

SOCIETY OF MEDICAL PHYSICISTS (SINGAPORE) 1998-2020

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Abstract— This paper presents a brief write-up of the Society of Medical Physicists (Singapore) or SMPS. It traces the motivation and progress of the SMPS from its inception till 2020.

Keywords— Medical Physics, Singapore, history, progress

I. INTRODUCTION

The Society of Medical Physicists (SMPS) of Singapore was founded in 1998 with the following objectives to:

1. Foster a closer working relationship among those working in the various fields of Medical Physics.
2. Create public awareness of the Medical Physics profession in Singapore and to project and maintain the image of Medical Physics professionals.
3. Represent and promote the interests and views of members in the local Medical Physics profession at international organisations like SEAFOMP, AFOMP and IOMP.
4. Promote research, training and education in Medical Physics.

II. PROGRESS OF SMPS 1998-2020

Our membership has grown from a handful of less than 10 to 44 members today. We have diverse representations from various sub-fields, majority of whom are from Radiotherapy and the many others from Nuclear Medicine, Diagnostic Radiology, Health Physics and academia.

Singapore's healthcare sector continues to grow and advance with new technologies for diagnosis and treatment, especially for an aging population. The demand for more Medical Physicists will increase in tandem for clinical-scientific services and research.

Being a small country with limited resources, we were dependent on external academic Medical Physics programs to educate our members. Since 2011, we have also introduced Medical Physics as a minor subject within the Physics/Applied Physics programs at two of our local universities. We have since established a PhD program in Medical Physics at one university. We have also established residency programs in Radiotherapy and Nuclear Medicine as part of the clinical training and career of Medical Physicists based on the IAEA syllabus.

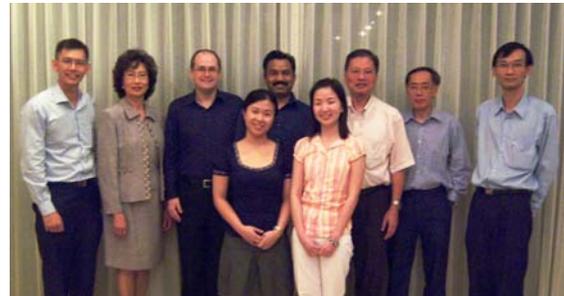


Fig.1 Some of our SMPS members a. past and b. (below) present.

Some of the key activities and contributions of SMPS recently and through the years are:

1. Local symposiums on advances in Medical Physics of up to a few times a year.
2. Promoting members to participate and support regional congresses like SEACOMP and AOCMP.
3. Representation in the SEAFOMP executive committee.
4. Represented in the committee of the Singapore Accreditation Council on establishing standards for Medical Imaging.
5. Organizing the AOCMP/SEACOMP in December 2013



Fig.2 AOCMP/SEACOMP 2013 organized by SMPS

6. Organizing the World Congress on Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering 2021, Singapore. Due to the current Covid pandemic, the congress has been postponed to June 2022.
7. Support of local and regional meetings of related professional groups like the Singapore Society of Radiographers, Singapore Radiological Society and ESTRO meets Asia.

III. CONCLUSION

Since its inception in 1998, Singapore's Medical Physics community has grown fairly quickly especially in the last few years, with more to join the society. The increase is a result of the expanding growth of healthcare and the improving recognition of the important role of a Medical Physicist, especially in areas of Radiotherapy, Nuclear

Medicine and Diagnostic Radiology. Singapore looks forward to the healthy growth and recognition of Medical Physicists in the years to come.

IV. REFERENCES

1. None

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