



# EUROPEAN MEDICAL PHYSICS

## UPDATE

2004/2005

**W**elcome 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!

### *EFOMP Members*

EFOMP members are the National Medical Physics Organisations in:

- Algeria
- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czechia
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- FYRO Macedonia
- 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

Affiliated Member:

- South Africa

Full details can be found on the EFOMP web site.

### *From the President*

**W**riting 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 Nuremberg 2005!

EFOMP is now 24 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's History & Constitution

**EFOMP is now twenty-four 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-language). 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.

## *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 Nuremberg will be available shortly via the EFOMP Web Site.

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## *EFOMP Journals*

EFOMP sponsors four Medical Physics journals:

- ◆ Physics in Medicine and Biology
- ◆ Physiological Measurement
- ◆ Physica Medica
- ◆ European Radiology

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

# Committees and Functions

## ***EFOMP Awards and Honours:***

### **EFOMP Medal**

Recognising an individual's outstanding and internationally acknowledged contribution to the advancement of Medical Physics.

### **Honorary Membership**

Recognising an individual who through his/her career has contributed to an advancement in research, education and training or organizational affairs and professional activities in Medical Physics in Europe.

### **Bursaries and Travel Awards:**

The EFOMP *ESMP Bursary for Young Physicists* covers the registration fee for one week of the European School of Medical Physics at Archamps.

Visits to Medical Physics departments of another member country of EFOMP of at least 10 working days are supported by the *EFOMP Travel Award for Young Physicists*.

More details on all Awards and Honours are available on the EFOMP web site at <http://www.efomp.org!>

EFOMP's officers chair the five Committees consisting of core and corresponding members. The functions of each Committee are described 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 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 program and organising committees - and which liaises with external scientific organisations such as the European Congress of Radiology.

## **The Standing Committee on Registration Matters**

The Standing Committee on Registration Matters implements and develops EFOMP's registration scheme of national registration schemes.

## **The Committee on European Union Affairs**

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**

The Communications and Publications Committee is responsible for disseminating information, both to EFOMP members and to a wider public. The chairman is also the webmaster of the EFOMP web site.

### **The current chairmen of the committees are:**

ETP:	Teresa Eudaldo (Barcelona, Spain), 2004-2006
Scientific:	Prof. Alan Perkins (Nottingham, UK) 2002-2004 [elected: Stelios Christofides (Nicosia, Cyprus) 2005-2007]
Registration:	Kjeld Olsen (Herlev, Denmark) 2003-2005
EU Affairs:	Prof. Jose Hernández-Armas (Tenerife, Spain) 2004-2006
Communication:	Markus Buchgeister (Tübingen, Germany) 2003-2005

# 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 (suspended, currently under revision).
- No. 2: The Roles, Responsibilities and Status of the Clinical Medical Physicist (HTML file on web site), 1984.
- No. 3: Radiation Protection of the Patient in Europe: The Training of the Medical Physicist as a Qualified Expert in Radiophysics (HTML file on web site), 1988.
- No. 4: Criteria for the Number of Physicists in a Medical Physics Department (HTML file on web site), 1991.
- No. 5: Departments of Medical Physics - Advantages, Organisation and Management (HTML file on web site), Sept. 1993 [*Physica Medica* XI, 3(1995)126-128]
- No. 6: Recommended guidelines of National Registration Schemes for Medical Physicists (HTML file on web site), Sept. 1994 [*Physica Medica* XI, 4(1995)157-159]
- No. 7: Criteria for the Staffing Levels in a Medical Physics Department (PDF file on web site), Sept. 1997 [*Physica Medica* XIII (1997) 187-194]
- No. 8: Continuing Professional Development for the Medical Physicist, (PDF file on web site), 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 (PDF file on web site), [*Physica Medica* XV (1999) 149-153]
- No.10: Recommended Guidelines on National Schemes for Continuing Professional Development of Medical Physicists (HTML file on web site), [*Physica Medica* XVII (2001) 97-101]
- No.11: Guidelines on Professional Conduct and Procedures to Be Implemented in the Event of Alleged Misconduct (PDF file on web site) [*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 and Publications Committee at [efomp@gmx.net](mailto:efomp@gmx.net).

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

<http://www.efomp.org>

