



EUROPEAN MEDICAL PHYSICS *UPDATE*

November 2003

Welcome to this special edition of *European Medical Physics Update*, published by the European Federation of Organisations for Medical Physics, EFOMP.

In this issue, you will find an explanation of how EFOMP works on behalf of medical physicists to promote and extend the science and profession of Medical Physics. Since 1999, EFOMP has relied increasingly on the Internet as a means of communicating with member organisations and, in turn, with their members. Much additional information on the topics in this *Update* are available from the EFOMP web site, at <http://www.efomp.org>. The web site is a useful first point of reference for any questions regarding EFOMP's activities – I urge you to check the site regularly – or even to make it your home page!

From the President

Writing this *Letter from the President* is always a difficult task, but it does give me the opportunity to blow the trumpet a little for what EFOMP has achieved, and to offer encouragement to even greater efforts in the future. The past couple of years have been eventful, indeed

Working in EFOMP brings me into contact with a remarkably diverse group of people and organisations. I suppose that I had expected their problems, and the needs of their national organisations to differ greatly. But, stepping back, I have learned that the same issues – training, recognition, professional development – occur over and over. I am sure that these issues and more will be discussed at our forthcoming Council meeting in Cyprus!

EFOMP is now 23 years old, and has come of age. It gives me great pleasure to watch the steady growth and development of our profession in more and more countries, and to feel that EFOMP has played a role there. Most of the credit for that belongs to the legion of working physicists who have given time and effort to EFOMP. I warmly acknowledge their efforts, and encourage all of you to get involved!

Alberto Del Guerra, President of EFOMP

EFOMP Members

EFOMP's members are the National Medical Physics Organisations in member countries.

- Algeria
- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Israel
- Italy
- Latvia
- Moldova
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Russia
- Serbia and Montenegro
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Turkey
- Ukraine
- United Kingdom

Full details on the EFOMP Web site

EFOMP's History & Constitution

EFOMP is now twenty-three years old. The federation was established in 1980 after a meeting in London in May, 1979 at which an initial constitution was agreed, but, characteristically, referred back to Officers for amendment. The Officers duly met in Berlin in 1980, to finalise the formalities.

Looking back over that time, there is a remarkable similarity between the aims and purpose we see for EFOMP today and those envisaged by its founders. The founders of EFOMP drew up a constitution which set out the following aims:

- ◆ **Fostering** and co-ordinating the activities of Member Organisations...
- ◆ **Encouraging Exchanges** between Member Organisations and disseminating professional and scientific information...
- ◆ **Encouraging scholarships** and the exchange of Medical Physicists between countries
- ◆ **Proposing guidelines** for education, training and accreditation programmes
- ◆ **Making recommendations** on the appropriate general responsibilities...
- ◆ **Encouraging the formation of organisations** for Medical Physics where such organisations do not exist

The 1980 Constitution was revised in 1999, but the aims are the same.

The principal group of members of EFOMP are the National Medical Physics Organisations (NMOs in EFOMP-speak). In addition, EFOMP has Honorary Members - individual medical physicists who have made a significant contribution to the field, and industrial members, who are commercial companies who wish to support the Federation.

The ruling body of EFOMP is the **Council**, which meets annually. The Council is made up of representatives of NMOs (two for each NMO), all of whom have votes. The number of votes (from 1 to 3) cast by a given NMO is determined by its size.

The Council elects a Board of **Officers**, responsible for the running of the Federation in accordance with Council's wishes. The Officers comprise the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary General and the Chairmen of the Federation's **Committees**. There is more on the work of the Committees on the page opposite.

The normal route for an individual to participate in EFOMP is through his or her National Member Organisation. A list of contact points is available on the EFOMP Web Site, or through your National Organisation.

The full text of the EFOMP Constitution is available on the Web Site at <http://www.efomp.org/con999.html>

EFOMP Congresses

Since 1987, EFOMP has collaborated with National Organisations in holding regular European Congresses of Medical Physics. These are now held alternate years.

- ◆ 1987 - Innsbruck
- ◆ 1990 - Oxford
- ◆ 1993 - Tenerife
- ◆ 1995 - Wurzburg (Röntgen Centenary)
- ◆ 1996 - Trieste
- ◆ 1999 - Patras
- ◆ 2001 - Belfast
- ◆ 2003 - Eindhoven
- ◆ 2005 - Nuremberg

More details of the 2005 Congress in Eindhoven will be available shortly, [via the EFOMP Web Site](#).

EFOMP Journals

EFOMP sponsors three Medical Physics journals:

- ◆ Physics in Medicine and Biology
- ◆ Physiological Measurement
- ◆ *Physica Medica*

EFOMP publishes all its Policy Statements and other reference documents in *Physica Medica*

Committees and Functions

Forthcoming Events

2003

30 Oct - 2 Dec

**European School of
Medical Physics**

Archamps France

Organised jointly by the
European Scientific Institute
and EFOMP

Full details on the web at:
<http://www.cur-archamps.fr/esi>

2004

5 - 9 March

**16th European Congress
of Radiology - ECR2004**

Vienna, Austria

Full details on the web at:
<http://www.ecr.org>

2005

14 - 17 September

**International Congress
of Medical Physics,**

**9th European Congress
on Medical Physics and**

**36th Annual Meeting of
the German Society of
Medical Physics**

Nuremberg, Germany

Full details: E-mail
willi.kalender@imp.uni-erlangen.de

*If you are organising a
congress or other event,
please send details to
efomp@gmx.net*

When EFOMP was established in 1980, two main committees were set up. These became the *Scientific Committee* and the *Education, Training and Professional (ETP) Committee*.

In 1999, three additional committees were established within the newly-agreed constitutional structure: a Standing Committee on Registration Matters, a Committee on European Union Matters, and a Communications and Publications Committee.

The functions of the committees are outlined below.

The Education, Training and Professional (ETP) Committee

The ETP Committee deals with issues of physicist education and training, and with many of the matters surrounding the responsibilities and roles of medical physicists. The successful EFOMP Summer Schools are organised largely by ETP-Committee working groups.

The current chairman of the ETP Committee is Teresa Eudaldo (Barcelona, Spain).

The Scientific Committee

The Scientific Committee is responsible for EFOMP's activities in furthering the science of medical physics. Scientific Committee is the body within EFOMP which organises conferences and congresses - generally through nominating members to programme and organising committees - and which liaises with external scientific organisations such as the European Congress of Radiology.

The current chairman of the Scientific Committee is Prof. Alan Perkins (Nottingham, UK).

The Scientific and ETP Committees are 'representative', in that each NMO may send a delegate to each. This is important, since these committees are the places where EFOMP's policies are formulated and discussed.

The other three committees are smaller, and more 'technical' in their work. The **Standing Committee on Registration Matters** implements and develops EFOMP's registration scheme of national registration schemes, and is chaired by the Registrar. The **Committee on European Union Affairs** recognises the growing importance of EU policies even to physicists in non-EU countries. The **Communications and Publications Committee** is responsible for disseminating information, both to EFOMP members and to a wider public.

Policy Statements

A continuing part of EFOMP's work is the drafting and publication of Policy Statements. These documents contain the Federation's agreed view on best practice in a range of areas of Medical Physics. The current statements are:

- No 1: Medical Physics Education and Training: The Present European Level and Recommendations for its Future Development, 1984.
- No. 2: The Roles, Responsibilities and Status of the Clinical Medical Physicist, 1984.
- No. 3: Radiation Protection of the Patient in Europe: The Training of the Medical Physicist as a Qualified Expert in Radiophysics, 1988.
- No. 4: Criteria for the Number of Physicists in a Medical Physics Department, 1991.
- No. 5: Departments of Medical Physics - Advantages, Organisation and Management, Sept. 1993 [*Physica Medica* XI, 3(1995)126-128]
- No. 6: Recommended guidelines of National Registration Schemes for Medical Physicists, Sept. 1994 [*Physica Medica* XI, 4(1995)157-159]
- No. 7: Criteria for the Staffing Levels in a Medical Physics Department (*pdf file-40 kB*), Sept. 1997 [*Physica Medica* XIII (1997) 187-194]
- No. 8: Continuing Professional Development for the Medical Physicist, (also available as Acrobat pdf-file: policy8.pdf), March 1998 [*Physica Medica* XIV (1998) 81-83]
- No. 9: Radiation Protection of the Patient in Europe: The Training of the Medical Physics Expert in Radiation Physics or Radiation Technology [*Physica Medica* XV (1999) 149-153]
- No.10: Recommended Guidelines on National Schemes for Continuing Professional Development of Medical Physicists [*Physica Medica* XVII (2001) 97-101]
- No.11: Guidelines on Professional Conduct and Procedures to Be Implemented in the Event of Alleged Misconduct [*Physica Medica* XIX (2003) 227-229]

EFOMP on the Web

The EFOMP Web Site is the Federation's main shop-window. The site contains a great deal of information, including:

- ◆ EFOMP Contacts
- ◆ National Member Organisation details, including addresses for key contact persons in each organisation
- ◆ EFOMP's Constitution, Aims and Objectives.
- ◆ Policy Statements - downloadable versions of the policy statements, which members may use
- ◆ Events calendar - meetings, conferences, etc.
- ◆ Links to other organisations, which will include the web sites of EFOMP's corporate members.

Material for inclusion on the web site should be sent to the Chairman of the Communications Committee, at efomp@gmx.net.

Don't forget, the address of the EFOMP site is

<http://www.efomp.org>

EFOMP: European Federation of Organisations for Medical Physics

Home News Federation Members Events Links

EFOMP:

The European Federation of Organisations in Medical Physics (EFOMP) was founded in 1960. The current membership covers 39 national organisations which together represent more than 5000 physicists and engineers in the field of Medical Physics.

Aims and purposes of EFOMP include:

- fostering and coordinating the activities of National Member Organisations, collaborating with national and international organisations, particularly IOMP,
- encouraging exchange and dissemination of professional and scientific information, and exchange of Medical Physicists between countries,
- proposing guidelines for education, training and accreditation programmes,
- making recommendations on the appropriate general responsibilities, organisational relationships and roles of Medical Physicists, and
- encouraging the formation of Organisations for Medical Physics where such organisations do not exist.

(See the full [mission statement](#) of EFOMP)

Secretary General:

European Congress of Medical Physics, Belfast, Sept. 12 - 15, 2001

BELFAST 2001 EFOMP, IPEM, APSM

ECMP 2001 joint congress of EFOMP, IPEM and APSM (see [preliminary program](#))

European School of Medical Physics, Archaamps, Nov. 8 - Dec. 12, 2001

In 2001 the **European School of Medical Physics** runs 5 courses on: Medical Imaging Principles, Ultrasound & Magnetic Resonance, Medical Imaging with Ionising Radiation, Medical Computing, Physics of Modern Radiotherapy, Modern Brachytherapy.