EDITORIALS

Perry Sprawls, MPI Co-Editor-in-Chief, Atlanta, USA

Physicists and engineers have made many contributions to the advancement of medicine with the development of technology and procedures for both diagnostic and treatment purposes. The origin of modern medical physics was the discovery and extensive research by the physicist Wilhelm Röentgen in 1885 introducing "a new kind of radiation" (to become known as x-rays or Röentgen rays) and demonstrating the ability to produce images of the anatomical structures within the human body. This was soon followed by experiments investigating the use of the radiation for therapeutic purposes, especially to treat cancer. The developments that occurred over the next 130+ years are the foundation of our medical physics history and heritage. This has been through expanding the scope of physics into previously unknown areas, for example radioactivity, and the extensive development of equipment and technology to apply the newly discovered physics principles to improving human health around the world.

The research, developments, and many clinical applications of "the new physics" have been published in many scientific and medical journals along with textbooks of the period. Of great value to our modern medical physics profession is looking at and developing an appreciation for the "big picture" of the ongoing process of innovations in both diagnostic medical imaging and therapeutic procedures. There are many contributing factors to this, ranging from the creativity of individual physicists to the extensive developments in technology for other applications, such as communications and photography.

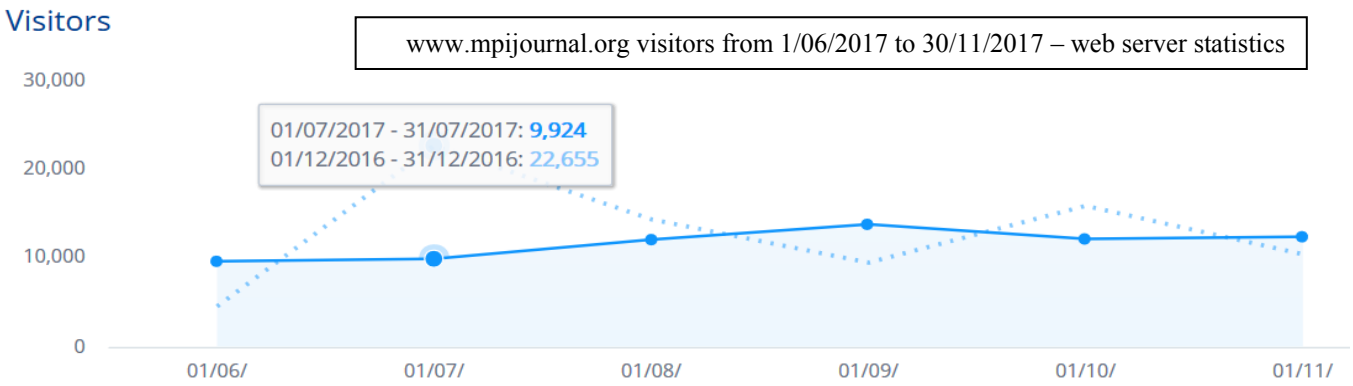
Beginning in 2018 Medical Physics International will begin publishing an additional series devoted to the history and heritage of medical physics. The first edition to be published in January will contain articles relating to the historical development of two major technologies, x-ray tubes and film-based radiographic receptors. As described in the previous issue of our Journal these articles will form the volumes of the IOMP project "History of Medical Physics"

Slavik Tabakov, MPI Co-Editor-in-Chief, King's College London, UK

After the first publications of the Medical Physics International (MPI) Journal, it steadily increased its popularity. The first Editorial period was completed this year and we all can be happy with the achievements of the IOMP Journal – the number of readers per month increased more than twice, having at present around 10,000-12,000. The diagram from the web server shows 70,000 visits over the past 6 months (Jun-Nov 2017). Taking only one month as a sample (Sep 2017) we have 13,800 visits, 58% of which are from Asia, Latin America and Africa (where about 1/3 of all medical physicists are situated). This clearly shows the need of the MPI Journal for the education, training and professional development in many Low-and-Middle Income (LMI) countries. Another important statistics is that about 3/4 of all visits are direct hits, showing the popularity of the Journal.

We would like to thank all contributors to the Journal, and all members of the Editorial team, specifically mentioning the Technical Editor Prof. M Stoeva, the Editorial Assistant Dr V Tabakova and the IOMP Secretary General Dr V Tsapaki.

It was agreed at the latest meeting of the IOMP ExCom that the MPI Editors in Chief (S Tabakov and P Sprawls) will continue for another period of 4 years and additional members will be included in the MPI Editorial Board. One of the important tasks in the period ahead will be the publications of the Special Issues related to the IOMP project "History of Medical Physics", what we highlight here below. We are looking forward to the further success of the MPI – the IOMP Journal dedicated to education, training and professional issues.



www.mpijournal.org visitors from 1/06/2017 to 30/11/2017 – web server statistics