INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RADIATION PROTECTION IN MEDICINE
30 May – 2 June 2014
RIVIERA HOLIDAY CLUB VARNA, BULGARIA

CONFERENCE TOPICS
• Radiation effects
• Exposure & dose tracking
• Appropriateness and decision support
• Optimization
• Protecting children
• Pregnancy and radiation
• Dose surveys and DRL
• Quality assurance and clinical audit
• Preventing accidental exposure
• Regulations, standards & implementation
• Education and training
• Risk communication

IMPORTANT DATES
Abstract submission deadline
20th January 2014

End of early registration
31st March 2014

End of online registration
20th May 2014

www.rpm2014.org
CALENDAR OF EVENTS - Ibrahim Duhaini, Calendar Editor

23-24 January 2014
Contrast study day and essential physics for FRCR; Liverpool, U.K.

26-30 January 2014
5th Annual Canadian Winter School on Quality and Safety in Radiation Oncology, Quebec City, Canada

14 February 2014
BIR Scottish Branch meeting: Recent advances in diagnostic imaging; Glasgow, Scotland

15-20 February 2014
SPIE Medical Imaging Conference; San Diego, CA USA

20-22 February 2014
Multidisciplinary Head and Neck Cancer Symposium; Scottsdale, AZ, USA

24 February 2014
3rd Annual SPECT/CT Symposium: Current status and future directions of SPECT/CT Imaging; London, U.K.

28 February 2014
Multi-parametric MRI of the prostate – Can it facilitate a paradigm shift in management?; London, U.K.

6-10 March 2014
European Congress of Radiology, Austria Center, Vienna

13-15 March 2014
ICMPRO-2014 and 3rd Annual Conference of Bangladesh Medical Physics Society (BMPS), Dhaka, Bangladesh.

15-18 March 2014
AAPM Spring Clinical Meeting; Denver, CO, USA

5-5 April 2014
American Brachytherapy Society Annual Meeting; San Diego, CA USA

4-8 April 2014
ESTRO 33; Vienna, Austria

15-17 May 2014
SIIM 2014 Annual Meeting; Long Beach, CA, USA

19-24 May 2014
4th African IRPA Regional Congress; Rabat, Morocco

30 May – 2 June 2014
International Conference on Radiation Protection in Medicine; Varna, Bulgaria

23-27 June 2014
4th European IRPA Regional Congress; Geneva, Switzerland

25-28 June 2014
CARS 2014 - Computer Assisted Radiology and Surgery 28th Int’l Congress and Exhibition; Fukuoka, Japan

11–13 Sep 2014
8th European Conference on Medical Physics (ECMP2014) in Athens, Greece.
MEFOMP Activities during the last 6 months

Ibrahim Duhaini, President of MEFOMP

The awards were presented by MEFOMP President Mr. Ibrahim Duhaini with representatives from KSA Dr. Abdallah El Hajj and from UAE Dr. Mostafa Al Majali.

The list of awardees includes the following:

1. Barry Allen
2. Virginia Tsapaki
3. Muthana Al Ghazi
4. Kin Y Cheung
5. Habib Zaidi
6. Ivan Frey
7. Gary Fullerton
8. Bill Hendrix
9. Eun Hwang Ng
10. Asim Nisamand-Adi
11. Fridtjof Nuesslin
12. Fahd Specialist Hospital-Dammam, KSA, held their seventh Saudi Conference on Medical Physics last November 12-14, 2013. For detailed information about this conference please visit the website: www.smps.org.sa.

4. LAEC: The Lebanese Atomic Energy Commission held a one day Seminar on November 19, 2013 in the Head Quarters in Beirut, Lebanon. The Top was " Neutron Sources: Dosimetry and Application" presented by the IAEA Expert Mr. Filip Vanhavere.

5. IOMP: MEFOMP had celebrated the IOMP & Radiology Day this year in Doha, Qatar under the organisation of Dr. Huda Al-Naimi, the President of the Qatar Medical Physics Society. Also attending was Dr. Jamila Al-Suwaidi from United Arab Emirates and Mr. Ibrahim Duhaini from Lebanon. The day started with a Reception and followed by poster sessions and then presentation of Radiology and Medical Physics topics delivered by invited participants. Also, the celebration included the distribution of awards and appreciation plaques to some prominent Radiology and Medical Physics personnel. The event was attended by 350 Radiology and Medical Physics personnel. The event was attended by 350 Radiology and Medical Physics staff from many Middle East countries representing MEFOMP and other countries. The celebration ended with an open dinner buffet and everybody enjoyed the evening.

8. Report from the IOMP Science Committee
10. Donation of Used Equipment - PRC Report
10. From the Awards and Honours Committee
11. HINARI (Programme for Access to Research in Health)
12. Outstanding Contributions over the last 50 Years - Poster
13. Publication Committee Report
14. IOMP Project for Medical Physics Development in Africa
15. IOMP Representation at the WHo Global 2013 for Health
16. IPEM hosts ICMP2013
17. AAPM/SEP Diagnostic Imaging Workshop 2013
18. MEFOMP Activities during the last 6 months
19. Calendar of Events

Medical Physics World

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The hypothesis is living cells have structures where fluid preferentially flow within the system rather than across cell membrane. On the other hand, there is no directional fluid flow preference for compromised cells. Dr. Saw also presented the use of hybrid nuclear medicine modality in particular PET/CT for staging and restaging of recurrence occurs in cancer management. Dr. Rong presented the specialized field of CT technology, reviewing the basic principles of CT as well as advanced CT concepts. While CT technology had undergone four identifiable generation of development in the past, new advances are very rapid with newer concepts. Next generation CT offers helical scanning, multi-detectors systems, cone-beam design, and dual-energy CT technology. These require new concepts of quality assurance and introduce different types of artifacts. Of course with recent mishap, Dr. Rong reviewed the current state of dose optimization for CT including the image gently, image wisely, and CT dose protocol available at the AAPM website. The new area of exciting development in imaging systems is the hybrid modalities presented by Dr. Mawlawi on the second day of the workshop. Dr. Mawlawi discussed the advantages and advances of hybrid modalities in particular PET/CT and SPECT/CT systems, quality assurance, and quantitative studies. The hybrid modality system offers better attenuation corrected data from CT imaging to complement the low-contrast emission from the other modality. These systems provide a means of characterizing tissues. Tissue characterization has significantly support radiation therapy in treatment planning and cancer management as discussed by Dr. Saw. Advances in hybrid systems include addressing patient or target volume motion, time of flight technology, and PET/MR systems. Another exciting development in imaging systems is the advancement in MRI using high magnetic strength (1.5T). This MRI imaging specialty was presented by Dr. Clarke discussing basic principles, advanced development, and quality assurance in MRI. The basic principles of MRI stressed on the use of Fourier transform, phase encoding, and k-space in encoding sequencing signals to obtain the MRI images. Advances in MRI are the implementation of increasing magnetic strength. The increase in magnetic strength impacts on signal strength, contrast, tissue power absorption, chemical shift, magnetic susceptibility, and image uniformity. The concerns have been in tissue power absorption that may increase body temperature if it exceeds the thermal regulatory capacity and image uniformity. Various coils have been used to increase the signal-to-noise ratio, hence improving image resolution. Integrated phased array systems and parallel MRI imaging allow for whole body scanning and faster image acquisition. In addition, Dr. Clarke presented the quantitative use of MRI including volume measurements, blood flow measurements, tissue characterization with T1, T2, and T2* parametric mapping, magnetic resonance spectroscopy, and tissue perfusion. Tissue diffusion was discussed by Dr. Wang to evaluate tissue response from therapy. Digital radiography, mammography, and tomosynthesis were presented by Dr. Seibert on the second day. In the first lecture, Dr. Seibert reviewed the mammography and tomosynthesis development, quality assurance, and standards established by American College of Radiology (ACR). This was followed by the examination of the various digital detection technology and acceptance testing and quality control. In his third lecture, Dr. Seibert presented the PAC components, communication terminology, and softcopy display. This AAPM/IOMP ISEP workshop was very well attended with over 100 registrations. Last minute change of meeting room was made to accommodate the large registrations. Among the registrants from overseas include Baharin, Brunet, Bhutan, Hong Kong, and Malaysia. The attendees and faculty were engaged raising questions on (a) training in imaging physics, (b) requirements of multimodality operators and their training, (c) quality assurance and protocols, (d) phantom design, (e) imaging physics manpower, (f) research issues in high strength MRI. Some have commented on the program itself as fantastic and impact on their view of future imaging radiology in their own countries. The review of this AAPM/IOMP ISEP workshop has been very favorable as timely in reference to the transfer of advanced technology, know-how, and safety concerns to the Asian countries. On behalf of the AAPM faculty, the course directors (Cheng B Saw, PhD and Jhong Wang, PhD) wish to thank the host chair, Dr. Anchali Krisanachinda and her committee for providing such an extraordinary hospitality. The willingness of the AAPM faculty to travel to Thailand to participate in this educational workshop are well-appreciated by the course directors and the local committee members. Lastly, the organizers wish to express our sincere thanks to Siemens Healthcare and RTI of Thailand in supporting this ISEP workshop.

MPW Worldwide
Magdalena Soreva, Associate Editor eMPW
to report the results of the MPW dissemination program. Our initiative to improve the visibility of MPW thus increasing the popularity of Medical Physics Worldwide, proved excellent results. Medical Physics Worldwide has been accepted in some of the leading libraries – the library of the European Society of Radiology (ESR/IRCS), the library of the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), the US Library of Congress (LoC). Our attempts to promote MPW and reach wider audience will continue in 2014. This activity will strengthen the position of IOMP and contribute to dissemination of scientific information within our inter-disciplinary community. I wish everyone a Happy and Prosperous 2014!
A three-day workshop under the International Scientific Exchange Program (ISEP) of the American Association of physicists in Medicine (AAPM) in collaboration with the International Organization for Medical Physics (IOMP) with the theme, “AAPM/ISEP Diagnostic Imaging Workshop 2013” was held at Montien Hotel – Surawong Road, Bangkok, Thailand 6th – 8th, 2013

Cheng B Saw, PhD, FAAPM and Jihong Wang, PhD (Course Directors) Anchari Krismanachinda, PhD (Host Organizer)

The opening ceremony of this AAPM/ISEP ISEP workshop commenced on November 6, 2013 with the welcoming address given by Professor Anchari, PhD (President of the Thai Medical Physics Society) and Cheng B Saw, PhD. Professor Anchari highlighted this AAPM/ISEP ISEP workshop as the first to be held in South East Asia and as a platform for rapid technology transfer and also the collaborative sharing of the technical know-how and clinical experiences in Thailand and neighboring countries. This platform is especially important in light of the rapid pace of technological advancement and development. Dr. Saw expressed the privilege to have surprised large audience who has traveled long distance to attend this workshop. Also, Dr. Saw thanked the AAPM faculty for making their long journey to Thailand and volunteering their time and efforts to participate in the workshop. Lastly, Dr. Saw also thanked Dr. Anchali and her local committee members for their efforts and time in conducting the workshop. The first presentation was given by Dr. Saw on the integration of imaging systems in radiation therapy. The introduction of three-dimensional treatment planning systems (3DTPS) marked the starting point for modern radiotherapy, said Dr. Saw. The use of CT imaging in up-to-date treatment planning systems (TPS) has led to the accurate definition of target volumes and organs-at-risk delineation. In addition, in-vivo biological imaging techniques have allowed the detailed visualization of functional tumor biology for individualized patient treatment planning.

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One of the highlights of the scientific program is the IOMP Fellowship, which provides post-graduates with travel grants to attend the conference. The IOMP Fellowship aims to increase the number of medical physicists and physicists in the community. The IOMP Fellowship is open to all medical physicists and physicists who have completed their education and are looking to further their careers in medical physics.

The workshop was well attended with approximately 100 participants from all over the world. The Conference President, Professor Peter Sharp and members of his organizing committee welcomed the attendees to the wonderful city of Budapest. The workshop was held in the beautiful city of Budapest. One of the highlights of the scientific program is the International Medical Physicist Certification Board (IMPCB) which gives recognition to medical physicists who have completed their education and are looking to further their careers in medical physics.

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contributions to IOMP or to its Regional Organizations for a long duration. My congratulations to the 18 Fellows elected. My congratulations also go to Professor Charles A. Mistretta of University of Wisconsin, USA for receiving from IOMP the Maria Sklodowska-Curie Award during the conference. The local conference organizer, IPEM elected from different parts of the world 50 outstanding medical physicists and other closely related professionals who have made outstanding contributions to the advancement of medical physics and healthcare over the last 50 years. Posters on the outstanding medical physicists were on display during the conference. My congratulations to the outstanding medical physicists elected. The first International Day of Medical Physics (IDMP) organized by IOMP to promote the visibility and awareness of the medical physicist was a great success. The event was very well publicized in major medical physics journals, including Medical Physics, European Journal of Medical Physics, and Physics in Medicine & Biology. It was also publicized in the medical physics websites, including the IOP (medical physics), IPEM and AAPM websites. Several press releases on the event were issued and a range of celebration activities took place in more than 16 countries. It was the largest exercised ever organized by IOMP in collaboration with NMOs and ROs. I would like to thank Dr. Simone Knodlochich, President of ALFIM for raising the original idea of IDMP and Dr. John Damilakis, ETC Chair for launching the exercise and our colleagues who organized or participated in the activities and to congratulate them for their successes. 2013 has been a very busy but fruitful year for IOMP. I would like to thank everyone who contributed to or took part in the various IOMP initiatives. I would particularly like to mention a few names. I am grateful to Dr. Virginia Tiaipaki, Dr. Magdalena Stoeva and members of their teams in the MPW Editorial Board and IOMP Web Subcommitteee for their excellent work in revamping and revitalizing the IOMP website and Medical Physics World (MPW) bulletin. I would like to thank Professor Aazam Nirmomand-Rad and those who helped her (Professor Colin Orton, Dr. Peter Smith, Dr. Madan Rehani, …) in compiling the historical data of IOMP, which is now posted on the IOMP website. We are grateful to Dr. Slavik Tabakov and Dr. Perry Sprawls for launching the IOMP journal, the Medical Physics International, Dr. Thomas Kron and members of Awards & Honours Committee (AHC) for implementing the IOMP Fellowship scheme and Dr. Raymond Wu and Dr. Edward Sternick for their work on international certification of medical physicist. I would particularly like to thank Dr. William Hendee, Chair of Science Committee (SC) for his enormous contributions to IOMP over the years. It has been a great pleasure for me working with Bill on IOMP and other medical physics matters for many years.

As from 1 January 2014, Bill will retire from SC Chair for personal reason. Bill’s retirement is a tremendous loss to IOMP and the medical physics community. I would like to convey my best wishes to Bill for happy retirement. Bill will be succeeded by Professor Geoffrey Ibbott. Geoff is the Chairman of Radiation Physics at MD Anderson Cancer Center and is a Past-President of AAPM. It is my great pleasure welcoming Geoff on board. 2014 will be an exciting year for IOMP. We shall enhance our efforts in promoting the visibility of medical physicists in the communities. We shall strengthen our partnership with national member societies and international organizations on such projects as IDMP2014, improving medical physics and radiation safety in developing countries, professional certification of medical physicists, enriching the resources in our website particularly on materials for education and training of medical physicists. The World Congress 2015 is approaching a critical phase of its preparation. We shall be strengthening our collaboration with IUPPEEM, IFMBE and the hosting organizations to ensure a successful World Congress in Toronto. Happy New Year to everyone!

The conference programme was accompanied by a range of social activities which enabled delegates to sample the delights of Brighton in a week of glorious weather. The meeting saw Professor Steve Keevil take over from Peter Jurrit as President of the IPEM and will serve for the next two years. The conference would not have been possible without the unerring efforts of the conference team in York. The programme committee would like to record their thanks for all they did to produce such a successful conference. The conference concluded with a look forward to the 2015 World Congress on Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering Conference to be held in Toronto, Canada June 7th – 12th. It will be co-hosted by the The Canadian Organization of Medical Physicists (COMP) and the Canadian Medical and Biological Engineering Society (CMBES). A warm invitation to attend was extended to all.
Whilst celebrating the last 50 years of Horizons – Scientific and Global, traditional fish and chips on the pier included a mayoral reception, attended by 835 people from 58 scientific meeting. The event was EFOMP and the 2013 Medical Federation of Medical Physics annual Conference of the European conference also encompassed the 7th USA, Canada and Sweden. The founding partners were the UK, foundation of the IOMP in Harrogate. the International Organization of Physics is organized between the International Conference on Medical Physics (ICMP2013) at hosted the International Conference IPEM hosts ICMP2013 on Medical Physics in Africa with a multi-disciplinary base required to develop and implement new patient treatments. The conference also celebrated the 70th anniversary of the Hospital Physicists Association (HPA). This was celebrated with a public lecture given by Francis Duck entitled “Physicists and Physician: A History of Medical Physics from the Renaissance to Röntgen” – a fascinating look at the origins of the application of physics in medicine in Europe. The lecture coincided with the launch of Francis’s book providing fascinating insight into this subject which is highly recommended. During the conference Professor Charles Mistretta received the Marie Curie Sklodowska Award of the IOMP for a distinguished career.

From Secretary General desk

The year 2013 was good from perspective of the IOMP. We had many new actions and accomplishments. 1. International Day of Medical Physics (IDMP) was celebrated on 7th November for the first time with enthusiastic programmes organized by more than 15 countries. 2. Medical Physics International journal: Released first time in March 2013 and two issues were brought out this year, second one at ICMP in Sept 2013. 3. Fellow, IOMP: First batch of 18 Fellows of IOMP were announced and awarded certificates at Brighton during ICMP. 4. Quiz was introduced on facebook that created enthusiasm, more so as one quiz was directed at public rather than medical physicists alone. 5. Surveys on Female medical physicists in 65 countries was completed and results are being analysed. Preliminary analysis shows the average percentage of female medical physicists as: Central & Western Europe (10 countries)= 41%, Eastern Europe (7 countries)= 48%, Latin America (12 countries)= 26%, West Asia (8 countries)= 51%, East Asia (8 countries)= 39%, Africa (17 countries)= 28% and USA=21%

6. Presence of IOMP in European Congress of Radiology (ECR) in Vienna was started with a booth of IOMP. Active cooperation and collaboration with international organizations like IAEA, WHO and IRPA was maintained.

The system of e-Voting for Council resolutions was adopted and it worked well, allowing passing of important items through e-ballot rather than waiting for three years to have physical meeting of IOMP Council at the World Congresses.

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50 Outstanding Medical Physicists: 1963-2013

A poster display to mark the 50th Anniversary of the IOMP

Peter Smith, Chair Internal Advisory Committee ICMP 2013

The organisation (or individual) who nominated the selected individual for the poster but a standard design and format was used. IPEM arranged the printing of the posters. The fifty individual posters were displayed in a central position in the foyer of the conference centre at Brighton and generated a lot of interest.

IOMP invited the UK Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine (IOP) in 2009, to host the 20th International Conference in 2013 (ICMP 2013). As part of the celebrations of the 50th Anniversary it was agreed to have a special poster display of 50 medical physicists who had made an outstanding contribution to medical physics since the formation of the IOMP. National and regional medical physics organisations were invited to nominate medical physicists, and other closely related professionals, who had made outstanding contributions to the advancement of medical physics and healthcare through research, clinical developments, education and training activities, service development, and to professional matters over the last 50 years. Nominations were also accepted from other organisations and individuals. Whilst in most cases the contributions are of global importance, some of those selected have made such an outstanding contribution nationally or regionally that it was considered that they should be recognised. Ninety seven nominations were received from twenty seven countries. A small group was formed to select the fifty from the nominations. The members had a wide range of experience and came from across the world. Carlos Ede Almeida (Brazil), Stelios Christofides (Cyprus and Past President of EFOMP), Francis Duck (UK and author of a history of medical physics ‘Physicists and Physicians’), Tomas Kron (Australia and Chair of IOMP’s Awards Committee), Colin Orton (USA and Past President of IOMP) and the group was chaired by Peter Smith (UK, Chair Internal Advisory Committee ICMP 2013 and past Secretary-General IOMP). The final fifty physicists came from twenty countries, with largest number from the USA. Just over half (26) were from the four founding countries – Canada, Sweden, UK and USA. The organisation (or individual) who nominated the selected physicist was responsible for supplying the text and illustrations for the poster but a standard design and format was used. IPEM arranged the printing of the posters. The fifty individual posters were displayed in a central position in the foyer of the conference centre at Brighton and generated a lot of interest.

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The first year of the IOMP Journal Medical Physics International (MPI)
Slavik Tabakov, Perry Sprawls
Co-Editors Medical Physics International Journal

The new IOMP Journal Medical Physics International was established at the end of 2012 as an open-access e-Journal (ISSN 2306-4609). MPI is hosted on its web site (www.mpsjournal.org), constructed by the MPI Technical Editors. The first issue (MPI No. 1) was published in April 2013 and the second issue in August 2013. During this first year MPI attracted many readers and developed itself as a valuable reference and resource for the medical physics profession. As of December 7, 2013 the MPI Journal web site had 36,766 visits - approximately 1000 per week. This clearly showed the need for this type of professional forum and distribution of information.

The Topics covered by the MPI Journal are: The History and Heritage of Medical Physics, IOMP Professional and Educational Activities, Developments within Medical Physics Organizations, Educational Resources, Contributions on Practical and Applied Medical Physics, Innovations in Technology and Clinical Methods, Reviews of Significant Developments, Tutorials, PhD Dissertation and Thesis Abstracts, and Abstracts of Presentations at Conferences. The MPI supports and collaborates with other medical physics journals and does not publish within their scope such as peer-reviewed research and development articles. The download statistics confirm the interest and value in all of the categories. The need for practical articles was triggered initially by the Emerald/Emit materials and this topic has proved to be very popular.

The Innovation and Review articles are providing the profession with useful overviews and updates on the excellent research of our distinguished colleagues and developments by the Industry.

The abstracts from the IOMP Golden Anniversary Conference, ICMP2013, were the first conference abstracts to be published by MPI. This opportunity will be available to other conferences that have an interest and will add significant value to their programs by providing global visibility and impact for their presenters.

The publication of the abstracts of Ph.D. dissertations and theses is a major value to young medical physicists. It publishes their research around the world. Program directors and research advisors are encouraged to make sure their students make use of this opportunity and submit their abstracts for publication.

The Editorial Board of the MPI Journal is grateful to all colleagues who submitted articles for the first issues and encourages the submission of more papers in the above topics (the deadline for the MPI No. 3 is 11 Jan 2014).

IOMP Representation at the WHO Global 2013 for Medical Devices
Mohammed K. Zaidi, Program Manager, UEDP, IOMP PRC

Dr. Kin Yin Cheung, President, IOMP and Dr. Slavik Tabakov, President-elect, and Dr. Habib Zaidi, IOMP Liaison Representative to the World Health Organization (WHO), attended the Second WHO Global Forum on Medical Devices at the International Conference Centre (CICC), Geneva, Switzerland, in November 22-24, 2013. The Second WHO Global Forum on Medical Devices was supported by IOMP. We had great meetings with the WHO and PAHO group – Dr. Adriana Velasquez Berumen, Dr. Pablo Jimenez, Miriam N. Mikhail, and Dr. Maria del Rosario Perez; HTTG group Dr. Cari Borras, Dr.Yadin David, and Dr. Herbert Voigt, President, International Union for Physical and Engineering Sciences in Medicine (IUPESM). We plan to help IUPESM in their UEDP – which is still in the planning stages. The World Bank, Health Specialist Dr. Andreas Sester assured us full support for funding for UE shipment. The International Society of Radiology (ISR) President Dr. Jan Labuscagne, Luigi Giuliani Secretary, Biomedical Association for International Development (Biom.AID), Dr. Mihaly Szacsky of Public Benefit Organization Biomedical Association for International Development of Medical Physics in Africa – a long term collaborative activity of IOMP, FAMPO and other parties. UEDP is also supporting requests from International Organization for Migration (IOM) – Dr. Arifa Sherif.

The cohesive efforts of the IOMP team at the Forum were wonderful.

The IOMP also had a booth to introduce its activities.
Did You Celebrate the First International Day of Medical Physics? If Not, Next Year You Should!

John Damilakis, Chair, IOMP Education and Training Committee

The inaugural event was a big success in several countries and the amount of attention we have gained is remarkable. Medical Physics societies around the world organized a wide range of different events to celebrate the day. Main IDMP events were held in Poland (birthplace of MC) and France (Marie Curie worked mainly in France and she was also a French citizen). In Poland, the Polish Academy of Sciences jointly with the Polish Society of Medical Physics organized a meeting entitled ‘From radium to hadron radiotherapy’ in the Henryk Niewodniczanski Institute of Nuclear Physics in Krakow. In France, a symposium was organized in the ‘Musée Curie – Institut Curie’ in Paris. More information and presentations of the event organized in Paris can be found at http://idmp2013.sciencecord.org/

On November 7, 2013 we celebrated the first International Day of Medical Physics (IDMP). The theme was ‘Radiation exposure from medical exposures, ask the Medical Physicist!’ The International Organization for Medical Physics invited all colleagues to commemorate the Day through education and public activities on topics related to our profession.

On November 7, 2013 the Hellenic Association of Medical Physicists organized an ‘open day’ in central Athens on the occasion of the IDMP to inform the public about the profession of medical physics. A meeting was also organized with the title ‘Past, Present and Future of Medical Physics Profession in Greece’.
Report from the IOMP Science Committee
William Hendee, Chair IOMP Science Committee

The Science Committee of the IOMP has a long and productive history, and it is an honor to serve as the committee’s chair. The previous two chairs of the committee (Cari Borriss and Harald Paganetti) were excellent leaders, and the committee offered substantial input into a number of meetings and documents. I have tried to continue this tradition, while at the same time focusing the committee on its own products, the most notable example of which is the IOMP Policy Statement on the Risks of Medical Imaging which has been disseminated to the IOMP membership. This statement has received widespread acknowledgement, and its presence has enhanced the recognition of the IOMP as an influential organization worldwide.

I have now reached a time when it is necessary for me to step away from professional obligations and pay closer attention to some other issues. Consequently, I am retiring from the chair of the IOMP Science Committee at the end of the current year. I do this regrettably, because I have thoroughly enjoyed the intellectual stimulation of interacting with members of the IOMP Executive Committee and Council and, of course, with members of the Science Committee. I will miss these interactions and the friendships that they have engendered over the past several years. I am pleased to announce that the Science Committee will remain intact and continue its work for the IOMP under new leadership. The new committee chair is Geoffrey Ebbott, a senior medical physicist who is well-known throughout the world. Geoff is chair of the Department of Radiation Physics at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston TX and a past-president of the AAPM. Before assuming the departmental chair position at MD Anderson, Geoff was Director of the Radiological Physics Center, a major medical physics resource headquartered in Houston and funded by the National Cancer Institute of the US Department of Health and Human Services. I personally have experience with Geoff’s medical physics expertise and leadership qualities, because we have worked closely together for 47 years (yes, 47 – that is not a typographical error). I know that the Science Committee will benefit greatly from his guidance, and that the IOMP and the profession of medical physics will be improved through his involvement in IOMP activities.

Donation of Used Equipment - PRC Report
Mohammed K. Zaidi, Program Manager, IOMP PRC

Georg Weidlich, Siemens View District Hospital Cancer Treatment Center Porterville, California, USA has very kindly donated a used Multispan 3D water phantom with laptop and needed software to IOMP Used Equipment Donation Program. I plan to ship this equipment to School of Health Sciences, Moi University, Eldoret, Kenya (Prof. Jared Ochieng Ogolla). The arrangements are being made to ship it.

The IOMP UEDP manager was invited to attend the Second WHO Global Forum on Medical Devices at the International Conference Center (CICG), Geneva, Switzerland, in November 22-24, 2013. His report, “The IOMP Used Equipment Donation Program”, will be presented at the above mentioned forum. Mr. Martin Mukosai, Clinical Radiographer Technologist, Mwandi Mission Hospital, Livingstone, Zambia wants to stay connected through publications of books on Ultrasonography techniques. Other requested items are: an Ultrasound machine, a laptop computer, gamma camera, well counter, and a dose calibrator for nuclear medicine. If someone can donate used books, journal or equipment – it will meet his present needs. The equipment donated to IOMP Used Equipment Donation Program is in good working condition but we don’t guarantee its usefulness. The donations of used equipment to IOMP are sometime tax deductible. IOMP will not be responsible for any warehousing expenses or loss if the used equipment donated to IOMP couldn’t be shipped. If you want to donate, or want specific used equipment donated to your organization, please contact the IOMP PRC UEDP Manager. For more information, please visit www.iomp.org or email zaidi@iapkm@gmail.com.

IOMP Project for Medical Physics Development in Africa
Slavik Tabakov, CSci, FHEA, FIPEM, FIOMP
Vice-President IOMP, King’s College London, UK

Contemporary healthcare is impossible without medical technology. Every hospital has thousands of different types of such equipment – from simple syringes and pumps and ECG to the most complex MRI scanners and Radiotherapy linear accelerators. This equipment takes a significant part of healthcare budget and is vital for the process of diagnosis and treatment of patients. Medical physicists and engineers assure the effective and safe use of medical technology and care for it in its entire lifecycle – from development, installation and commissioning to maintenance, radiation safety and disposal. These professionals are of high importance for the healthcare provision in any country, what was recently recognised by including them in the International Standard of Classification Occupations (ISCO). The demand of specially trained medical physicists and engineers increases rapidly worldwide.

The problem in some countries is not the lack of medical equipment, but the lack of well-trained specialists to operate and maintain it efficiently and safely. The International Organization for Medical Physics (IOMP) is charged with a mission to advance medical physics practice worldwide by disseminating scientific and technical information, fostering the educational and professional development of medical physicists and promoting the highest quality medical services for patients. IOMP and its Regional Organizations have led a number of events to help professional development in various countries and regions. The first International Conference on Medical Physics Education and Training (Budapest 1994) was pivotal for the advancement of medical physics education and training in Eastern Europe, where many new courses were initiated after 1994. The experience from this Conference was transferred to Asia through several International Workshops, satellite to the 2003 World Congress on Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering in Sydney and the 2006 World Congress in Seoul (where a large Workshop, “Medical Physics and Engineering Education and Training – a global perspective”, took place). The materials and activities of these events also triggered the establishment of new courses - many of these are described in the e-books at: http://www.emerald2.eu/mep_index.htm 1. Similar activities were further carried out in Latin America, notably the Education and Training Workshop at the International Conference on Medical Physics ICMP2011, Porto Alegre, Brazil. The results from these events are seen in the rapid growth of medical physics educational and training activities in Eastern Europe, Asia and Latin America (in the past 15 years IOMP has supported and co-organised about 70 such activities. Currently IOMP has about 20,000 professional members in 84 countries worldwide. Aiming to support the development of the medical physics profession in Africa, IOMP assisted the recent formation of the Federation of African Medical Physics Organizations (FAMPO), which currently includes the National Societies of: Algeria, Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. In parallel, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and other Institutions, as the American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM), the UK Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine (IPEM), the German Society for Medical Physics (DGMP) and others, also started various regional projects with African countries. During the large International Conference on Medical Physics ICMP2015 (Brighton, UK) IOMP organised a special Workshop “Medical Physics in Africa – status and way forward” with aims to help medical physics development in the African continent. Special support for the activity was received from the International Union for Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP). IAEA and WHO also funded some participants from Africa to attend the Workshop. The Workshop on 1/09/2013 was co-organised by IOMP and FAMPO officers and was attended by approximately 100 colleagues from...
From the Awards and Honours Committee
Tomas Kron, Chair Awards and Honours Committee

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Please do not hesitate to contact anyone of the committee if you have any suggestions or questions. We look forward to hearing from you.

Three recent chairs of the IOMP Awards and Honours Committee at ICMP in Brighton: Slavik Tabakov, Donald Frey and Tomas Kron. Slavik Tabakov and Donald Frey also ‘sport’ the new IOMP fellow badge next to their name tag.
HINARI (Programme for Access to Research in Health)
Raymond Wu, PhD, PRC Chair

The Suk and I had a teleconference with Kimberly Parker of HINARI in September. She has provided great help and resolved most if not all our concerns as we worked together. To continue the work as mentioned in the previous issue of eMPW, several persons volunteered to assist. With the help of Kanchan Adhikari of Nepal, and Kwan Hoong Ng, Francis Hasford, and Ahmed Ibn Seddik, the Publication Committee and the PRC have tested the WHO program HINARI. We have a pathway now for IOMP to proceed and improve the program for the benefit of MPs from Group A countries and others. The first tasks are to promote the program in the eMPW and the IOMP website, and to recommend MP journals and books to include. HINARI has a Publisher Liaison who will do much of the work contacting the editors and publishers. We found that although there are over 12,000 journal titles available for free access by eligible countries, very few MP journals are included. We have found four which are the BMC Medical Physics, Journal of Applied Clinical Medical Physics, Journal of Medical Physics (India), and our Medical Physics International. But they are all open access journals. Other relevant titles are Health Physics, International Journal of Radiation Oncology Biology Physics, Magnetic Resonance Materials in Biology Physics and Medicine, Medical Engineering & Physics.

Medical physicists from about 100 countries including Bangladesh, Ghana, Nepal, Nigeria, Sudan, and Vietnam, designated Group A countries by HINARI, are eligible to register and sign on at www.who.int/hinari/en at no cost. Eligible categories of institutions are national universities, research institutes, medical, nursing, pharmacy, public health, and dental schools, teaching hospitals, government offices and national medical libraries. All staff members and students are entitled to access the journals. Once signed on, the users can access full text of articles published in any of the 12,000 journals that are available in their countries. The access codes are given to the librarians or designated responsible officers of the institutions.

We will need our readership’s help to recommend journals and books to include in the program. We found that HINARI has a secure way to assure that the free access will not likely go to unauthorized users. Some large developing countries including China, India, Indonesia, Iran, and Pakistan are excluded by the partners as these large markets are within many publishers’ strategic business plans. Besides Group A countries mentioned above, there are a set of Group B countries included in HINARI and institutions in these slightly more-developed countries need to pay a fee of $1,000 per year for full access. Please refer to the color coded map provided by Kimberly showing the two groups of eligible countries.
Publication Committee Report

Tae Suk Suh, Ph.D, PC Chair

The members of the Publication Committee (PC) were updated about the induction of key new members. IOMP PC had invited four Editors-in-Chief of Medical Physics Journals – J. Williamson (Medical Physics), S. R. Cherry (PMB), M. Mills (JACMP), P. Russo (Physica Medica) – as PC members, most of them are currently editors of national or regional medical physics journals. IOMP PC exchanged ideas on ways to introduce editors and launch new books and projects. We finally agreed at a decision to publish a new book on radiation risk and protection. IOMP PC, in all likelihood, will now be proposing one new book titled “Radiation Protection in Medical Imaging” (and Radiation Oncology) and collaborate with Francesca McGowan, a new Physics Editor in Ta&F/CRC Press. During the meeting between representatives of IOMP and Ta&F/CRC Press at IOMP 2013, in Brighton, UK, many ideas were discussed about ways of increasing the output of publications on medical physics, and making the publications more accessible to the medical physics fraternity worldwide, particularly in developing countries. PC will come up with a longer list of suggestions containing ideas for new books, and send them to CRC Press. For celebrating the 50th anniversary of the IOMP, PC proposed the publication of a new book that will promote the IOMP and many key physicists. The book will be produced in collaboration with regional organizations, and will focus on the themes of “New Horizons” and the past. One of the important roles of IOMP PC is to provide medical physicists, especially those in developing countries, with easy ways of accessing key journals, books, standards manuals, and guides. It would be advisable for each of the major medical physics journals to provide a brief account of how the journals could be accessed online, whether they are available free of cost for medical physicists in developing countries, and mention any special arrangements available for libraries. IOMP PC will also work jointly with Raymond Wu (PC Chair) for accessing of journals by HINARI libraries, which are mainly supported by WHO and widely used for developing countries. PC and RC will collaborate to find out how HINARI can be accessed, subsequently inform physicists in developing countries about its usage, and encourage editors to join HINARI.

IOMP PC encouraged editors of medical physics journals and newsletters to reprint the editorial (Risk of medical imaging) – that includes the IOMP Policy Statement 5 written by Bill Hendee and Science Committee – in national and regional journals of medical physics. The IOMP policy statement has been published in many journals and newsletters pertaining to medical physics.

IOMP PC has been working on a new book project on IOMP SC, IOMP EC, and the Executive Committee and Board Members. They are shown coded in color. IOMP will in the future have at least one member serving in the Board of Directors of IMPMC. The IMPMC is expected to form subcommittees to draft policies and procedures to review national board certification programs, to establish application procedures for national organization to join the IMPMC, to prepare guidelines for nomination of candidates for the next election, and to manage other IMPMC business.

If you are eligible for HINARI access, have used the program in the past, and are willing to assist IOMP to make suggestions to improve the program, please contact Raymond Wu, Chairman of PC - raykwu@gmail.com, or Tae Suk Suh, Chairman of PC - subhata@catholic.ac.kr.

IOMP Travel Award Program

This year all awardees were able to attend the IOMP with the exception of two, whose visas were denied. We have engaged the hosting country and International scientific organizations including the ISU for help to resolve the visa problems but were not successful. I would like to express on behalf of IOMP Travel Award Program the gratitude to Ahmed Meghinaie of IAEA and Maria del Rosario Perez of WHO for their partnership and for the funding to support several awardees as noted. Their timely help and involvements in planning made it possible to integrate the application and approval processes of the United Nation establishments and IOMP without a hitch. This allowed IOMP to work with ICMCP local organizing committee to use the funding provided for the awards by IPEM (10,000 Euro) and several NMO’s including Germany, Switzerland, and Ireland. To assure equal opportunity to all countries, all participants were made aware of the Travel Award program when the IOMP website was first set up, and further reminded at registration.

International Libraries

Allan Willison, the International Library Curator, has identified the active libraries and the contact persons and published the list in the previous issue of eMPW. The list also has helped us to connect up with the leaders in the MP communities in many countries in addition to the official delegates. We would like to take the opportunity to remind the contacts listed in the previous issue to inform Allan and myself if there is a change in the email address.

The most recent library to be established is the one requested by Onuwaje Bemard Erwathafoh of Nigeria. To apply for a library or to re-instate a library dropped from the list, please follow the instructions described in previous issues of the eMPW.

International Medical Physics Certification Board

The Charter Member Organization: Voting Members elected the office holders of the International Medical Physics Certification Board, Inc (IMPCB) in a recent ballot. They include the Executive Committee and Board Members – President, Chief Executive Officer, Secretary General, Registrar, Chief Examiner, and Treasurer; the three At-Large Board Directors, and the IOMP Liaison; and members of the three standing committees. Please refer to the table (IMPCB table 1) shown here. They will assume the positions on January 1, 2014. The terms of offices are shown coded in color. IOMP will in the future have at least one member serving in the Board of Directors of IMPMC. The IMPMC is expected to form subcommittees to draft policies and procedures to review national board certification programs, to establish application procedures for national organization to join the IMPMC, to prepare guidelines for nomination of candidates for the next election, and to manage other IMPMC business.
Outstanding Contributions Over the Last 50 Years

1963-50 Years of IOMP-2013

Medical physicists who have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of medical physics over the last 50 years.

To mark the 50th Anniversary of the IOMP, national and regional medical physics organizations were invited to nominate medical physicists, and other closely related professionals, who have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of medical physics and healthcare through research, clinical developments, education and training activities, service development, and to professional matters over the last 50 years. Whilst in most cases the contribution is of international importance, some of those selected have made such a significant contribution nationally or regionally that the international selection panel considered that they should be recognized.
The members of the Publication Committee (PC) were updated about the induction of key new members. IOMP PC had invited four Editors-in-Chief of Medical Physics Journals – J. Williamson (Medical Physics), S. R. Cherry (PMID), M. Mills (JACMP), F. Russo (Physica Medica) – as PC members, most of them are currently editors of national or regional medical physics journals. IOMP PC exchanged ideas on ways to introduce editors and launch new books and projects. We finally agreed at a decision to publish a new book on radiation risk and protection. IOMP PC, in all likelihood, will now be proposing one new book titled “Radiation Protection in Medical Imaging” (and Radiation Oncology) and collaborate with Francesca McGowan, a new Physics Editor in TaF/FRC/CRC Press. During the meeting between representatives of IOMP and TaF/FRC/CRC Press at IOMP 2013, in Brighton, UK, many ideas were discussed about ways of increasing the output of publications on medical physics, and making the publications more accessible to the medical physics fraternity worldwide, particularly in developing countries. PC will come up with a longer list of suggestions containing ideas for new books, and send them to CRC Press. For celebrating the 50th anniversary of the IOMP, PC proposed the publication of a new book that will promote the IOMP and many key physicists. The book will be produced in collaboration with regional organizations, and will focus on the themes of “New Horizons” and the past. One of the important roles of IOMP PC is to provide medical physicists, especially those in developing countries, with easy ways of accessing key journals, books, standards manuals, and guides. It would be advisable for each of the major medical physics journals to provide a brief account of how the journals could be accessed online, whether they are available free of cost for medical physicists in developing countries, and mention any special arrangements available for libraries. IOMP PC will also work jointly with Raymond Wu (PC chairman) for accessing journals by HINARI libraries, which are mainly supported by WHO and widely used for developing countries. PC will collaborate to find out how HINARI can be accessed, subsequently inform physicists in developing countries about its usage, and encourage editors to join HINARI. IOMP PC encouraged editors of medical physics journals and newsletters to reprint the editorial (Risk of medical imaging) – that includes the IOMP Policy Statement 5 written by Bill Hendee and Science Committee – in national and regional journals of medical physics. The IOMP policy statement has been published in many journals and newsletters pertaining to medical physics.

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II-14 September 2014
Athens, Greece

www.efomp-2014.gr
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Tomas Kron, Chair Awards and Honours Committee

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JUNE 7 - 12, 2015
Hosted by the Canadian Organization of Medical Physicists (COMP)
In partnership with the Canadian Medical and Biological Engineering Society (CMBES)
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William Hendee, Chair IOMP Science Committee

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IOMP Project for Medical Physics Development in Africa

Slavik Tabakov, CSci, FHEA, FIPEM, FIOMP

Vice-President IOMP, King’s College London, UK

Contemporary healthcare is impossible without medical technology. Every hospital has thousands of different types of such equipment – from simple syringes and pumps and ECG to the most complex MRI scanners and Radiotherapy linear accelerators. This equipment takes a significant part of healthcare budget and is vital for the process of diagnosis and treatment of patients. Medical physicists and engineers assure the effective and safe use of medical technology and care for it in its entire lifecycle – from development, installation and commissioning to maintenance, radiation safety and disposal. These professionals are of high importance for the healthcare provision in any country, what was recently recognised by including them in the International Standard of Classification Occupations (ISCO). The demand of specially trained medical physicists and engineers increases rapidly worldwide. The problem in some countries is not the lack of medical equipment, but the lack of well-trained specialists to operate and maintain it efficiently and safely.

The International Organization for Medical Physics (IOMP) is charged with a mission to advance medical physics practice worldwide by disseminating scientific and technical information, fostering the educational and professional development of medical physics and promoting the highest quality medical services for patients. IOMP and its Regional Organizations have led a number of events to help professional development in various countries and regions. The first International Conference on Medical Physics Education and Training (Budapest 1994) was pivotal for the advancement of medical physics education and training in Eastern Europe, where many new courses were initiated after 1994. The experience from this Conference was transferred to Asia through several International Workshops, satellite to the 2003 World Congress on Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering in Sydney and the 2006 World Congress in Seoul (where a large Workshop, “Medical Physics and Engineering Education and Training – a global perspective”, took place). The materials and activities of these events also triggered the establishment of new courses - many of these are described in the e-books at: http://www.emerl2d.eu/impep_index.htm 1. Similar activities were further carried out in Latin America, notably the Education and Training Workshop at the International Conference on Medical Physics ICMP2011, Porto Alegre, Brazil. The results from these events are seen in the rapid growth of medical physics educational and training activities in Eastern Europe, Asia and Latin America (in the past 15 years IOMP has supported and co-organised about 70 such activities. Currently IOMP has about 20,000 professional members in 84 countries worldwide.

Aiming to support the development of the medical physics profession in Africa, IOMP assisted the recent formation of the Federation of African Medical Physics Organizations (FAMPO), which currently includes the National Societies of Algeria, Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. In parallel, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and other Institutions, as the American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM), the UK Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine (IPEM), the German Society for Medical Physics (DGMP) and others, also started various regional projects with African countries. During the large International Conference on Medical Physics ICMP2015 (Brighton, UK) IOMP organised a special Workshop “Medical Physics in Africa – status and way forward” with aims to help medical physics development in the African continent. Special support for the activity was received from the International Union for Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP). IAEA and WHO also funded some participants from Africa to attend the Workshop. The Workshop on 1/09/2013 was co-organised by IOMP and FAMPO and was attended by approximately 100 colleagues from
Did You Celebrate the First International Day of Medical Physics? If Not, Next Year You Should!

John Damilakis, Chair, IOMP Education and Training Committee

The inaugural event was a big success in several countries and the amount of attention we have gained is remarkable.

Medical Physics societies around the world organized a wide range of different events to celebrate the day. Main IDMP events were held in Poland (birthplace of Marie Curie) and France (Marie Curie worked mainly in France and she was also a French citizen). In Poland, the Polish Academy of Sciences jointly with the Polish Society of Medical Physics organized a meeting entitled ‘From radium to hadron radiotherapy’ in the Henryk Niewodniczanski Institute of Nuclear Physics in Krakow. In France, a symposium was organized in the ‘Musée Curie – Institut Curie’ in Paris. More information and presentations of the event organized in Paris can be found at http://iomp2013.sciencesconf.org/. Events were also organized in Greece, India, Portugal, UK, Thailand, Australia, New Zealand, Nepal, United Arab Emirates, Iran, Bulgaria, Italy, Korea, Argentina, Brazil and many other countries. Please visit the IDMP website (http://www.iomp.org/?q=t-content/international-day-medical-physics) to learn more about these activities. Thank you to all these colleagues who organized events on IDMP this year.

IDMP has offered a unique opportunity to join with others around the globe to raise awareness of Medical Physics profession. On November 7, next year we will celebrate the 2nd IDMP. There is still a lot to be done and the time to act is now. We should select a new theme, enrich the IDMP website, organize activities open to the public and draw attention of the media to the important role that medical physics play in the health care system. If you have any suggestions or comments, please don’t hesitate to send me an email (john.damilakis@med.uoc.gr).
The first year of the IOMP Journal Medical Physics International (MPI)

Slavik Tabakov, Perry Sprawls
Co-Editors Medical Physics International Journal

The new IOMP Journal Medical Physics International was established at the end of 2012 as an open-access e-Journal (ISSN 2306-4609). MPI is hosted on its web site (www.mpsjournal.org), constructed by the MPI Technical Editors. The first issue (MPI No.1) was published in April 2013 and the second issue in August 2013. During this first year MPI attracted many readers and established itself as a valuable reference and resource for the medical physics profession.

As of December 7, 2013 the MPI Journal web site had 36,766 visits - approximately 1000 per week. This clearly showed the need for this type of professional forum and distribution of information.


The MPI supports and collaborates with other medical physics journals and does not publish within their scope such as peer-reviewed research and development articles.

Thedownload statistics confirm the interest and value in all of the categories. The need for practical articles was triggered initially by the Emerald/Emr materials and this topic has proved to be very popular.

The Innovation and Review articles are providing the profession with useful overviews and updates on the excellent research of our distinguished colleagues and developments by the Industry.

The abstracts from the IOMP Golden Anniversary Conference, ICMP 2013, were the first conference abstracts to be published by MPI. This opportunity will be available to other conferences that have an interest and will add significant value to their programs by providing global visibility and impact for their presenters.

The publication of the abstracts of PhD dissertations and theses is a major value to young medical physicists. It publishes their research around the world. Program directors and research advisors are encouraged to make sure their students make use of this opportunity and submit their abstracts for publication.

The Editorial Board of the MPI Journal is grateful to all colleagues who submitted articles for the first issues and encourages the submission of more papers in the above topics (the deadline for the MPI No.3 is 31 Jan 2014).

IOMP Representation at the WHO Global 2013 for Medical Devices

Mohammed K. Zaidi, Program Manager, UEDP, IOMP PRC

Dr. Pin Yin Cheung, President, IOMP and Dr. Slavik Tabakov, President-elect, and Dr. Habib Zaidi, IOMP Liaison Representative to the World Health Organization (WHO), attended the Second WHO Global Forum on Medical Devices at the International Conference Centre (CICG), Geneva, Switzerland, in November 22-24, 2013. The Second WHO Global Forum on Medical Devices was supported by IOMP. We had great meetings with the WHO and PAHO group — Dr. Adriana Velasquez Berumen, Dr. Pablo Jimenez, Miriam N. Mikhail and Dr. Maria del Rosario Perez; HTTG group Dr. Cari Borras, Dr/Yadin David, and Dr. Herbert Voigt, President, International Union for Physical and Engineering Sciences in Medicine (IUPESM). We plan to help IUPESM in their UEDP — which is still in the planning stages. The World Bank, Health Specialist Dr. Andreas Sester assured us full support for funding for UE shipment. The International Society of Radiology (ISR) President Dr. Jan Labuscagne, Liu Guoliang Secretary, Biomedical Association for International Development (Bloom AID), Dr. Mihaly Szacsky of Public Benefit Organization and Dr. A. Stewart Whitley, International Society of Radiographers and Radiological Technologist (ISRTK) assured us full support for our program.

An IOMP WHO workshop entitled “Radiation Safety Culture in Health Care: Role of Medical Physicists” held on November 22, 2013 highlighted the role of medical physicists in different scenarios with the presentations from Dr. Cheung about the “Suitable Technology” and other talks given by Dr. M. Perez, Dr. P. Jimenez and Dr. H. Zaidi. This was followed by another session on the following day dedicated to “Human Resources in Medical Physics.” Dr. Cheung talk was on “Certification Process”, Dr Yadin David talk on the “IOMP Project for Development of Medical Physics in Africa” and the presentation from H Zaidi on the “New Role of Medical Physicists”.

The main outcome is that the profession of medical physics is getting more recognition in the healthcare system and the active contribution of international professional societies such that the IOMP is becoming more visible. We have to specifically underline the future collaboration with the WHO in the light of the future application for NGO status. This was highlighted at the end of the session when a decision was voted by all delegates stating: “IOMP and IFMBE will have to collaborate closely with WHO in issues related to medical devices and patient safety.”

Mohammed Zaidi was invited to attend the Second WHO Global Forum on Medical Devices to present his report, “The IOMP Used Equipment Donation Program”. He presented a poster introducing this program. It was very well presented and appreciated by visitors. As a result we received very good response and requests for donations of UE, technical books and journals. We also had been offered a big collection of old journals – HPS, MP, ASTRO, Red Journal and SNM. His travel was supported by AAPM International Affairs Committee. Dr. Zaidi chairs the AAPM IAC UEDP Sub-committee. There were many participants from African and 70 other countries. Seven shipments were made to the African countries in the last three years showed that IOMP is anxious to provide them the necessary equipment and also create knowledgeable trained staff and we mean it as our President-elect Dr. S. Tabakov has initiated a project for Development of Medical Physics in Africa – a long term collaborative activity of IOMP, FAMPO and other parties. UEDP is also supporting requests from International Organization for Migration (IOM) – Dr. Arifa Sherif.

The cohesive efforts of the IOMP teams at the Forum were wonderful.

IOMP also had a booth to introduce its activities.
The Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine (IPEM) hosted the International Conference on Medical Physics (ICMP2013) at the Brighton Conference Centre from 1st – 4th September 2013. The International Conference on Medical Physics is organized between the World Congresses of Medical Physics and Clinical Engineering on behalf of the International Organization of Medical Physics (IOMP). IPEM was asked to host this conference to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the foundation of the IOMP in Harrogate. The founding partners were the UK, USA, Canada and Sweden. The conference also encompassed the 7th annual Conference of the European Federation of Medical Physics (EFOMP) and the 2013 Medical Physics Conference (ICMP2013) at the Brighton Conference Centre from 1st – 4th September 2013. The conference programme was opened by current and emerging science in physics and engineering applied to medicine. The programme included 150 peer-reviewed papers, 225 poster presentations along with 3 plenary lectures and 174 invited speakers together with an industrial exhibition. The conference opened with a pre-conference programme providing educational and professional development sessions. These included a key session on the development of Medical Physics in Africa with a number of delegates from Africa able to attend the whole conference. Educational sessions included sessions on Radiopharmacy Safety, X-Ray room shielding, CT scanner physics and technology and digital detector developments. The key conference themes were: Radiation Protection, legislation, standards and practice; Education; Professional Issues and Development across the globe; Nuclear Medicine, PET and Molecular Therapy; Radiation Dosimetry; Magnetic Resonance Imaging and Clinical Engineering and Novel Medical Devices and Sensors. Of particular note was the focus on the digital hospital and medical physics in the new era of genomic medicine. Conference abstracts can be accessed online from www.mpijournal.org. The IPEM annual Woolner Lecture was given by Professor Molly Stevens from Imperial College London entitled “Designing Biomaterials for Ultra-sensitive Bio-sensing and Regeneration”. This was a truly inspirational lecture revealing the multi-disciplinary base required to develop and implement new patient treatments.

The conference also celebrated the 70th anniversary of the Hospital Physicists Association (HPA). This was celebrated with a public lecture given by Francis Duck entitled ‘Physicists and Physicians: A History of Medical Physics from the Renaissance to Röntgen’ – a fascinating look at the origins of the application of physics in medicine in Europe. The lecture coincided with the launch of Francis’s book providing a fascinating insight into this subject which is highly recommended. During the conference Professor Charles Mistorra received the Marie Curie Sklodowska Award of the IOMP for a distinguished career.

IOMP invited the UK Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine (IPEM) to host the 20th International Conference in 2013 (ICMP 2013). As part of the celebrations of the 50th Anniversary it was agreed to have a special poster display of 50 medical physicists who had made an outstanding contribution to medical physics since the foundation of the IOMP. National and regional medical physics organisations were invited to nominate medical physicists, and other closely related professionals, who had made outstanding contributions to the advancement of medical physics and healthcare through research, clinical developments, education and training activities, service development, and to professional matters over the last 50 years. Nominations were also accepted from other organisations and individuals. Whilst in most cases the contributions are of global importance, some of those selected have made such an outstanding contribution nationally or regionally that it was considered that they should be recognised.

The year 2013 was good from perspective of the IOMP. We had many new actions and accomplishments. 1. International Day of Medical Physics (IDMP) was celebrated on 7th November for the first time with enthusiastic programmes organised by more than 15 countries. 2. Medical Physics International journal: Released first time in March 2013 and two issues were brought out this year, second one at ICMP in Sept 2013. 3. Fellow, IOMP: First batch of 18 Fellows of IOMP were announced and awarded certificates at Brighton through ICMP. 4. Quiz was introduced on Facebook that created enthusiasm, more so as one quiz was directed at public rather than medical physicists alone. 5. Surveys on female medical physicists in 65 countries was completed and results are being analysed. Preliminary analysis shows the average percentage of female medical physicists as: Central & Western Europe (10 countries)= 43%, Eastern Europe (7 countries)= 48%, Latin America (12 countries)= 26%, West Asia (8 countries)= 51%, East Asia (8 countries)= 39%, Africa (17 countries)= 28% and USA=21%

50 Outstanding Medical Physicists: 1963-2013

A poster display to mark the 50th Anniversary of the IOMP

Peter Smith, Chair Internal Advisory Committee ICMP 2013

IOMP invited the UK Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine in 2013, to host the 20th International Conference in 2013 (ICMP 2013). As part of the celebrations of the 50th Anniversary it was agreed to have a special poster display of 50 medical physicists who had made an outstanding contribution to medical physics since the foundation of the IOMP. National and regional medical physics organisations were invited to nominate medical physicists, and other closely related professionals, who had made outstanding contributions to the advancement of medical physics and healthcare through research, clinical developments, education and training activities, service development, and to professional matters over the last 50 years. Nominations were also accepted from other organisations and individuals. Whilst in most cases the contributions are of global importance, some of those selected have made such an outstanding contribution nationally or regionally that it was considered that they should be recognised.

Ninety seven nominations were received from twenty seven countries. A small group was formed to select the fifty from the nominations. The members had a wide range of experience and came from across the world: Carlos E de Almeida (Brazil), Stelios Christofides (Cyprus and Past President of EFOMP), Francis Duck (UK and author of a history of medical physics ‘Physicists and Physicians’), Tomos Kroon (Australia and Chair of IOMP’s Awards Committee), Colin Orton (USA and Past President of IOMP) and the group was chaired by Peter Smith (UK, Chair Internal Advisory Committee ICMP 2013 and past Secretary-General IOMP). The final fifty physicists came from twenty countries, with largest number from the USA. Just over half (26) were from the four founding countries – Canada, Sweden, UK and USA. The organisation (or individual) who nominated the selected physicist was responsible for supplying the text and illustrations for the poster but a standard design and format was used. IPEM arranged the printing of the posters.

The fifty individual posters were displayed in a central position in the foyer of the conference centre at Brighton and generated a lot of interest.
introduced to honour those who have made significant contributions to IOMP or to its Regional Organizations for a long duration. My congratulations to the 18 Fellows elected. My congratulations also go to Professor Charles A. Mistretta of University of Wisconsin, USA for receiving from IOMP the Maria Sklodowska-Curie Award during the conference. The local conference organizer, IPEM elected from different parts of the world 50 outstanding medical physicists and other closely related professionals who have made outstanding contributions to the advancement of medical physics and healthcare over the last 50 years. Posters on the outstanding medical physicists were on display during the conference. My congratulations to the outstanding medical physicists elected.

The first International Day of Medical Physics (IDMP) organized by IOMP to promote the visibility and awareness of the medical physicist was a great success. The event was very well publicized in major medical physics journals, including Medical Physics, European Journal of Medical Physics, and Physics in Medicine & Biology. It was also publicized in the medical physics websites, including the IOP (medical physics), IPEM and AAPM websites. Several press releases on the event were issued and a range of celebration activities took place in more than 16 countries. It was the largest exercised ever organized by IDMP in collaboration with NMOs and ROs. I would like to thank Dr. Simone Kodlulovic, President of AFEMP for raising the original idea of IDMP and Dr. John Damlakis, ETC Chair for launching the exercise and our colleagues who organized or participated in the activities and to congratulate them for their successes.

2013 has been a very busy but fruitful year for IOMP. I would like to thank everyone who contributed to or took part in the various IOMP initiatives. I would particularly like to mention a few names. I am grateful to Dr. Virgina Tsipaki, Dr. Magdalena Stoeva and members of their teams in the MPW Editorial Board and IOMP Web Subcommittee for their excellent work in revamping and reviving the IOMP website and Medical Physics World (MPW) bulletin. I would like to thank Professor Azam Nimomand-Rad and those who helped her (Professor Colin Orton, Dr. Peter Smith, Dr. Madan Rebhan, ...) in compiling the historical data of IOMP which is now posted on the IOMP website. We are grateful to Dr. Slavik Tabakov and Dr. Perry Sprawls for launching the IOMP journal, the Medical Physics International, Dr. Tomas Krosm and members of Awards & Honours Committee (AHC) for implementing the IOMP Fellowship scheme and Dr. Raymond Wu and Dr. Edward Stanwick for their work on international certification of medical physicists. I would particularly like to thank Dr. William Hender, Chair of Science Committee (SC) for his enormous contributions to IOMP over the years. It has been a great pleasure for me working with Bill on IOMP and other medical physics matters for many years. As from 1 January 2014, Bill will retire from SC Chair for personal reason. Bill’s retirement is a tremendous loss to IOMP and the medical physics community. I would like to convey my best wishes to Bill for happy retirement. Bill will be succeeded by Professor Geoffrey Jibbott. Geoff is the Chairman of Radiation Physics at MD Anderson Cancer Center and is a Past-President of AAPM. It is my great pleasure welcoming Geoff on board.

2014 will be an exciting year for IOMP. We shall enhance our efforts in promoting the visibility of medical physicists in the communities. We shall strengthening our partnership with national member societies and international organizations on such projects as IDMP2014, improving medical physics and radiation safety in developing countries, professional certification of medical physicists, enriching the resources in our website particularly on materials for education and training of medical physicists. The World Congress 2015 is approaching a critical phase of its preparation. We shall be strengthening our collaboration with IUPESEM, IFMBE and the hosting organizations to ensure a successful World Congress in Tokyo.  

Happy New Year to everyone!  

The conference programme was accompanied by a range of social activities which enabled delegates to sample the delights of Brighton in a week of glorious weather. The meeting saw Professor Steve Keen take over from Peter Jurrit as President of the IPEM and will serve for the next two years. The conference would not have been possible without the unerring efforts of the conference team in York. The programme committee would like to thank them for putting up an enormous effort in the early 70’s was publicized in the medical physics service and service professionals, to widen the scope of training in medical physics service and service professionals, to widen the scope of training in medical physics. The key message I was reported by Dr. Madan Rehani.

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The coordination and conduction of the meeting were carried out by J. A. Seibert, PhD, FAAPM, University of California, Davis, CA and Arthur L Boyer, PhD, FAAPM (Emeritus – AAPM). The principal objectives of this AAPM/IOMP ISEP workshop were (a) to provide international collaborative exchange on imaging physics, (b) to review the integration of imaging systems and widespread use of hybrid nuclear medicine modalities in radiotherapy, (c) to review and update technological advances in physics, (b) to review the integration of imaging systems and treatment planning systems and modern radiotherapy. Dr. Boyer continued with these topics in two lectures on the third day of the workshop. The open ceremony of this AAPM/IOMP ISEP workshop commenced on November 6, 2013 with the welcoming address given by Professor Anchali, PhD, (President of the Thai Medical Physics Society) and Cheng B Wang, PhD. Professor Anchali highlighted this AAPM/IOMP ISEP workshop as the first to be held in South East Asia and as a platform for rapid technology transfer and also the collaborative sharing of the technical know-how and clinical experiences in Thailand and neighbouring countries. This platform is especially important in light of the rapid pace of technological advancement and implementation.

The conference in Brighton provided a good opportunity for IOMP Officers and Committee Chairs to meet with representatives from national and regional organizations to discuss issues of common interest. We also held official meetings with representatives from WHO, IFPM, AAPM, EFOMP, IUPAP, WC2015, and Taylor & Francis with whom IOMP has a collaborative agreement on publishing in the subject of medical physics and biomedical engineering. The International Medical Physicist Certification Board (IOMPCB) also met to discuss and solicit board and committee membership. A ceremony was held at the President’s Reception for presentation of Fellowship of IOMP to the first batch of 18 IOMP Fellows.

The ICMP 2013, one the main celebration activities organized to mark the 70th Anniversary of IOMP was successfully held in Brighton, England. The event was attended by well over 800 participants from all over the world. The Conference President, Professor Peter Sharp and members of his organizing team put up an excellent meeting in the beautiful city of Brighton. One of the highlights of the scientific program of the special IOMP session entitled “IOMP, Past, Present and Future”. Dr. Peter Smith gave a very interesting review on the history of IOMP during its embryonic stage and on its development in the early years. The work of the Organization from the 80’s to early 2000’s was presented by Professor Azam Noorramand-Rad. The current status and activities of IOMP were reported by Dr. Madan Rehani.

It was my pleasure to give a presentation on the future direction of IOMP. The key message I was trying to convey may be summarized in this sentence: “IOMP should explore whether medical physicists working in the clinics should be trained as health professionals in a similar format as other health professionals, to widen the scope of medical physics service and service structure to strengthen physics support in medicine, and to raise the visibility and professional identity of medical physicist in healthcare.”
Message from the Editor

Virginia Tsapaki, Chair Editor eMPW

Dear friends and colleagues,

Welcome to the July edition of eMPW. This issue has dedicated its front page to the upcoming celebration of International Day of Medical Physics (IDMP). Greece is celebrating this day by a number of activities focusing on informing the public about the professional and scientific services provided by medical physicists through an “open day” event and a press conference. We would be very interested to hear from IOMP members about their planned activities on this day. All these activities could be published in the next issue of eMPW.

The coordination and conduction of the meeting were carried out through the local committee members consisting of A. The coordination and conduction of the meeting were carried out through the local committee members consisting of A.

Krisanachinda, PhD (Chair), S. Suriyapee, MS, N. Pongnapang, A. The coordination and conduction of the meeting were carried out through the local committee members consisting of A.

Please see the Editorial Board for more information and updates.

Sincerely,

Virginia Tsapaki, Chair Editor eMPW

MPW Worldwide

Magdalena Stoeva, Associate Editor eMPW

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Please see the Editorial Board for more information and updates.

Sincerely,

Magdalena Stoeva, Associate Editor eMPW

MPW/eMPW

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The hypothesis is living cells have structures with fluid preferentially flow within the system rather than across cell membrane. On the other hand, there is no directional fluid flow preference for compromised cells. Dr. Saw also presented the use of hybrid nuclear medicine modality in particular PET/CT for staging and restaging of recurrence occurs in cancer management. Dr. Rong presented the specialized field of CT technology, reviewing the basic principles of CT as well as advanced CT concepts. While CT technology had undergone four identifiable generation of development in the past, new advances are very rapid with newer concepts. Next generation CT offers helical scanning, multi-detectors systems, cone-beam design, and dual-energy CT technology. These require new concepts of quality assurance and introduce different types of artifacts. Of course with recent mishap, Dr. Rong reviewed the current state of dose optimization for CT including the image quality, image wisely, and CT dose protocol available at the AAPM website.

The new area of existing development in imaging systems is the hybrid modalities presented by Dr. Mawlawi on the second day of the workshop. Dr. Mawlawi discussed the advantages and advances of hybrid modalities in particular PET/CT and SPECT/CT systems, quality assurance, and quantitative studies. The hybrid modality system offers better attenuation corrected data from CT imaging to complement the low-contrast emission from the other modality. These systems provide a means of characterizing tissues. Tissue characterization has significantly support radiation therapy in treatment planning and cancer management as discussed by Dr. Saw. Advances in hybrid systems include addressing patient or target volume motion, time of flight technology, and PET/MR systems.

Another exciting development in imaging systems is the advancement in MRI using high magnetic strength (3T). This MRI imaging specialty was presented by Dr. Clarke discussing basic principles, advanced development, and quality assurance in MRI. The basic principles of MRI stressed on the use of increasing magnetic strength. The increase in magnetic strength impacts on signal strength, contrast, tissue power absorption, chemical shift, magnetic susceptibility, and image uniformity. The concerns have been in tissue power absorption that may increase body temperature if it exceeds the thermal regulatory capacity and image uniformity. Various coils have been used to increase the signal-to-noise ratio, hence improving image resolution. Integrated phased array systems and parallel MRI imaging are the latest developments that allow their whole body scanning and faster image acquisition. In addition, Dr. Clarke presented the quantitative use of MRI including volume measurements, blood flow measurements, tissue characterization with T1, T2, and T2* parametric mapping, magnetic resonance spectroscopy, and tissue perfusion. Tissue diffusion was discussed by Dr. Wang to evaluate tissue response from therapy. Digital radiography, mammography, and tomosynthesis were presented by Dr. Seibert on the second day. In the first lecture, Dr. Seibert reviewed the mammography and tomosynthesis development, quality assurance, and standards established by American College of Radiology (ACR). This was followed by the examination of the various digital detection technology and acceptance testing and quality control. In his third lecture, Dr. Seibert presented the PAC components, communication nomenclature, and soft copy display.

This AAPM/IOMP ISEP workshop was very well attended with over 100 registrations. Last minute change of meeting room was made to accommodate the large registrations. Among the registrants from overseas include Baharin, Brunis, Bhutan, Hong Kong, and Malaysia. The attendees and faculty were engaged during the registration questions on (a) training in imaging physics, (b) requirements of multimodality operators and their training, (c) quality assurance and protocols, (d) phantom design, (e) imaging physics manpower, (f) research issues in high strengths MRI. Some have commented on the program itself as fantastic and impact on their view of future imaging radiology in their own countries. The review of this AAPM/IOMP ISEP workshop has been very favorable as timely in reference to the transfer of advanced technology, know-how, and safety concerns to the Asian countries.

On behalf of the AAPM faculty, the course directors (Cheng B Saw, PhD and Jihong Wang, PhD) wish to thank the host chair, Dr. Anchali Krisanachinda and her committee for providing such an extraordinary hospitality. The willingness of the AAPM faculty to travel to Thailand to participate in this educational workshop are well-appreciated by the course directors and the local committee members. Lastly, the organizers wish to express our sincere thanks to Siemens Healthcare and RTI of Thailand in supporting this ISEP workshop.
MEFOMP Activities during the last 6 months

Ibrahim Duhaïni, President of MEFOMP

The awards were presented by MEFOMP President Mr. Ibrahim Duhaïni with representatives from KSA Dr. Abdullah Al Hajj and from UAE Dr. Mustafa Al Majali.

The list of awardees includes the following:

1. Barry Allen
2. Virginia Tsapaki
3. Mathana Al-Bazzaz
4. Kevin Chung
5. Habib Zaidi
6. Don Penny
7. Gary Putton
8. Don Frey
9. Gary Fullerton
10. Kwan Hoong Ng
11. Azam Niroosmand-Ad
12. Fridtjof Nuesslin
13. Colin Orton
14. Madan Rehani
15. Barry Allen
16. Perry Sprawls
17. Slavik Tabakov
18. Raymond Wu
19. Renato Padovani
20. John Daniell
21. Ahmed Meghzifene
22. Maria Perez
23. George Mako
24. Cari Borras

The Second International Symposium on the System of Radiological Protection Conference took place last October 22-24, 2013 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. This conference was hosted by the UAE Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation (FANR). There were more than 100 participants from all over the world representing many international organizations and societies, in addition to professionals in the field. For detailed information about this conference please check: www.icrp.org.

The ICMP 2013:

1. ICMP 2013: A General Assembly meeting of NMOs was held on Monday September 2, 2013 from 1-4 Sep. 2013. The Meeting took place on Monday September 2, 2013 from 11:00 till 14:00 at Conference Room number 4. During this meeting, issues related to medical physics societies, education and training, cooperation among medical physics societies in MEFOMP countries and other related issues were discussed. During this conference, MEFOMP distributed its 2013 Medical Physics Appreciation Awards to some prominent international medical physicists who contributed a lot of their efforts and time to many MEFOMP countries. The ceremony took place at a conference room with attending of awardees.

2. ICMP 2013:

Thematrix Specialist Hospital- Damman, KSA, held their seventh Saudi Conference on Medical Physics last November 12-14, 2013. For detailed information about this conference please visit the website: www.smps.org.sa.

4. IARC: The Lebanon Atomic Energy Commission held a one day Seminar on November 19, 2013 at the Head Quarters in Beirut, Lebanon. The Topic was: Neutron Sources: Dosimetry and Application presented by the IAEA Expert Mr. Filip Vanhavere.

5. ICMP: MEFOMP had celebrated the ICMP & Radiology Day this year in Doha, Qatar under the organisation of Dr. Huda Al-Naimi, the President of the Qatar Medical Physics Society. Also attending was Dr. Jamila Al-Suwaidi from United Arab Emirates and Mr. Ibrahim Duhaïni from Lebanon. The day started with a Reception and followed by poster session and then a presentation of Radiology and Medical Physics topics delivered by invited participants. Also, the celebration included the distribution of awards and appreciation plaques to some prominent Radiology and Medical Physics personnel. The event was attended by 350 Radiology and Medical Physics staff from many Middle East countries representing MEFOMP countries (Lebanon, KSA, Jordan, UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar) who participated in the ICMP 2013 conference in Brighton UK from 1-4 Sep. 2013. The Meeting took place on Monday September 2, 2013 from 11:00 till 14:00 at Conference Room number 4. During this meeting, issues related to medical physics societies, education and training, cooperation among medical physics societies in MEFOMP countries and other related issues were discussed. During this conference, MEFOMP distributed its 2013 Medical Physics Appreciation Awards to some prominent international medical physicists who contributed a lot of their efforts and time to many MEFOMP countries. The ceremony took place at a conference room with attending of awardees.

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- Pregnancy & radiation
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- Education & training
- Risk communication

IMPORTANT DATES

- Abstract submission deadline: 20th January 2014
- End of early registration: 31st March 2014
- End of online registration: 20th May 2014

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