THE GLOBAL FOCUS OF THE MPI JOURNAL ISSUES

Slavik Tabakov[1,2,3,4]

[1] King's College London, UK, [2] Past President IOMP, [3]Emeritus President IUPESM, [4]MPI Founding Co-Editor in Chief

The *Medical Physics International* (MPI) Journal was created in 2012. Since 2018 its issues were edited with a specific focus of each issue, alongside the other papers.

The regular MPI issues after 2018 had a focus on the educational/professional development in all IOMP Regional Organisations (RO) – the Federations of the medical physics organisations in each continent. These issues were based mainly on invited papers and were with additional Contributing Co-Editors from all RO. These issues were focused on:
-MPI 2019 (vol7) No.1 - Latin America (ALFIM), related also to the ICMP 2019 in Chile. This issue also presented a paper about the North America professional development;
-MPI 2019 (vol7), No.2 – Africa (FAMPO), Contributing Co-Editors: T Ige and F Hasford;
-MPI 2020 (vol.8), No.1 – South-East Asia (SEAFOMP), Contributing Co-Editors: Kwan Ng and A Krisanachinda;
-MPI 2020 (vol.8) No.2 – Asia-Oceania (AFOMP), Contributing Co-Editors: A Chougule, E Bezak, A Azhari;
-MPI 2021 (vol.9) No.1 – Middle East (MEFOMP), Contributing Co-Editors: H al-Naemi and M H Kharita;
-MPI 2021 (vol.9) No.2 – Europe (EFOMP), Contributing Co-Editors: D Lurie, E Koutsouveli and P Gilligan.

These issues included papers from 65 countries:
Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Chile, Brazil; USA and Canada; South Africa, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Ghana, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Zambia, Rwanda, Kenya; Vietnam, Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines, Myanmar, Lao PDR; Australia and New Zealand, Bangladesh, Japan, India, Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Pakistan; Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Yemen; Denmark, France, Bulgaria, Hungary, Lithuania, Malta, Norway, Poland, Spain, Serbia, Sweden, Ukraine.

These 6 MPI issues provide an image of the worldwide professional development around the 2020-ies. The previous progress of medical physics development can be seen in the book "Medical Physics and Engineering Education and Training" (2011, edited by S Tabakov, P Sprawls, C Lewis, A Krisanachinda), which presents professional development in 27 countries. Further back in time, the book "Medical Radiation Physics - A European Perspective" (1995, edited by C Roberts, S Tabakov and C Lewis) – presents the status around 1995 in 30 European countries - both books are available from: http://www.emerald2.eu/mep_index.html

These focussed MPI issues (and the books mentioned above) were related to the major goal to which I dedicated the past 30 years of my professional career – to support the development of medical physics education (part of which was the pioneering of e-learning in the profession). I believe the information gathered in the focussed issues and the books will present a vector of development of our profession over the years and will help to set up objectives for the future steps in reaching the projected c.60,000 medical physicists globally by 2035.

The MPI issue 2022 (vol.10) No.1 had as a focus two other main projects, which I worked on over the years – the development of the Encyclopaedia of Medical Physics (and related Medical Physics Scientific Dictionary of Terms in 32 languages) – both used globally as educational references by thousands of colleagues each month. Additionally, in this MPI issue we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the MPI Journal, which we edited since 2012 with P Sprawls (a friend and colleague with whom we share the same passion for educational development).

The current issue MPI (vol.10) No.2 has a focus on another activity I supported throughout all my professional life – the collaboration between medical physicists and biomedical & clinical engineers. This collaboration is very important especially in the Low and Middle Income (LMI) countries, where our colleagues often do not have dedicated medical engineering support. This MPI issue presents this collaboration in a developed European country and in several LMI countries from Africa, Middle East and Asia. Additionally, the issue presents the need for including elements of such collaboration in the curricula of MSc education in medical physics. This focus is also supported by the description of the activities of IUPESM (the Union of IOMP and IFMBE) in the past term of office (2018-2022) and the recent ICTP College on Medical Physics for LMI countries. The current MPI issue includes also book reviews indirectly related to this collaboration.

Alongside the various foci of the MPI issues we have always presented novel topics – such as the papers in the current MPI issue on Artificial Intelligence, Theragnostics and Proton Therapy (book review).

I believe the future MPI issues will continue to focus on various aspects of the global development of medical physics, what should form part of the activities of each one of us.