

## EDITORIALS

### EDITORIAL

#### The Medical Physics Journals

*Perry Sprawls, Co-Editor*

The medical physics profession is served by a collection of outstanding journals, each distinguished by its content, method of publication, geographic coverage, and organizational affiliation. This journal, Medical Physics International, joins this distinguished group, not as a competitor for authors and readers, but as an active supporter and collaborator with the other journals. We are truly international, the official journal of the International Organization of Medical Physics (IOMP) and fully representing medical physicists in all countries of the world. Complete open access provides it with no cost to the global medical physics community.

Our mission is to publish articles that contribute to medical physics education, professional development, communication about international medical physics activities, and to preserve the history and heritage of the profession. A distinguishing feature of Medical Physics International is that it does not publish manuscripts reporting on research and development that require peer review. For these we recommend Physics in Medicine and Biology (the first journal to be designated as an official journal of IOMP in 1969), Medical Physics, Journal of Applied Clinical Medical Physics (the AAPM journals), PhysicaMedica (the European Journal of Medical Physics) and other regional and national medical physics journals that provide such publication opportunities.

---

### EDITORIAL

#### Visibility of the Medical Physics Profession

*Slavik Tabakov, Co-Editor*

One of the main aims of the IOMP Journal Medical Physics International (MPI) is to increase the visibility of our profession. It required about 50 years after the establishment of the IOMP to gain inclusion of medical physicists in the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO). During this period other smaller professions were included there mainly because of their better visibility. A number of high-profile activities, international projects and awards, collaboration with the WHO and IAEA provided excellent background for the above recognition of our profession.

We, all professionals, need to have better engagement with the general public and media to increase the positive image of our profession as an important element of contemporary healthcare. I often joke with my students that the place of medical physics and engineering in contemporary medicine is very similar to the place of the orchestra in the opera – in the pit under the scene, but without it, there is no opera. Could we be more visible? Of course we can, we only have to do it, for example by:

- at local level through short seminars explaining various new medical devices, and links with the Hospital management

- at national/regional level through links with the media explaining similar subjects and our involvement in hospital/patient safety

- at international level through increased collaboration with institutions as WHO, IAEA and others

With our current IOMP activities, such as: the update and uplift of our website; the improved design and editorship of eMPW; the launch of our unique e-Encyclopedia and Multilingual Dictionary; the new free online Journal MPI; the introduction of our International Day of Medical Physics; the active participation in various IAEA and WHO projects... we aim not only to connect our members and provide them with new information and references, but also to help with the visibility of our profession. We shall be happy if colleagues share their experience in this field through the IOMP publications.