



## Editorial

## New President of the European Federation of Organizations for Medical Physics



I have been serving the community of European Medical Physicist since 2012 when I first started as Secretary General to EFOMP. In 2016 I was elected Vice President and now I am the new EFOMP President.

During those years I have been in close contact with all the colleagues serving as officers in the EFOMP board and with the national member organisations through their presidents, council delegates and individual members. In this period, I have had the opportunity to appreciate the dedication and the spirit of service in each of those volunteers who spend a significant part of their time, energy and acumen for the benefit of our community.

It is my hope and my intention to let the same spirit permeate my actions in the coming three years of my presidency. I am convinced that all the great objectives that are in front of us can only be reached by team work and through the collaboration of the entire community of Medical Physicists.

In this article I will try to set out what I'm planning to do during my presidential term.

### 1. Relationship with the National Member Organisations

The nature of the EFOMP as a federation of National Member Organisation (NMOs) is a great asset for our organization since it allows EFOMP to be recognized at an International level as the unique representative of all the existing European National Medical Physics Societies.

To be effective, the federation needs closer contact between the EFOMP Board and the NMOs' Boards. My plan in the coming three years is to have a leadership meeting with all the 34 EFOMP NMOs to discuss their needs, how EFOMP could be useful for them and identify the common strategies to increase the visibility, relevance and weight of EFOMP at the European level. At the same time, we have also to consider the possibility of creating some form of individual membership in the EFOMP. Such individual membership will allow EFOMP to have "fresh blood" to sustain the increasing number of EFOMP activities.

### 2. European Congress of Medical Physics – ECMP

After the initial experience of the first ECMP held in Athens Greece in 2016, we are in the middle of the preparation of the second ECMP to be held in Copenhagen on the 23–25 August 2018. The Congress will be hosted by the Danish and Swedish associations for medical physics and will have Germany as the welcome nation. The motto of the Congress, "Bridging knowledge across specialities", is what make the congress unique in the panorama of similar initiatives organized by different entities. The congress will involve world leading European scientists and professionals in each discipline and will consist of satellite meetings, refresher courses, joint sessions and scientific sessions. The success of this initiative will set the stage for the future development of a congress made by medical physicists and directed at medical physicists, working in the different subspecialties. We ask national member organisations to promote attendance at this congress, particularly of young colleagues. We look forward to an enthusiastic response. My objective is to have the participation of one thousand medical physicists in the third congress in 2020, which will make the ECMP the most attended international congress in Medical Physics in Europe.

### 3. European School for Medical Physics Expert –ESMPE

EFOMP's European school for Medical Physics Expert (ESMPE) has been established to fulfil one of the missions of EFOMP: to promote education and training programmes for medical physicists in Europe.

The ESMPE organises medical physics education and training events specifically targeted towards Medical Physicists who are already Medical Physics Experts or would like to achieve MPE status. These events are open to all European Medical Physicists and they are accredited by an independent body (the European Board of Accreditation for Medical Physics) to ensure that they are at the required educational level, i.e., Level 8 of the European Qualifications Framework.

The attendance is usually limited to 40–50 places to guarantee the possibility of individual interaction between lectures and attendees. A distinctive trait of the school is to provide subsidized fees for participants coming from low/middle income European countries.

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The work of ESMPE is carried out by its Board, which consists of prominent Medical Physicists with expertise in the education and training of medical physicists.

Since 2013, nine successful meetings attended by more than 400 people coming from all over Europe, have been organized. My objective for the next three years is to increase the number of meetings from 2 to 3–4 per year and establish the ESMPE as the most prominent initiative at the European level in the field of Education and Training targeted at the Medical Physicist. To achieve this objective, we have to work in partnership with other societies (the meeting of January 2018, jointly organized with COCIR, is a wonderful example of this strategy) and we have to find different locations, apart from Prague which will continue to host two meetings per year, in order to locate the school in central/eastern European countries.

#### **4. European Journal of Medical Physics – EJMP**

In the last decade, *Physica Medica: European Journal of Medical Physics* has become one of the most respected publications in the field of Medical Physics, reaching an Impact Factor of 1.99 in 2016 and dramatically increasing the number of issues and the number of published papers. Being published by Elsevier on behalf of EFOMP and AIFM (Italy), EJMP is the official journal of the IAPM (Ireland) and SFPM (France) and lists among the supporting societies 28 National member organisations. My objective in the three years is to double the number of the societies for which EJMP is the official journal and to explore potential synergies with other European publications in the field of Medical Physics.

#### **5. Relationship with other organisations**

Medical physics is, by its nature, interdependent with other disciplines. During these years we have signed memorandum of understanding with many sister societies working in the healthcare sectors. It is now time to work together with these societies, by promoting joint schools, joint sessions at the respective congresses, common statements on matters of mutual interests, and common scientific projects at the European level. Our European Matters Committee will play a fundamental role in this activity.

We, as EFOMP, are also part of the International Organization for Medical Physics. The focus of our commitments and activities is and will continue to be the Europe. We are not going to directly promote as EFOMP international activities, but we will take part in the international activities, through IOMP.

#### **6. Publications, website and social media**

EFOMP currently publishes EMP News which aims to draw attention to the activity of young medical physicists all over Europe, via presentation of their work. The plan is to increase the number of issues of EMP News from 2 to 4 and to attract more advertisers from the world of industry. In 2014 we published protocols for quality controls in digital mammography and in 2017 for cone beam CT. These publications, freely downloadable from the EFOMP website, are a valuable and well appreciated work tool for the Medical Physics community. This activity will continue under the direction of the Scientific Committee.

The new EFOMP website is attractive, modern and easy to navigate. But there is still a lot of room to improve it and this will need continuous work from our Communication and Publication Committee. We have recently created the position of the EFOMP Internet Manager also to keep our website live and launch the presence of EFOMP in social media. EFOMP is now present in LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook and is also connected with NMOs through social media. We will have in the coming years to consolidate our position in the social media world seeing it as another opportunity to reach our colleagues and also the general public.

#### **7. European Examination Board – EEB**

The EFOMP Examination Board (EEB) has been established to facilitate the harmonization of Medical Physics education and training standards throughout Europe. The 1st EEB exam was organized in Prague on July 2017. The next round of the EEB will be held in conjunction with the ECMP for all the three subspecialties. It is important to provide this service to our community. I am sure that under the direction of the Chair of EEB and with the contribution of the Board, the EEB will continue to expand its activities.

I am convinced that only through very well-organized teamwork, that must include the EFOMP Officers and committees, the NMOs and the individual volunteers willing to work in the EFOMP, will we increase the role and the prestige of our profession in the medical world in Europe and, therefore, in each national member state.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you all for the great privilege you have assigned to me as the new EFOMP President. I will do whatever it takes for the benefit of our community and I am looking forward to working with all EFOMP Officers, Committee members, NMOs Presidents and delegates and every single Medical Physicist who is willing to devote part of his/her time to EFOMP activities.



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