

EDITORIALS

MPI Issue focussed on ALFIM and ICMP2019

Slavik Tabakov, MPI Co-Editor in Chief

This issue of the Journal, Medical Physics International (May 2019), has a focus on the countries from South and Central America and the Caribbean Region. The development of medical physics in this part of the world, and in Africa, is embedded in the IOMP plans during the past 10 years. The reason for this is the small number of medical physicists per million of inhabitants in these parts of the world. The support for the professional development in Latin America is easier, first because small number of languages are spoken by large groups of people, and second as the IOMP Regional Organization ALFIM exists for almost 35 years (ALFIM – Asociacion Latinoamericana de Fisica Medica : Latin American Medical Physics Association). This is the second IOMP Regional Organization, after the one in Europe – EFOMP. At the beginning of 2018 the IOMP Council selected Chile as the host for the International Conference on Medical Physics 2019 (ICMP2019).

Editorial- Our Medical Physics History and Heritage

Perry Sprawls, MPI Co-Editor in Chief

Medical Physics is one of the sciences that has become a foundation of modern medicine with major contributions to the health of society in all countries of the world. Clinically applied medical physics and technology as we know it today is the result of a continuing series of research, developments, and innovations occurring for well over a century. Our profession is enriched with knowledge and appreciation for the many developments from our past. The IOMP Medical Physics History Project in collaboration with the AAPM is providing extensive resources for exploring our history and sharing it with colleagues and students to preserve and appreciate our heritage.

The articles resulting from this project are published in special editions of this journal, Medical Physics International. They are generally authored by medical physicists with extensive careers in the field that have

The current MPI issue includes an invited paper from Brazil and a survey of medical physics status in Central America (commissioned at the ICTP College on Medical Physics). It also includes papers about the development of medical physics in Chile and in Jamaica, plus an address from the current ALFIM President. Additionally, the issue includes papers related to educational materials - GIF animations (from USA), practical measurements of DRLs (from Brazil), and the 30th Anniversary of the ICTP College on Medical Physics. Also included are brief reviews of 4 textbooks, which will be very useful educational resources. Speaking on historical note, the MPI issue also includes a paper about the John Cameron Memorial Lectures at the SEAFOMP Conferences. Continuing on the same subject, please see the Editorial from Prof. Sprawls about the coming Second MPI Special Issue related to the project “History of Medical Physics”.

Next month the current MPI issue will be updated with the selected Abstracts of presentations/posters for the ICMP2019 (plus addresses from IOMP, the Organizers and the Scientific Committee).

been active in and experienced much of the history. A feature of all of the articles is extensive bibliographies with references and links to much of the literature on this history. This is a place to start for more in-depth study and research.

The articles published in the 2018 Special Edition of MPI (<http://www.mpijournal.org/MPI-v06SIi01.aspx>) were:

- X-Ray Tubes Development. By Rolf Behling
- Film-Screen Radiography Receptor Development: A Historical Perspective. By Perry Sprawls
- History of Medical Physics E-Learning: Introduction and First Activities. By Slavik Tabakov

The presentations at the History Symposium at the AAPM Annual Meeting are based on the articles from the IOMP History Project. For the 2019 MPI History Edition and AAPM Symposium these are:

- The Scientific and Technological Developments in Mammography: A Continuing Quest For Visibility. By Perry Sprawls
- The Evolution of Fluoroscopy Science, Technology, and Clinical Applications. By Steven Balter