KY Cheung, Ph.D.
President, IOMP
Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital, Hong Kong

1963- Founded with 4 national member organizations (Canada, Sweden, UK, USA)
2013- 84 national member organizations (with more than 18,000 medical physicists)
6 regional organizations (AFOMP, ALFIM, EFOMP, FAMPO, MEFOMP, SEAFOMP)

2013- 50th Anniversary Celebration at ICMP2013, Brighton, England
IOMP 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

Collaborations with International Statutory Organizations

To address issues on medical physics in healthcare.

- IAEA: Working very closely in improving medical physics in radiation medicine. IOMP participate in many IAEA projects, including drafting of the IAEA BSS and other guidance documents.
- ILO: Collaborating on professional recognition of medical physicists.

Collaboration with International Professional Organizations

- International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA)
  - Signed memorandum of understanding in 2010
- International Society of Radiology (ISR)
- International Commission on Radiation Protection (ICRP)
- International Commission on Radiation Units (ICRU)
- Bureau International des Poids et Measures (BIPM)
Key Issues in Medical Physics in Health Care

- Medical physics profession is not very well established in all countries or in all medical institutions
- Formal professional training system/infrastructure for MP is not available in most countries
- Large variation in standard of practice in different countries & within countries
- MP are not regulated in most countries as health professionals - professional standard is voluntary & subjective
- Generally lack of official recognition and public awareness on MP
- MP services mainly confined to radiology & radiotherapy, the needs in other medical specialties are generally not served

Contributing Factors

- The important role of MP in healthcare is not fully recognized
- MPs in healthcare are in general invisible to patients, other health professionals and administration
- MP have unclear identity in clinical service - Are they scientists or health professionals?
- They are trained as scientists rather than health professionals
- Most of them are not regulated and do not have state recognition (all established health professionals are regulated)

IOMP Strategy in Addressing These Issues

- Issue guideline on strengthening and formalizing E&T system
- Promote continued professional development in order to maintain & improve the standard of practice of MP
- Promote state recognition of the profession and the importance of their work in healthcare
- Raising the visibility and identify of MP in healthcare and in the public communities
- Support the special needs of MP in developing countries
- …
Scientific Conferences - Organize/Sponsor

IOMP Publication - Official Journal

Launched in March 2013 - Provide a new platform for medical physicists in sharing educational, professional and scientific knowledge, experience and ideas.

Editors:
Slavik Tabakov (UK)
Perry Sprawls (USA)

Medical Physics World - IOMP Bulletin

Since 1984 - Published biannually aiming at connecting medical physicists worldwide through NMOs.
Since 2010 it became e-MPW in, but hard copies are still produced in limited quantity.

Editor:
Virginia Tsapaki (Greece)
Initiatives in Strengthening Professional Identity and State Recognition

- Promote global implementation of professional certification
- Raise official recognition of medical physicists as professionals
- Promote state registration on scope of practice
- Defining responsibilities and professional competency
- Defining format and structure for education & professional training of MP

International Professional Certification

IOMP in collaboration with a number of NMOs formed the International Medical Physics Certification Board (IMPCB).

Aims:
- Accredit National Certification Programs
- Assist Countries to establish certification programs
- Conduct International Board Examinations

International Medical Physics Certification Board

(www.impcb.org)

President: Colin Orton (USA)
CEO: Raymond Wu (USA)
Secretary General: Ti-Chuang Chiang (Taiwan)
Chief Examiner: Tomas Kron (Australia)
Two important guidance documents developed by IOMP or contributed by IOMP on education & professional training of medical physicists

Professional Recognition of Medical Physicists By International Labour Organization (ILO)


In relation to health professionals: “… medical physicists are considered to be an integral part of the health work force alongside those occupations classified in sub-major group 22, Health professionals …”

Recognition by ILO (an UN agency) pave the way for official recognition of MPs as professionals by member states.

Supports for Developing Countries

- Organize/sponsor scientific and education and training workshops and symposia on medical physics and radiation safety
- Travel assistance for MPs to attend scientific conferences & training programs
- Support the formation and development of national MP organizations
- Library Program (in collaboration with AAPM)
- Equipment Donation Program (in collaboration with AAPM)
- …
International Scientific Exchange Program (ISEP)

Since 1992, in collaboration with AAPM conducted a total of 35 training courses/workshops in developing countries:

- 22 Therapy Physics courses/workshops
- 13 Diagnostic & Nuclear Medicine Physics courses/workshops

Current Program Chair: Cheng B. Saw (AAPM)

IOMP Library Program

Started in 1989, currently 77 libraries in developing countries.

Library Curator: Dr. Allan Wilkinson (USA)

- Solicit donated books and journals & ship to IOMP libraries
- Agreement with Taylor & Francis on publication of IOMP Series (Medical Physics & Biomedical Engineering series):
  - For every new publication in the Series, donation of 10 books to IOMP libraries
  - 25% discount for all IOMP members
  - …

Key Initiatives in Raising the Visibility & Awareness of MP in the Communities

- Collaboration with national and international organizations (e.g. IAEA, WHO, ILO) in sensitizing state agencies on the important role of MP and their training and developmental needs
- Expand collaborative network with professional organizations, e.g. IRPA, ISR, ESR, ESTRO, …
- Promote the release of public educational materials
- International Day of Medical Physics (IDMP)
The International Day of Medical Physics (IDMP)- 7 November

IOMP named November 7, the birthday of Marie Sklodowska-Curie, as the International Day of Medical Physics (IDMP). This is an annual event started in 2013. Each year, a series of scientific, E&T, and media activities are organized globally aiming to:

- Promote the visibility of medical physicists and their role in medicine in the worldwide medical scene
- Raise the awareness of others on the MP profession

IDMP 2013

The theme for 2013 was:
“Radiation Exposure from Medical Procedures: Ask the Medical Physicist”

Chairman of IDMP Task Group who coordinated the activities of the event:
John Damilakis (Greece)

IDMP 2013- Celebration in 23 countries

- Scientific symposia/seminars/activities
- IDMP quizzes
- Press releases
- Webcasts/Videos: Professional & educational
- IDMP Poster
- IDMP T-shirt
IDMP 2014

Main theme: “Looking Into the Body - Advancement in Imaging Through Medical Physics”

You are invited to join celebrating the event, either organizing your own national or local activities or collaborate with others.

(www.idmp.org)

IDMP 2014 Celebration in 23 countries

Thank you!