

IOMP President's Report
(for IOMP Council meeting, 1 June 2021, Virtual Meeting)

Madan Rehani, President, IOMP (June 2018 - May 2021/May 2022)

Dear Council members,

At the outset let me thank you all from the bottom of my heart for your cooperation all these three years and especially through the difficult time since March 2020 because of the pandemic, which has affected each and every one of us in very many ways. We are still passing through the pandemic which has taken the toll of more than 3 million lives the world over. We should pay tribute to those who lost their lives, whether they are medical physicists, their families/ loved ones, other health professionals, or members of the public in any part of the world. I humbly request one minute silence to pay our tributes to lives lost.

Unprecedented times lead to unprecedented outcomes. We decided to have this meeting of the Council as a virtual meeting at the time we would have had this meeting in person during WC2021 in Singapore. As you were informed earlier, we had to accept the recommendation of the IUPESM to delay the World Congress by one year and make the unprecedented decision of extending the term of the ExCom by one year. That was not an easy decision to think of, but there was 100% unanimity in ExCom and we went by it. Thank you for your endorsement. Another urgent and difficult situation was when the Secretary-General (SG), Virginia Tsapaki got appointed at the IAEA and decided to quit her position in IOMP. She informed us on 25 June 2019 with her last day to continue IOMP work till 31 July 2019. She was kind enough to make recommendations and take actions for a smooth transfer and we were happy that Eva Bezak agreed to step in. It was just around 2 months before our ICMP 2019 was scheduled in Santiago, Chile. ExCom decided to ask Eva Bezak to take over SG for the balance of the term and it was possible to have SG without a break. Eva with the help of Sally Hawking from headquarter could help in a series of meetings that we had during the ICMP2019, to name a few: ExCom, Board of the Company of IOMP, meetings with IAEA, AAPM, regional coordination board (RCB), IPPEM, ISR/ICRP/ IRPA/PAHO which some of you may have attended. Thanks to Virginia, Eva, ExCom and the Council for this timely help.

I was lucky to take over as President, IOMP after having served as SG for two terms besides being Vice President. The experience within IOMP was very helpful. In addition, I had the pleasure of seeing previous Presidents right from Udipi Madhvanath (1991-1994), followed by Keith Body (1994-1997), Colin Orton (1997-2000), Oskar Chomski (2000-2003), Azam Niroomand-Rad (2003-2006), Barry Allen (2006-2009), Fridtjof Nusslin (2009-2012), K Y Cheung (2012-2015) and Slavik Tabakov (2015-2018). There is always something to learn from each leader. Each and everyone has made his/her inputs to the best of his/her capabilities and whatever IOMP is today, is because of the contribution of so many leaders of the past. I salute all previous Presidents for the great work that they have done.

During my term of three years so far, I had the privilege of having a wonderful team in ExCom. Every member of the ExCom has given his/her best, both in terms of contribution and

cooperation. The report below includes only a small part of what has been done and achieved. Please see individual report of the ExCom members for full details.

1. **Strategic plan.** We prepared a short and crisp strategic plan just around 8 lines which is available on homepage of the IOMP website. That has been our guiding document. This was included in the June 2019 issue of the Newsletter.
2. **Communication with grass-roots.** While taking over as President in Prague, I mentioned that we would like to be in touch with the grass roots. Social media has changed the way organizations work and communicate. It has given opportunities to provide information for public in addition to professional colleagues. Much as we had created IOMP's Facebook and twitter accounts way back when I was SG, IOMP, we created IOMP Newsletter to have better communication with professional colleagues and the first issue was released in April 2019. The Newsletter is released every two months and distribution list has grown more than 50 times in the past 2 years. In addition, some organizations like AAPM make it a point to pass on communication to its large membership and while others add links on their website. Thanks to all these organizations. Please provide us feedback on your actions so that we can maintain data and acknowledge it. We had requested feedback in initial few issues of the Newsletter. On our side we adopted email marketing service rather than usual emails to our Council members that we were practicing earlier. Thanks to Magdalena Stoeva and Chai Hong Yeong for their wonderful contributions for the Newsletter and communication outreach.
3. **International Medical Physics Week (IMPW):** Based on the success of the International Day of Medical Physics (IDMP) that was started by the IOMP in 2013; in fall of 2019, we decided to establish IMPW starting 2020. The purpose is to enhance opportunities for going beyond our usual circle of communication with medical physicists to include other professionals. This is a new activity which will pick up. Unfortunately, it was met with pandemic in first year itself in 2020 and thus only a few countries have been able to utilize opportunity of IMPW. We decided to organize daily webinars from IOMP side as an activity of IOMP School during IMPW. John Damilakis agreed to take the lead for IMPW2020. This experiment was a great success based on enthusiasm shown by participants which exceeded our expectations in terms of number of participants, number of countries, questions raised during Q & A session and feedback provided by participants in chat sessions. Thanks to John and Magdalena. We followed the pattern of daily webinars during IMPW2021 (26-30 April) also. The number of participants during IMPW2021 ranged 356 to 690 on different days. The distribution was: 56% Europe, North America and Latin America around 15%, Asia and Oceania 22% and Africa 7%. They were from more than 90 countries. In coming years, we hope that many countries shall be able to utilize opportunities offered by IMPW and propagate how medical physicists can contribute to the work of clinical professionals for common objective of patient benefit.
4. **International Day of Medical Physics (IDMP).** The theme of IDMP has been decided by ExCom every year and Ibrahim Duhaini has held charge of coordinating actions. The approach has been varied and we had a joint webinar with all regional organizations in 2020. In 2021, we are going to have experts in public communication to fit with the theme of IDMP2021 of "Communicating the role of medical physicist to the public".

There are a number of actions by Ibrahim, and you are referred to his report. Thanks Ibrahim.

5. **IOMP Webinars:** IOMP had started joint webinars with IAEA in 2016. The success of those and webinars during IMPW2020 as well as continuation of pandemic motivated us to continue webinars under IOMP School after IMPW2020. Therefore, we continued webinars twice during each month on different topics and kept a watch on the interest by participants as the number of webinars organized by different organizations were becoming too much. Since we did not observe any waning of interest, we have continued nearly twice monthly webinars so far. We further partnered with IAEA and organized a series of joint IAEA-IOMP webinars. We also partnered with Cardiovascular and Interventional Radiological Society of Europe (CIRSE) and had tripartite IAEA-IOMP-CIRSE webinar. The webinars whether during IMPW or otherwise have covered speakers from diverse background such as cardiology, artificial intelligence experts, representative on international organizations, astrophysicists, physicists, besides regional organizations of IOMP. We started webinar in Spanish language, an activity that we launched in cooperation with Latin American Association of Medical Physics (ALFIM). The diversity of topics and speakers is being expanded. Thanks to Magdalena for technical support for this activity. Almost all members of the ExCom members and also Regional Organizations have contributed to this activity and I wish to thank all of them.
6. **IOMP School:** A core-group of excom members was created as a Task Group to steer IOMP School actions. It consists of Chairs or ETC, SC, PRC, Treasurer, VP and President. The TG held several virtual meetings and prepared framework for organizing various educational activities. It included Course prior to a conference (satellite); within a conference like daily morning slots; training courses outside conferences and congresses; summer and winter schools; exploring offering courses to national organizers; webinars and online courses; medical physics week. In addition, there was a document prepared to achieve quality control of actions. The School has organized various events as depicted in other parts of this report.
7. **IOMP website and social media:** The website was given facelift in 2018-2019 with new web content management system, new appearance and made dynamic. The number of visits have gone up by 5 times during the past 3 years, the number of updates are also up by similar figure. Special thanks to Magdalena Stoeva for her dedication. Anything passed on to her gets implemented within a few minutes almost round the clock. There is cost avoidance also. Please check her report for full information. She oversees social media activity also with her sub-committee. The impressions on twitter went up by 3 times during the past 3 years.
8. **International Conference of Medical Physics (ICMP) 2019, Chile.** It was held in Santiago on 8-11 Sept. The three Presidents were co-organizers as: Jose Luis Rodriguez from Chile as President of Chilean Society of Medical Physics, Rodolfo Alfonso from Cuba, President, ALFIMP and Madan Rehani, President IOMP. The Program Committee was led by Geoffrey Ibbott, IOMP and Maria-Ester Brandan from Mexico from ALFIM. There were 493 registrants from 54 countries. 65% of the work submitted for proffered oral and poster presentations came from Latin America and the Caribbean. The countries most represented in the presentations were Chile, Brazil, Argentina and Peru. Thanks to Jose Luis, Rodolfo, Geoff and Maria-Ester and their whole team for all the hard work

done to make this conference a great success. Eva Bezak had to do a great deal of work to for business meetings as a new SG, IOMP. Thanks Eva.

9. **MoUs with new international organizations.** IOMP became an organization having formal relationship with International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) in 2018 and also signed a MoU with International Society of Radiology (ISR) in 2019.
10. **IOMP framework for accreditation of events for continuing professional development (CPD).** The framework document prepared by ETC was approved in early 2019. Also, IOMP Guidelines on accreditation of residency program were approved. ETC has provided certification to a good number of programs. Please see ETC report for list of activities. Thanks Arun for leading this activity.
11. **Regular release of publications.** The journal Medical Physics International (MPI) has been led by Slavik Tabakov and Perry Sprawls. In addition to two regular issues every year, there have been many special issues on history of medical physics. Slavik also takes care of the work of the history sub-committee (HSc) and these issues form a good contribution of HSc. Two issues of eMPW are regularly released, again with special issues from time to time. Thanks to Slavik, Perry and Magdalena.
12. **Review and endorsement of various publications of international organization.** The following publications were reviewed mostly by the Science Committee and some endorsed as indicated against each. Thanks to reviewers and Geoff for leading the actions
 - a. IAEA Guidelines on Certification of Clinically Qualified Medical Physicist (2019), reviewed by ETC-Endorsement
 - b. IAEA publication on Radiation Protection in Dental Radiology (2020)- Endorsement
 - c. Draft ISO standard on “Reference measurement standard specifications for the calibration of gamma-ray spectrometers (2020)- Review
 - d. ICRP publication on dose quantities (2020)-Review
 - e. WHO publication on Priority medical devices list for the COVID-19 response and associated technical specifications. Interim Guide 13 Nov 2020
 - f. WHO document on Minimum requirements of Ultraportable radiographic system, digital (2021)- Review
 - g. Joint position statement of IAEA with IOMP on cumulative doses from recurrent imaging (2021)- Endorsement
 - h. Enhancing radiation safety culture in healthcare: Joint publication of IOMP-IRPA-IAEA and WHO published by WHO (2021)
13. **Cooperation with Radiology societies.** We were invited by the organizers of the 19th AOCR (Asia-Oceania Congress of Radiology) to host s IOMP Meets AOCR session in AOCR originally scheduled for July 2020 but moved to July 2021 due to pandemic.
14. **Committees:** Every committee has been engaged in their respective tasks and have delivered good results which can be seen in their reports. Besides above mentioned actions by some committees, other actions are;
 - a. Awards and Honors Committee shared a big burden of work of evaluating nominations and deciding awards which is a very responsible activity and involves heavy workload. Thanks to Simone Kodlulovich Renha, Chair and all members of AHC for this important work. Congratulations to awardees so far.
 - b. PRC has been instrumental in maintaining library and equipment donation program, besides travel awards for participating in ICMP and WC. Thanks to Yakov Pipman, Chair and members of PRC and sub-committees.

- c. IOMP became supporting organization of following journals: European J Med Phys (Physica Medica), J of Medical Physics of the Association of Medical Physicists of India (AMPI) and Radiological Physics and Technology journal of Japanese societies. These journals became official journals of IOMP. Thanks to Paolo Russo, Chair, Publication Committee and members PC.
- d. The agreement with CRC press was renewed in April 2019. Thanks to Paolo.
- e. Several educational activities were either endorsed or sponsored. The details are available in reports of ETC, SC and SG and are not repeated here.
- f. Providing list of 100 emails from developing countries for free electronic subscription to Medical Physics as per agreement with AAPM. Thanks again to Paolo and Eva for coordinating this activity.
- g. Renewal of cooperation with WHO as an NGO in official relationship. Thanks to John Damilakis for joining me in dealing with WHO.
- h. IUPAP. John Damilakis has been a representative of IOMP to IUPAP. We have been having good support of IUPAP for travel support for various conferences and for IUPAP award. Thanks to John for leading this.
- i. COVID-19 resources page was added on IOMP website. Thanks to Magdalena.
- j. Women Sub-Committee (WSc) was originally led by Virginia Tsapaki. It was taken over by Magdalena when Virginia left the charge. Please look for report of WSc which has been very active. Thanks to both Virginia and Magdalena.

We are a modest low budget organization with only a part time staff at the Headquarter in York, UK- Ms Sally Hawking. She has been an immense resource and is a very skilled worker. I wish to thank Sally for her great contribution. Ibrahim Duhaini, Treasurer and Sally have kept our budget in good shape despite challenges. We have added to our reserves during the past 3 years, despite many additional activities. However, we are aware that there is lot of potential which can be tapped and would hopefully be more successful in future.

It has indeed been very useful learning from participation in IOMP events for the past 26 year. I recall my participation in the World Congress on Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering (WC1994) in Rio de Janeiro. Since then, I have the privilege of participating in every World Congress. IOMP added ICMPs in 2005 and I have loved participating in all ICMPs since 2008. This has helped me to understand the needs of our colleagues at international level besides my 11+ years of service at the IAEA. However, I welcome your feedback and suggestions always.

As indicated above, all this cannot be possible without the active cooperation of the whole team in ExCom to whom I am immensely grateful. The leadership colleagues in international organizations, regional and national organizations, and of course you all- the Council members, have been highly cooperative all these years for which I wish to express my most sincere thanks and appreciations. I may not have interacted with memberships of our Committees and sub-committees directly, but your work has been noticed through inputs provided by Chairs. Thanks indeed for lending your services as volunteers which is highly appreciated. Finally, the SG acts as the right hand of the President. I wish to thank profusely both Virginia Tsapaki and Eva Bezak for their wonderful cooperation and hard work without which hardly anything as stated above would have been possible.

Respectfully submitted

Madan Rehani, President, IOMP, 23 May 2021