

## IOMP: Guidance on Education and training requirements for medical physicists

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In the last couple of years we have assisted to a raising interest from different regional and international instances to rethink the role and responsibilities of medical physicists. This kind of concern is undeniably linked to the corresponding qualification framework in terms of requirements for education and training. IOMP as an international organization that represents more than 18000 medical physicists around the world 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. In line with its mission, IOMP is publishing new Policy Statements on “Role and Responsibilities of the Medical Physicist” and “Basic Requirements for Education and Training of Medical Physicists”. The two key points of the requirements are demonstrating competency by appropriate education and clinical training and obligation to participate in a continual professional development program. IOMP is also proposing a new Model Curriculum that is already available on-line at [http://emerald2.eu/mep\\_11.html](http://emerald2.eu/mep_11.html) . This e-book includes 39 papers, various e-Learning and Open source materials, International Education/Training projects and University courses from 27 countries. It aims to support the exchange of expertise and to provide additional guidance for establishing and updating of educational/training courses in Medical Physics and Engineering. This first volume is including a strong participation of Asian-Pacific countries, represented at AFOMP. Also AFOMP developed “Policy Statement No. 3: recommendations for the education and training of medical physicists in AFOMP countries” in 2011 to provide guidance on developing medical physicist education and training programs, in line with the standards from IOMP and the International Medical Physics Certification Board.

At the European level we must refer the Medical Physics Expert European Project. The main objectives of the European Commission project 'Guidelines on Medical Physics Expert' are to provide for improved implementation of the provisions relating to the Medical Physics Expert (MPE) as it was defined in the Council Directive 97/43/EURATOM, known as the Medical Exposures Directive, (MED) and the recently proposed recast Basic Safety Standards (BSS) Directive. This includes harmonization of the mission statement, education and training of the MPE among the Member States of the European Union.

In all of these initiatives the expected results point to the identification of gaps in education contents, identification of minimum education and training requirements and definitions of required knowledge, skills and competences in Medical Physics.

It is certainly a role of IOMP to contribute to the guidance on the harmonization of the different educational pathways and approaches all over the world.