



The European Federation of Organisations for Medical Physics

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To the Presidents of the NMOs
to the NMO's Delegates
to the EFOMP Officers

Reply to:

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Dear colleagues, dear friends,

I would like to give you a short update on the most important subjects, that kept the officers' board busy during the last year and I would like to highlight some events and subjects in the year to come.

What is to point out first is the very productive collaboration of EFOMP with the different European societies which are representing our colleagues in the fields of diagnostics and therapy. There is the very well established collaboration with the European Society of Radiology (ESR). The annual ESR-Conference in Vienna has become an EFOMP platform with sessions organized by our society, and EFOMP representatives are included in the Physics Committee of ESR and thus involved in the planning of the physical contents of the annual conferences. Similarly well developed relations exist with the European Society for Magnetic Resonance in Medicine and Biology (ESMRMB) and with the European Association of Nuclear Medicine (EANM). EFOMP is also represented in the Physics Committee of the European Society for Therapeutic Radio-Oncology (ESTRO) and there was a very profitable collaboration between EFOMP and ESTRO in developing a curriculum for Medical Physics in radiation oncology. This work will be continued in the working group which has the task to review and update the curriculum. Recently, there was agreement between ESTRO and EFOMP to intensify the collaboration especially by including EFOMP sessions in the biannual ESTRO-physics conferences.

Since January 2007 the journal "Physica Medica" was relaunched as the new official journal of EFOMP with the subtitle "European Journal of Medical Physics". A new editorial board was established representing the different disciplines of Medical Physics and the national member organisations of EFOMP in a more appropriate manner. Compared to recent years, the submissions of scientific contributions are more than threefold. Elsevier, the publisher of the new journal, is providing an online submission and reviewing system which simplifies and accelerates scientific publications. The term of Alberto Del Guerra as the editor in chief of the journal expired at the end of 2007, and Alberto is now acting as honorary editor of the journal. The new editor in chief is Fridtjof Nüsslin (Munich, Germany), who took over at the beginning of January 2008. I would like to invite you cordially, to submit scientific contributions to this promising journal, which due to a new managing publisher, editorial board and editor in chief has strengthened its profile and thus will serve as a scientific communication platform for EFOMP.

The electronic bulletin of EFOMP "Medical Physics News" was also inaugurated in 2007. The first issue, reporting on different subjects of education and training, practical Medical Physics aspects etc. is very promising. "Medical Physics News" can be subscribed free of charge on the homepage of EFOMP.

The European School of Medical Physics in Archamps celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2007. Altogether, ESMP has been a success story, several hundred Medical Physicists from Europe and overseas have attended the different courses and the feedback was always very positive. Due to this success, EFOMP and the ESMP decided to extend the ESMP-courses by a 6th week on radiation protection. The curriculum is currently developed together with ESMP and we hope, that this 6th week will be offered in autumn 2008 for the first time. Another EFOMP initiative, which is still in progress, is the creation of a "European Network of Medical Physics Schools (ENMPS)". In cooperation with different organisations and societies like IAEA and ESMP and NMOs, this network shall be established and offer possibilities for education and practical training in hospitals and institutes in the different European countries.

In the past it has always been a problem for EFOMP to participate in scientific projects funded by national or international authorities, as e.g. the European Union. The reason was that EFOMP had not the form of a legal entity. This topic was discussed at the council meetings in Malaga and Pisa at length, and the council finally agreed that EFOMP should be incorporated as a Company. The good news are, that this change is now successfully completed: since the beginning of 2008, EFOMP has the form of a Company Limited by Guarantee in England which extremely facilitates to become a project partner or a member of scientific consortia.

EFOMP conferences have always been the scientific highlight of the year. This is especially true for the conference which took place in Il Ciocco near Pisa in autumn 2007. This conference was extremely well organized by Alberto Del Guerra. More than 200 abstracts were submitted, and a comprehensive and excellent scientific program took place in a very appealing surrounding. A special issue of the European Journal of Medical Physics is under preparation with the aim to publish the highlight papers of this conference. During the conference which was organized as the 1st European Conference on Medical Physics under the roof of EFOMP, two deserved medical physicists, Oskar Chomicky (Poland) and Phil Dendy (UK) were awarded with the honorary membership of EFOMP.

In the meanwhile the 2nd European Conference on Medical Physics is being prepared and will take place in Krakow in September 2008 in the frame of the conference "Medical Physics and Engineering 110 Years after the Discovery of Polonium and Radium". The conference will be preceded by an "EFOMP workshop and tutorial on radiation protection of the patient" with contributions in diagnostic radiology, interventional radiology, computer-tomography, mammography, nuclear medicine and radiotherapy. The next EFOMP Officers' and Council Meetings will be held in Krakow in the frame of this conference. I'm looking forward to see you all in Krakow in September!

In 2009 the EFOMP conference (3rd European Conference on Medical Physics) will be held in conjunction with the World Congress of Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering, in Munich, Germany, from September 7th - 12th. I would like to invite you already today, to participate in this conference and submit interesting abstracts for either oral or poster presentations. The topics and deadlines of this conference are described on the homepage www.wc2009.org in more detail.

Wishing you all a successful year 2008 and looking forward to meet many of you on our next conferences,

Wolfgang Schlegel
President of EFOMP