods with direct practical application are being constantly developed. The MPI Journal will present a forum for sharing such expertise, which can also be very useful for the practical training of young medical physicists.

Support for the professional development of existing and new medical physics societies is another MPI focus. The current IOMP achievement in this field – the inclusion of medical physicists in the International Classification for Standard Occupations – is a milestone for the professional recognition in many countries. MPI will share information and provide guidance in the field as well.

Alongside professional and educational information, MPI will also publish PhD abstracts, and Conference proceedings, thus creating an information hub for quick orientation in the leading trends of the profession. The second issue of the MPI will include the abstracts of the International Conference on Medical Physics ICMP2013, Brighton, UK, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the IOMP.

All MPI information will be available free on Internet and we believe that the new Journal will soon become not only the voice of the IOMP, but also a global media for medical physicists.