

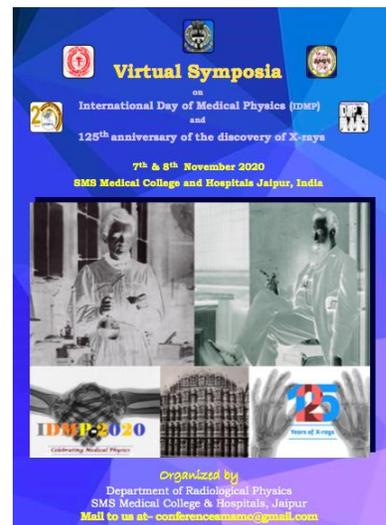
Virtual Symposia to celebrate the International Day of Medical Physics and the 125th anniversary of the discovery of X-rays

SMS Medical College & Hospitals, Jaipur

7th & 8th November 2020

Prof. Arun Chougule and Mary Joan

The Department of Radiological Physics, SMS Medical College & Hospitals Jaipur, India celebrated the International Day of Medical Physics (IDMP) 2020 on the theme, “Medical Physicist as Health Professional” by organizing a virtual symposium to commemorate the birthday of great physicists and Nobel laureates *Madame Marie Curie* and Bharat Ratna *Sir C V Raman* on 7th November 2020. The 125th anniversary of the discovery of X-rays and the 175th birth year of Prof W C Roentgen was celebrated by the virtual symposium on 8th November 2020. The scientific programme included several lectures on the role of medical physicists as healthcare professionals in the use of radiation in medicine by eminent speakers across the globe. Medical Physicists play a fundamental role in the development and application of medical radiation technologies and ensure the quality and safety of imaging and treatment procedures. This year’s IDMP celebrations gave us the opportunity to understand and tackle the concerns of medical physicists as healthcare professionals. The virtual symposia organized by the department of Radiological Physics, SMS Medical College and Hospitals, Jaipur was an effort to make the medical physicists ready to meet the professional challenges of modern healthcare systems and now we could confidently say that this was a morale booster for all those medical physicists facing professional challenges of diverse multi dimensions. Medical physicists from different parts of the world had participated in these virtual symposia and showed their solidarity with peers.



The scientific programme of the first virtual symposium on the 7th November 2020 started with lighting of the lamp and Sarasvati Vandana [Invoking the presence of the Goddess of knowledge, learning and wisdom] as per the Indian tradition. The Principal and Controller of SMS Medical College and Hospitals Jaipur and the Hon. Vice Chancellor of Rajasthan University of Health Sciences Jaipur who were patrons of these events sent their felicitation messages and the video clips were played before starting the scientific lectures. Dr Mary Joan, organizing secretary of the virtual symposium welcomed all the

Prof Roentgen's decision to not patent the discovery paved the way for cheap availability of X-ray examinations making it affordable for everyone who is in need. Following Prof Chougule's talk, Prof Mahesh Mahadevappa, Johns Hopkins University USA spoke on the impact of discovery of X-rays on the practice of medical physics. He very concisely described how the medical physics practice was before X-rays and how it achieved prominence and significance over time with technological advancements. He emphasized that medical physicist should increase their professional utility by enhancing knowledge to gain recognition from clinical colleagues. Prof. Renato Padovani, medical physics consultant, ICTP, Italy shared his experience on how medical physics education is essential to tune to clinical and technological developments in LMI countries and the efforts put forth by ICTP in this regard.

A good number of people from LMI countries already received the training from ICTP in collaboration with other international agencies and they are instrumental in establishing

radiological facilities in their home countries. Prof Slavik Tabakov, Director, department of medical engineering and physics, King's college, London (Immediate past President IOMP and Vice President IUPESM) spoke on 125 years from the discovery of X-rays: an evolution of medical physics and medical imaging diagnosis. He holding the leadership positions of

The ICTP & Trieste University Master of Advanced Studies in Medical Physics

- The 2nd year of full-time clinical training in a Medical Physics Dpt. of the Network of 25 hospitals in Italy and Croatia.



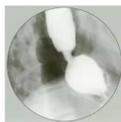
many international organizations for medical physics enlightened the virtual gathering about the international prospects and the recognized teaching and training programmes worldwide so that the younger generation of medical physicists could take advantage. The first IDMP celebration broadcasted live by IOMP was held at Jaipur in 2017 and Prof Tabakov mentioning that and sharing pictures from the event brought in nostalgic feelings. The queries from the audience to each speaker were answered at the end of each talk. The highlight and very interesting aspect of the virtual symposia was the panel discussion on impact of X-ray discovery on radiotherapy,

radiology imaging and medical physics. Stalwarts from respective specialties very actively interacted and put forth their valuable opinion on various queries raised by the audience.

1965-1975: Full application of physical methods in imaging diagnostics – (medical physicists in 1965: 6,000 specialists worldwide)



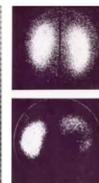
New X-ray Image Intensifiers



Westinghouse, F. Weighart, J McNulty



Introduction of Gamma Camera

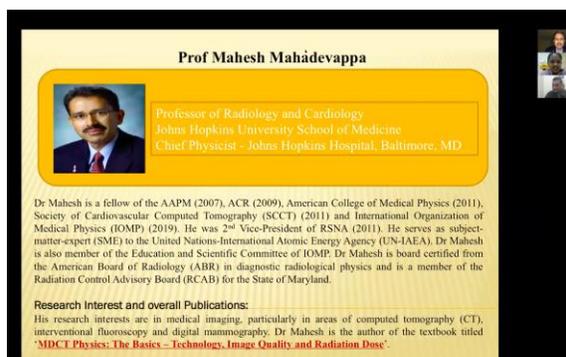


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It was indeed a morale booster for each and every one attended. Prof

Pratik Kumar, head, department of medical physics, AIIMS, New Delhi moderated the panel discussions. Prof G K Rath, head, NCI and IRCH, AIIMS, New Delhi, Prof Deep Narayan Srivastava, department of radio diagnosis, AIIMS, New Delhi, Prof Paul Ravindran, department of radiological physics, CMC Vellore, very actively took part in the discussions sharing their experience, current information and much valued knowledge on the current and futuristic perspective of medical physicist as a multi-disciplinary health professional. The organizing chairman, Prof Arun Chougule delivered the concluding remarks.

Over 250 participants from across the world were present at any point during both the virtual symposia. The diversity in the professional roles of the attendees were also noted and it was very heartening to see professionals working in the field of radiation oncology, radiology, and nuclear medicine including medical physicists, radiation oncologists, radiologists, nuclear medicine physicians, radiation technologists, students and several non-medical radiation professionals who are dealing with radiation attended both the virtual symposia.



These virtual symposia organized by the department of radiological physics, SMS medical college and hospitals Jaipur was a great opportunity to reach out and raise awareness about the role of medical physics in healthcare as well as the role of medical physicists in Hospitals. We could wholeheartedly say that the purpose of IDMP celebration initiated by International Organization of Medical Physics (IOMP) is fulfilled in all aspects including awareness about the role and importance of medical physics professionals among fellow medical and nonmedical professionals, students community and general public by the activities organized by the Department of Radiological Physics, SMS Medical College and Hospitals, Jaipur, India. Let the life and work of Madame Curie, Sir. C. V. Raman and Prof. W. C. Roentgen enlighten and inspire us to achieve greater heights.



The organizers of the virtual symposia, the department of radiological physics under the able leadership and guidance of Prof Arun Chougule, Organizing Chairman and Dr Mary Joan, Organizing Secretary would like to thank every participant for their active attendance. There are great times ahead of us. Our respective countries need our services. Each one of us is needed in our country,

community, university and hospital to ensure decisive, visible and measurable actions are taken for the medical physics profession. We hope that the spirit of these virtual symposia will make each and every one of us to be a leader within and beyond our own spheres of influence and commit to take pragmatic action to accelerate professional and personal development.