

February 2007

To the presidents of the NMOs,  
To the NMO's delegates  
To the EFOMP officers

Dear colleagues, dear friends,

The first year of my term as president of the European Federation of Organisations in Medical Physics is just over and I would like give a summary on the year 2006 and an outlook to the future work and important dates in 2007:

#### Changes in the EFOMP officers board

Due to expiring terms there were some changes in the EFOMP officers board: Alberto del Guerra became past president and Renato Padovani's term as secretary general started both at the beginning of 2006. Marta Wasilewska-Radwanska from Krakow/Poland was elected as the new chairman of the "Education, Training and Professional affairs committee" and Eduardo Guibelalde from Madrid/Spain was elected as the new chairman of the "committee on European Union Matters", both starting in 2007. The position of the honorary treasurer (Peter Sharp) was confirmed by the council in Malaga and prolonged for another 3 years term.

I would like to thank the new members of the officers board for their readiness to take over these important and work filled positions, and especially the leaving officers Teresa Eudaldo and Jose Hernandez-Armas for their excellent work as committee-chairmen, for their cooperation in the committees, in the officers board and in the council. They contributed very much to the friendly and fruitful working atmosphere in the EFOMP officers board.

#### Report "The present status of Medical Physics Education and Training in Europe. New Perspectives and EFOMP recommendations"

The report was drafted under the leadership of Teresa Eudaldo (former chairman of the ETP committee) and Kjeld Olsen (chairman of the registration committee). It gives a comprehensive overview and summary on education and training programs and schemes in Medical Physics in European countries. The report was developed on the basis of two fact-finding inquiries, as a result of which 19 NMOs described the current level of education and training in their individual countries. The report is resulting in EFOMP recommendations with the view to the new European perspectives taking into account the Bologna declaration from 1999 and the EC-directive 2005/36 on the recognition of professional qualifications. It is our intention, to publish this recommendations as the EFOMP policy statement #12, making the old policy statement #1 obsolete. The full report can be downloaded from the EFOMP website.

The recommendations of the report will be formed into a policy statement for approval at the 2007 council meeting.

#### The "Malaga declaration"

A further important milestone in 2006 was a statement called the "Malaga declaration" which was presented to the EFOMP council by the chairman on "European Union Matters", Jose Hernandez Armas. The Malaga declaration is a statement with Efomp's position on Medical Physics in Europe, with the aim "to establish Medical

Physics as a regulated profession” and as “a health care profession” in all member states in Europe. These 2 statements are currently voted on electronically by the delegates of the NMOs, while a 3<sup>rd</sup> statement, saying “that radiation protection in hospitals, involving patients, working staff and members of the public, must be performed by Medical Physics Experts”, has already been agreed upon in the council meeting.

#### European Medical Physics News

An important result of work in the communication and publication committee was the production of the “European Medical Physics News”, an electronic magazine, which will be published two or three times per year by Markus Buchgeister and Chris Gibson. This magazine will not only be the platform for news from EFOMP, but also for scientific and technical contributions and reports in national languages. All NMO members are invited to subscribe to the magazine without cost at the EFOMP website [www.efomp.org](http://www.efomp.org).

#### European Journal of Medical Physics

Another project, which kept the officers board quite busy in 2006 was the re-launch of the Journal “Physica Medica” as the new official scientific journal of EFOMP with the sub-title “European Journal of Medical Physics”. Starting in the first quarter of 2007, the journal will now be published by Elsevier with 4 issues per year. The scope of the journal has been redefined with the subfields of Medical Physics in Radiotherapy, Radiology, Radiation Protection, Measurements and Education. A completely new editorial board has been established with 30 board members and 5 associate editors representing the subfields of Medical Physics.

The journal will also serve as the official journal of the Italian Medical Physics organisation AIFM, some other countries are considering to follow this example. In principle, all members of EFOMP-NMO have the possibility to subscribe at a very reduced rate (e.g. only 18 €/year for the electronic version), provided that an agreement between Elsevier and the society has been signed. Any societies wishing to form such an agreement should either contact me or directly Elsevier company ([Ru.beer@elsevier.com](mailto:Ru.beer@elsevier.com)).

I would like to ask you all to support this new journal of EFOMP, not only by subscribing, but also by submitting suited scientific contributions to the editor in chief ( in 2007 still Alberto del Guerra).

#### European Network of Medical Physics Training Schools (ENMPS)

The officers of EFOMP have been considering the establishment of a process for coordinating across Europe CPD courses for Medical Physicists, so that these are harmonized and offer the same level of education. In order to achieve this goal, EFOMP is going to propose the creation of a European Network of Medical Physics training schools (ENMPS). The EFOMP NMOs will be asked for their support, so that the EFOMP officers can proceed with this proposal.

#### EFOMP conference in Pisa, 2007

In 2007 the Xth EFOMP congress will be organized by Alberto del Guerra in conjunction with the Italian Association of Medical Physics (AIFM) in “Il Ciocco” in the vicinity of Pisa, Italy. The event is scheduled for 20-22 of September. The goal is to present a state-of-the-art of Medical Physics in its various subspecialties: from Radiotherapy to Diagnostic Radiology, from Nuclear Medicine to Medical Imaging, from Radioprotection to Physiological Measurement Techniques. One of the main

tasks of EFOMP is to promote and to harmonize the best practice of Medical Physics in Europe. Hence there will be special sessions on training and education in Medical Physics.

I am very much looking forward to welcome you at the EFOMP PISA 2007 Congress.

Wolfgang Schlegel

President of EFOMP