

International Day of Medical Physics in Nepal.

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Nepalese Association of Medical Physicists (NAMP) organized a one day “*Symposium on Medical Physics*” on the occasion of International Day of Medical Physics (IDMP) on 7th November, 2013 here at B.P. Koirala Memorial Cancer Hospital (BPKMCH), Bharatpur, Chitwan, Nepal. The day was chosen by International Organization for Medical Physics IOMP in recognition of the pioneering research work on radioactivity of Marie Skłodowska-Curie who, on that day in 1867, was born in Poland. IDMP is going to be an annual event in which 80 national organizations of IOMP and countries all over the world shall celebrate the impact of Medical Physics on daily lives of millions of humans, whether patients, workers or members of the public worldwide .NAMP aims to raise awareness of the important role Medical Physicists play in the clinical environment as well as in education, research and development of sophisticated medical technology in Nepal.

The theme chosen for 2013 is ‘**Radiation Exposure from Medical Procedures: Ask the Medical Physicist!**’ As medical imaging technologies and radiotherapy techniques are fast developing and becoming more intricate, medical physicists are playing an increasingly significant role in the clinical environment. They contribute to the safe and accurate use of radiation to achieve the best outcome of the prescribed medical diagnostic examination or treatment. They assess radiation doses and associated risks to patients and personnel. This is of great importance for children and pregnant patients needing imaging or therapy with ionizing radiation. Medical Physicists optimize radiation procedures by performing accurate measurements and calculations, maximizing the benefit against the potential risk in the use of radiation and contributing to the development and implementation of quality assurance programs. Most people needing radiation imaging and treatment procedures are not aware that there is a worldwide scientific community specializing in Medical Physics, ensuring the quality of these procedures while minimizing risks associated with radiation. Raising awareness of Medical Physics profession is of great importance to society in general. NAMP is affiliated with IOMP representing more than 18000 Medical Physicists worldwide. The classification of medical physicists by International Labor Organization (ILO) i.e. medical physicists are now recognized as health professionals worldwide. IAEA has taken initiative in strengthening medical physics in developing countries. There is a trend to appoint a trainee physicist and trained him to be a medical physicist in Nepal. There are 9 male medical physicists including one in diagnostic radiology teaching faculty. Nepal became member of IAEA in 2008 still we lack regulatory body. In the scientific program of the symposium guest speakers from Nepal, India and Belgium had presented 18 papers and discussions on medical physics, radiation oncology, External beam Radiotherapy, 3DCRT, IMRT,QA, HDR Brach therapy, Dosimetry, Nuclear Medicine, PET/CT/MRI, Diagnostic Physics, Radiation Protection and Regulatory aspects. We shared and exchanged our professional and scientific problems for seeking their solution. Justification of uses of ionizing radiation in human health, abreast with new advanced technologies in therapeutic and diagnostic imaging clinical application are challenging in Nepal. Only doing clinical routine medical physics work will not be enough research and education is also important. Self- Regulation based on best practices developed internally is the key to successful integration of technology by insuring highest quality and no compromise on safety. To meet the future requirement of medical physicists in country a formal courses or residency program is essential. The uniform medical physics training program, the accreditation system for medical physicist is to be introduced. Though we are still small in number and remain rather insignificant internationally but with our continuous effort in learning and improving ourselves we will advance education and our practice. Professional recognition and accreditation is essential. The number of radiotherapy facilities in country is highly inadequate. A souvenir and abstract book is published with Curie photo on cover and congratulatory messages from IOMP president, general secretary, chairman BPKMCH, Executive director, president Nepal Medical Association (NMA) and Nepal Association of radiotherapy technologists (NART). Among 90 participants there were medical physicists, radiation oncologists, radiologists, technologists, technicians, radiographers, medical doctors and nurse’s delegates from different part of Nepal. We hope international medical physics faculties will like to share their knowledge by organizing conferences, workshop and teaching course in Nepal. We like to thank all those who had supported us directly or indirectly for this event first time in Nepal.