

EDITORIALS

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Perry Sprawls, Co-Editor

A major goal of this journal, Medical Physics International, is to introduce and connect medical physicists in all countries to available educational resources that can be used for their continuing education, professional development, and as references for improving their medical physics activities especially as it relates to new developments in applied clinical physics. This edition gives special emphasis to that with highlighted articles describing the extensive resources provided by the American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM) that are available online.

The AAPM Virtual Library is an extensive collection of the educational presentations at the Annual Meetings, Summer Schools, a variety of other conferences, and the AAPM Reports on a variety of topics. The article, The AAPM's Resources for Medical Physics Education Wherever You Are, describes these materials and how they

can be used. A special feature is that medical physicists in the developing countries can apply to the AAPM to become an Education Associate and have access to the complete Virtual Library at no cost.

The article, History and Publication Space of the Journal of Applied Clinical Medical Physics (JACMP), describes a major innovation in medical physics publishing with the creation of the first international medical physics journal with completely open and free access for both readers and authors. The great value of the JACMP is its publication of reports that apply to and support practical clinical physics activities. It is a collaborating journal of this journal, Medical Physics International, and provides publishing opportunities for manuscripts that are not within the scope of topics published here.

As a medical physicist, wherever you are in the world, you will gain much by reading these articles and then following the links to the websites where the extensive resources can be found.

EDITORIAL

Slavik Tabakov, Co-Editor

The increased growth of the profession during the past 2 decades (c. 4000 specialists per decade – about double the growth compared with the previous decades) was underpinned by increased development of education and training activities. Naturally more and more colleagues were directing their activities towards the development of new education and training materials in medical physics. The number of University courses in the profession (and most importantly the number of countries delivering such courses) increased manyfold. This was reflected in the number of education/training/professional presentations at the World Congresses of Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering (about 30-40 during WC2000 and WC2003, later about 70-80 during WC2012 and WC2015).

The early development of e-learning materials and activities in medical physics was one of the pillars of this trend (presented in this issue with the abstract of the e-book "The Pioneering of e-Learning in Medical Physics").

This resulted in the publication of one of the world's top-three e-learning materials with ISBN numbers, a number of original web sites with educational materials, unique Multilingual e-Dictionary and e-Encyclopaedia - all currently used by thousands of colleagues around the world. This particular issue also includes information about the IAEA SAFRON project and on-line information, as well as the continued educational activities of the ICTP.

The Journal Medical Physics International was initiated in 2012 exactly with the aim to support this increased demand for exchange of information related to educational and professional issues. This is very important especially for e-learning use, which is imperative for a dynamic profession as medical physics, but at the same time has relatively short useful cycle, what requires quick exchange of information. This is one of the reasons for the continued interest in this Journal – keeping from its first issue (April 2013) its steady number of online readers (close to 5000 per month). The Editorial team is grateful to all colleagues submitting papers with new educational/training and professional activities and invites more such papers in its future issues.