The 22nd International Conference on Medical Physics

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The 22nd International Conference of the International Organisation for Medical Physics (IOMP) took part in Bangkok, Thailand from 9 to 12 December 2016 (ICMP2016). The success of the Conference was facilitated by the close collaboration of IOMP with its Regional Organisations – the Asia-Oceania Federation of Organisations for Medical Physics (AFOMP) and the South-East Asian Federation of Organisations for Medical Physics (SEAFOMP). ICMP2016 attracted 584 delegates and exhibitors and was supported by a 56 strong team of the host organisation – the Thai Medical Physicists Society.

Naturally most of the participants at the ICMP2016 were from Asia, but it also attracted delegates from other continents, thus having participants from 42 countries. The largest delegations were from Thailand, Japan and South Korea. ICMP2016 included 367 Oral presentations and e-Posters, most of these being in the fields of Radiation Therapy, Medical Imaging and Radiation Safety. All abstracts of these were published as an e-Book of Abstracts, supplement to the IOMP Journal Medical Physics International (vol. 4, No.2), which is available as a free e-publication from http://www.mpijournal.org/MPI-v04i02.aspx

Many companies had Exhibition stands at ICMP2016, thus allowing the participants to see the latest developments in the medical-physics-related industry. The sponsors and exhibitors at ICMP2016 (as per their boot number) were: ThaiGL, Global Medical Solution, Biomedia, Nuclear System, IBA, Mobius, JF, Qfix, Sun Nuclear, Raysearch, Scandidos, OSL / Nagase, Sumitomo, Vision RT, TINT, HDX, Carestream, IBA Dosimetry system, Bayer, RTI, Inmed Solution, Medical Solution, BJH, Tour Thai, CU, IOMP, IPEM, Hitachi, PTW, Elekta, Dispomed /
We express sincere gratitude to all sponsors and exhibitors!

It is a long way since the first International Conference was organised by IOMP in Harrogate, UK, in 1963, the year of its establishment, when the approximate number of medical physicists globally was around 6,000. At the current ICMP2016 it was reported that the number of medical physicists globally has now reached 24,000 (double the number compared with 1995) and our goal is to further double this number in the next 20 years.

The increase of the number of medical physicists is directly related to the education and training in medical physics and IOMP with its Regional Organisations has made sound steps in this direction. One of these steps is the establishment of the "IOMP School" – a sequence of educational mini-Symposia, which was inaugurated at ICMP2016. The support for this activity from the leaders of the profession was overwhelming. Thus ICMP2016 included 42 mini-Symposia, covering various topics of importance for the profession (please see the Book with Abstracts at MPI Journal vol.4 No.2, p.532-574). We want to thank all colleagues who contributed to the IOMP School mini-Symposia.

To accommodate this large number of mini-Symposia, ICMP2016 included a novel organisation of the Programme: having all mornings associated with the mini-Symposia and all afternoons for scientific presentations and poster sessions. This re-organisation of the programme was accepted very well by all participants. It was discussed some of the mini-Symposia to be presented again at the next IOMP-School, associated with the World Congress in Prague (June 2018), thus giving the opportunity to more colleagues and students from other continents to benefit from them.

Another novel activity during ICMP2016 was the inauguration of two new IOMP Awards – the IOMP John Mallard Award and the IDMP Award (please see the special material on the subject by the IOMP Award and Honours Committee). We sincerely congratulate all Awardees!

Finally, we want to specially thank all Organisers and ICMP2016 Committee members, as well as all colleagues who contributed and participated at the ICMP2016. The truly international friendly spirit at the Conference in Bangkok was one of the main pivots of the success of ICMP2016.