



The European Federation of Organisations for Medical Physics

A Company Limited by Guarantee in England and Wales, Registered Number 6480149
Registered Office: Fairmount House, 230 Tadcaster Road, York, YO24 1ES, UK

PRESIDENT

7th of January 2009

Dear EFOMP Members,

Now that I have started my three year term as the President of EFOMP, I feel the need to communicate and share with you my ambitions and concerns for the future of EFOMP.

Already I have served for two years as the Chairperson of the EFOMP Scientific Committee and one year as the EFOMP Vice-President. Through these capacities, I have experienced the various EFOMP operational aspects, its strengths and weaknesses as well as the opportunities and threads that our Federation has to challenge in today's world as well as the foreseeable near future.

Science and technology is rapidly evolving in our field of expertise and our professional environment should evolve accordingly. We need to put forward a serious amount of effort in a collective way in order not only to follow but also to be ahead of all these developments, taking advantage of the opportunities that arise almost daily and being able to challenge the threats that we are facing today and in the future.

One of the biggest challenges that we need to face is the recognition of Medical Physics as a regulated profession in accordance with Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 September 2005 on the recognition of professional qualifications. This recognition is mainly based on the educational qualifications of a profession that need to be harmonised in all the Member States of the European Union and to a formal mechanism of registration of the professionals based on competencies. Here we need to harmonise our Education and Training and also to set up registration schemes, before the European Union accepts Medical Physics as a Profession that it is automatically recognised according to the above directive. EFOMP for many years now have worked hard to encourage its NMOs to lobby their governments to harmonise the Education and Training in Medical Physics and also to set up registration schemes. These are reflected in the various EFOMP Policy Statements. The production and dissemination of Policy Statements is not enough, we need to develop a common strategy on how to achieve the required level of harmonisation in this area.

Furthermore EFOMP has recently set up the European Network of Medical Physics Schools (ENMPS). Basically the aim of this network is to assure that the level of Continuous Professional Development (CPD) courses held in the various National Member countries is at the same harmonised level so as to assure the same level of lifelong professional development of the Medical Physicist. So far this has not been implemented due to the poor response from the NMOs expressing willingness to participate in this network. The functionality and acceptance of this network is another step towards the recognition of our profession as a recognised profession by the European Union.

The second challenge is the revision of the radiation protection directives of the European Union (Council Directive 96/29/Euratom of 13 May 1996 laying down basic safety standards for the protection of the health of workers and the general public against the dangers arising from ionising radiation and Council Directive 97/43/Euratom of 30 June 1997 on health protection of individuals against the dangers of ionising radiation in relation to medical exposure and repealing Directive 84/466/Euratom). The definitions of the Medical Physics Expert and the Qualified Expert in Radiation Protection as applied in the hospital environment are in conflict and in the interest of our profession, at least in the European Union, needs to be safeguarded. Although EFOMP has been very active these past few years in this area, in order to be effective we need to unite our efforts by giving the correct advice to our government's representatives to the European Union bodies that deal with this revision. We need to formulate a common strategy in order to be effective.



The European Federation of Organisations for Medical Physics

A Company Limited by Guarantee in England and Wales, Registered Number 6480149
Registered Office: Fairmount House, 230 Tadcaster Road, York, YO24 1ES, UK

Last year EFOMP was registered as a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales. This move allows EFOMP to participate in European Union funded projects. Already EFOMP has participated as a prospective partner in two such project proposals, but albeit unsuccessful. EFOMP needs to develop a network, with your help, of institutions willing to participate in joint project proposals. On the same note, EFOMP has become a shareholder of the European Institute of Biomedical Imaging Research (EIBIR) in an effort to enhance the knowledge required for preparing project proposals as well as to acquire the secretariat support for the preparation and submission of project proposals. So far this has not been taken advantage of. EFOMP requires your support to set up the necessary network of research institutions in order to cultivate further this initiative.

Summarising, I would like to say that EFOMP was founded in 1980 focussed on clear objectives and since then, it has set a brilliant example for other international scientific organisations. But, devolution (using its biological meaning) comes alone. Evolution needs ingredients, influence and strength. I believe that EFOMP still has the ingredients, influence and strengths - these are you the National Members - to evolve and retain the splendour that it had since its foundation in 1980.

Already as the Vice-President I have put together a short document on the evolution of EFOMP that was discussed and approved by the EFOMP Officer's meeting and it was also discussed at the last Council meeting in Krakow, Poland last September. This document was sent to you for approval by postal ballot.

The Officers are discussing the development of a strategic plan for the future of EFOMP. It is planned that this will be submitted for discussion at the next Council meeting that will take place in Munich, Germany, this coming September within the World Congress on Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering (WC2009).

Finally I would like to encourage all of you to come forward with not only suggestions and advice but also to give a helping hand in the evolution of our Federation for a better (European) future for all the (European) Medical Physicists through a strong and dynamic EFOMP.

Looking forward to working with you for the next three years.

Stelios Christofides
Company President
European Federation of Organisations for Medical Physics (EFOMP)

A Company Limited by Guarantee registered in England and Wales
Registered Number 6480149
Fairmount House, 230, Tadcaster Road, York, YO24 1ES, UK

Tel: +44 1904 610821 email: cstelios@cytanet.com.cy
Fax: +44 1904 612279 web site: www.efomp.org