

## Proposal for a new Special Interest Group (SIG)

<b>Name of SIG<sup>1</sup>:</b>	<b>Early Career Medical Physicists</b>
<b>Parent Committee(s)<sup>2</sup>:</b>	<b>European Matters Committee</b>
<b>Keywords<sup>3</sup>:</b>	Young medical physicist, Training and education, Professional development, Leadership
<b>Rationale<sup>4</sup>:</b>	<p>The young medical physicists (MP) of today will be the national medical physics and European medical physics professional and leaders of tomorrow. If the profession is to be developed and become stronger in a rapidly evolving environment, education and training of the young medical physicists is vital so that they may develop into the effective and robust scientific and strategic leaders that the profession needs in the future [1]. Young medical physicists need to learn how to act in a coordinated manner at both national and European levels. To achieve this goal, a strong, flexible, and dynamic link is needed between academic education and professional training, across all countries.</p> <p>A SIG will provide opportunities for our young medical physicists to develop not only their substantive scientific and research skills but also their soft skills, as scientific competence on its own does not ensure success in today's demanding hospital environment. Skills such as strategic planning, marketing, good communication and pedagogical skills, proficiencies in qualitative research methodology as well as skills in conflict resolution, organizational politics, negotiation, and teambuilding are also needed [2].</p> <p>A Strengths-Weaknesses-Opportunities-Threats (SWOT) analysis of the Medical Physics profession indicates that most of the weaknesses of the profession lie precisely in the area of soft skills [1-4]. If the profession is to thrive it is important that any plans for its further development also incorporate strategies for addressing these critical weaknesses amongst our young physicists [5].</p> <p>[1] Caruana CJ. Leadership and Challenges in Medical Physics. Institute of Physics Publishing, Bristol, 2020.  [2] Caruana CJ, Damiakis J. Eur J Radiology 2021; 110:108.  [3] Caruana CJ, Wasilewska-Radwanska M, et al. Phys Med 2010; 26(2):98-110.  [4] Caruana CJ, Wasilewska-Radwanska M, et al. Phys Med</p>

	<p>2012;28(4):307-318. [5] Caruana CJ, Cunha JAM, Orton CG. Med Phys 2017;44(8):3885-3887.</p>
<p><b>Target audience<sup>5</sup>:</b></p>	<p>The objective of the SIG is to establish a network of young / early career medical physicists within Europe.</p>
<p><b>Expected outcome<sup>6</sup>:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Create a safe and secure incubation space in which young medical physicists in Europe may interact amongst themselves as well as with the present scientific and political leaders of the profession.</li> <li>▪ Organise training / education workshops and courses for early career physicists on various aspects of the profession.</li> <li>▪ Propose and organise scientific events (education, professional matters, and research) within the ECMP.</li> <li>▪ Propose and contribute to special issue topics for Physica Medica.</li> <li>▪ Provide a communication platform for members, allowing exchange of opinion &amp; data.</li> <li>▪ Offer collaborations in international research projects.</li> <li>▪ Collaborate with early career medical physics groups from other international organisations.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Coordination<sup>7</sup>:</b></p>	<p>A number of EFOMP National Member Organisations (9 NMOs) have already created young medical physicist groups within their organisations, while several others (15 NMOs) consider establishing such groups in the near future [6]. Several young medical physicist have showed interest in actively contributing to the foundation and operation of this SIG.</p> <p>The SIG will function within EFOMP under the umbrella of the European Matters Committee. Nevertheless, due to the transversal nature of the proposed SIG, connections with Professional matters, and Education and training committees will also be established.</p> <p>Contacts will be established with other early career medical physicists groups from sister organisations / associations.</p> <p>[6] Marcu LG, Caruana CJ, et al. Phys Med 2022;95:89-93.</p>

## Legend

- 1) **Name of SIG**
- 2) **Parent Committee(s)** - Relevant EFOMP Committee. If more than one parent committee is listed, the FIRST listed will be the official parent committee.
- 3) **Keywords** - include at least 3 keywords.
- 4) **Rationale** - What is the justification and need for the proposed SIG.
- 5) **Target audience** - e.g. Medical Physicists, Vendors.
- 6) **Expected outcome** - Description of the relevant results expected from the SIG.
- 7) **Collaborations** - Specify if there should be a coordination or collaboration with other EFOMP Committees, WGs, SIGs and/or scientific organisations.

**Annex 1: List of individuals interested in founding an EFOMP Special Interest Group on Early Career Medical Physicists.**

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