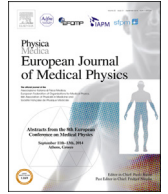




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## Editorial

## New President of the European Federation of organizations in medical physics

It is my great honour and pleasure to serve the community of Medical Physicists as EFOMP president. In this article, I'll try to sketch what I'm planning to do during my presidential term but before that, I would like to publicly thank our outgoing president Prof. Peter Sharp for his outstanding leadership. Luckily, Peter will continue to serve as an officer for another 2 years, in the role of past-president.

Medical Physics faces several challenges in Europe: the new EU BSS has been published with several clauses relevant to the profession of Medical Physics; important European Guidelines have been published recently that will affect our professional career; advanced educational and training platforms offer a more interactive learning experience that constantly evolves and so on. It is thus important that EFOMP addresses these challenges.

I have several pressing goals for the next years. It is important to start dialogue with our national member organizations to understand their needs and pay attention to their requirements. Based on the results of this dialogue and previous experience, I will work with EFOMP officers to develop our new strategic plan to enhance member benefits.

### European medical physics congress

Although there is a European Conference on Medical Physics, this is organised by the national Medical Physics society with input from EFOMP. There is a need of a European Medical Physics Congress i.e. a meeting on a European scale, convened at set intervals, covering all fields of Medical Physics. This meeting should become the premier venue for European and international medical physicists to come together, present the results of their research work, attend courses and view the most advanced medical technology.

### Continuous professional development and learning platforms

EFOMP has a duty to ensure that medical physicists have access to the educational opportunities needed to acquire, maintain and refine the requisite knowledge and skills to fulfil their role in the clinical and academic environment. We provide advanced education through the 'EFOMP School for Medical Physics Experts'. Moreover, EFOMP co-organizes the 'European School of Medical Physics'. There is high demand for developing continuous professional development courses in medical physics due to the rapid development of medical techniques based on ionizing and non-ionizing radiation.

Technological changes in the field of medical physics are happening so fast that even updated information may become obsolete after only a few years. We should consider developing

an e-learning platform to provide on-line material that meets different levels of knowledge and interests and flexibility to join discussions. This platform will reduce travel time and travel costs and will provide opportunities of sharing resources and experience with other colleagues all over the world.

### European diploma in medical physics

EFOMP should consider setting up an examination board to certify that a candidate has passed a high quality examination in Medical Physics performed in English language. This examination will provide an objective test of knowledge for medical physicists. The European Diploma in Medical Physics will facilitate harmonization of medical physics standards throughout Europe and mobility of medical physicists within Europe. This diploma will not replace any national certificate but should complement other assessments of competence by national societies.

### Accreditation board

External evaluation of Medical Physics educational programs to determine if standards are met is an important process to ensure the quality of services. EFOMP should consider establishing a board to evaluate and accredit education and training courses in Medical Physics. Accreditation should be based upon established standards and guidelines. An accreditation decision should be made following evaluation by a team of experts in the field of medical physics.

### Projects

The projects committee is responsible for participating in the implementation of projects and supporting the participation of Medical Physics institutions for improving research in Medical Physics and the professional status of Medical Physicists in Europe and internationally. Recent projects include 'EUTEMPE-RX', 'PiDRL', 'MEDRAPET' and 'ENETRAP III'. The new EU Horizon 2020 programme is now open and there are opportunities to apply for funding for research and education projects focused on imaging, radiation therapy, radiation protection and other topics relevant to Medical Physics.

### Policy statements and guidelines

I'm happy that we have produced a number of policy statements, guidelines and recommendations. We should increase our presence and influence on policymaking by continuing to formulate policy through policy statements and recommendations. All EFOMP

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committees can play an important in policymaking, especially the Professional Matters Committee and the European Matters Committee.

### Relationship with other organizations

It is true that the healthcare sector is 'an interdependent world'. To meet challenges and address major issues, it is important to develop a strong and positive relationship with other international organizations and interested parties. We have signed memoranda of understanding and agreements with European societies and networks. It is important to expand, strengthen and consolidate linkages between EFOMP and other organizations in Europe and internationally.

### Website

EFOMP's website is not only its internet identity but also an excellent communication tool with colleagues and the public. We should make any effort to enrich the content and expand our website. It is important, for example, to create a section for medical physics students and trainees and a public-only section with leaflets and videos to raise awareness of our profession.

### Publications

We must strongly support our publications. The new Impact Factor of 'European Journal of Medical Physics' (1.849) underlines the scientific importance of the journal. On behalf of EFOMP, I thank Prof. Paolo Russo for all of his hard work and dedication to advance the journal. We also have the 'European Medical Physics News' (EMPN) and the 'EFOMP Newsletter' that provide news and publish

articles of interest to the European Medical Physicists. Colleagues can subscribe to the EMPN and to the newsletter (<http://www.efomp.org/index.php/ct-menu-item-7/83-staticcontent/244-newsletter-subscription>) and receive these publications by email.

I'm convinced that the success of our work depends on the commitment and expertise of volunteers. The current membership of EFOMP covers national organizations which together represent more than 5000 medical physicist and engineers working in the field of medical physics. If every colleague devotes 1 min per day to EFOMP activities, we will have about 80 h per day of volunteer effort, in other words the equivalent of 10 full-time employees. I would like to encourage colleagues to join EFOMP's committees and working groups. We ask national member organizations to appoint a representative on each committee who will actively participate in the work of the committee. We look forward to an enthusiastic response to the above endeavour.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you for the privilege you have bestowed upon me in selecting me as President of EFOMP. I look forward to working with committee chairs, committee members and all of you in moving the profession forward over the next years. Comments and suggestions on issues that are relevant to our profession are welcome; my email is [john.damilakis@med.uoc.gr](mailto:john.damilakis@med.uoc.gr).

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