

IOMP-IUPAP WORKSHOP “MEDICAL PHYSICS PARTNERING WITH THE DEVELOPING WORLD” AT THE WORLD CONGRESS IN PRAGUE WC2018

The fifth jointly sponsored IOMP-IUPAP Workshop, dedicated to medical physics development in the Low and Middle Income countries (LMIC) – aka developing countries, took place at the World Congress on Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering WC2018, Prague, Czech Republic.

The Workshop was co-organised by S Tabakov (IOMP President), Y Pipman (Chair PRC of IOMP), L Judas (WC2018 Co-President), F Nuesslin (IUPAP AC4 Chair). The Workshop also included speakers from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The Workshop discussed the current situation and professional development in all IOMP Regional Organisations (continents and sub-parts). The programme included an overview of the current global situation and needs of medical physicists. This was followed by presentations from the Regions, delivered by the senior colleagues supported by IOMP/IUPAP grant.

The presented papers from the IOMP Regional Organisations in Asia (AFOMP); South-East Asia SEAFOMP; Middle-East (MEFOMP); Europe (EFOMP); Africa (FAMPO); Latin America and Caribbean (ALFIM) are published here below.

Special emphasis was made to the future inclusion of medical physicists in the healthcare provision in the LMIC, resulting to a need of almost tripling the number of medical physicists globally by 2035. Special concerted actions will be necessary for this huge challenge in front of the profession, especially in LMIC. The need of further partnering with the colleagues from LMIC was underlined and the Workshop was praised as an important step in this direction.

The importance of the latest activities of IOMP was highlighted by all participants – MPI Journal, Accreditation of MSc programmes and IOMP School. These will be accelerated in the years ahead. The importance of the cooperation between the IOMP Regions was also underlined and the activities of the IOMP Regional Coordination Board in this direction were acknowledged. The Workshop also acknowledged the activities of the IOMP Women Sub-Committee, which had a session linked to the Workshop.

The IAEA report presented further opportunities for such partnering, including projects (one of these – in Latin America – have made a meeting just before the Workshop).

Due to the increased interest to the Workshop, it was decided for all materials related to it to be developed as full papers in the present issue of the IOMP Journal *Medical Physics International*.

The IOMP/IUPAP Workshop “*Medical Physics Partnering with the Developing World*” attracted around 90 participants from 23 countries. About 3/4 of the participants were from LMIC, including the most senior medical physicist representatives from Africa, Latin America and Asia.

At the end of the Workshop the IUPAP Chair AC 4, the IOMP Officers and all speakers and participants expressed their sincere gratitude for the support from IUPAP, as well as for these regular IOMP-IUPAP activities dedicated to professional development in the LMIC.

See below: Papers from the Workshop as per IOMP Regions



Some of the participants at the IOMP-IUPAP Workshop, WC2018, Prague, Czech Republic