

IFMBE CELEBRATES ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY

Prof. M Nyssen (IFMBE Treasurer) and Prof. R Magjarevic (IFMBE Vice-President)

60 years ago, a few pioneers in the field of biomedical engineering, engineers and physicians, founded the Federation in Paris on November 22nd 1960. Originally, the international not for profit association was called: “Fédération internationale d’électronique médicale”. Its official registration in France was approved by the Ministry of Interior Affairs and publication in the French Official Journal appeared in January 1961.

Although in practice, the current name “International Federation for Medical and Biological Engineering” (IFMBE) was already widely used in practice, in the Statutes the name had been changed only in 2001 at the time the President was Dov Jaron.

IFMBE was always considered as a “federation”, complementing the local, national and regional member associations on the international scene:

- by representing the biomedical engineering field at the International Science Council (ISC) - level via the International Union for Physical and Engineering Sciences in Medicine - IUPESM, together with the colleagues of the medical physics field, associated in the International Organization for Medical Physics -IOMP;

- as the representative of the biomedical engineering community, in official relation with the World Health Organization;

- as the representative of the biomedical engineering community in the World Federation of Engineering Organizations;

- through its publications, mainly the scientific journal Medical and Biological Engineering and Computing -

MBEC, published by Springer, a regular newsletter, informative web-site and other publications;

- through its conferences, workshops and dissemination activities.

The Federation is managed by its “Administrative Council” elected at the General Assembly that takes place every three years, in conjunction with the “World Congresses”, organized in the context of the union IUPESM. The “daily management” is taken care by the officers: President Prof. Shankar Krishnan (Boston), Secretary General Prof. Kang Ping Lin (Taiwan), President Elect Prof. Ratko Magjarevic (Croatia), Past President Prof. James Goh (Singapore) and Treasurer Prof. Marc Nyssen (Belgium).

Main structures in the Federation are the different committees and working groups, just to cite a few: the “Industry working group”, the “Education and Accreditation working group”, the “Women in biomedical engineering working group.

There are also two very active divisions: the “Clinical Engineering” division and the “Health Technology Assessment” division.

All these structures are run by very dedicated volunteers.

Currently, the Federation has more than 70 member associations, national societies spanning all continents, as well as “transnational” organisations.

N.B. The first MPI History issue during 2020 will include a large material related to the History of IFMBE



Part of the celebrations of IFMBE 60th Anniversary at MEDICON, Coimbra, Portugal