



EFOMP News

European Federation of Organisations for Medical Physics

Dear colleagues, dear friends,

With the beginning of this year my 3 years term as EFOMP president has started.

Already during my term as the vice president of EFOMP last year, I learned about the most urgent problems our federation has to deal with. They are related to Medical Physics as a science of applied physics, to teaching, and to our professional tasks and responsibilities arising from the fact that Medical Physics is first of all a service within the health care system.

- **Science**

In my opinion EFOMP has to strengthen its scientific profile by initiating and participating in projects and networks related to Medical Physics on a European level. In this context, the involvement of EFOMP in the European Science Initiative (ESI), with the goal of founding a European Research Council in order to put EC research funding on a new platform will be of utmost importance. Besides that, the communication of research results, either in publications or in conferences, is within the scope of EFOMP. As far as EFOMP conferences are concerned, we are very much looking forward to the next EFOMP conference held in conjunction with the Italian Medical Physics meeting at Pisa/Italy in September 2007.

In addition to that, I see the priority within my term in launching the European Journal of Medical Physics as an official scientific journal of EFOMP. This was already very well prepared by our past president, and the official commence of the journal will most likely be at the beginning of 2007.

- **Teaching**

The lack of scientific departments also entails teaching deficits in Medical Physics, both on a graduate and postgraduate level, and also for continuing professional development. EFOMP activities in education and training are manifold:

- The European School for Medical Physics (ESMP) in Archamps, jointly organized by the European Scientific Institute (ESI) and EFOMP, has been very successfully arranged a postgraduate education for eight years now. Besides the limited bursaries that EFOMP is able to provide, we have to look for extended funding possibilities for young postgraduate physicists.
- EFOMP has to keep on pursuing the aim of free movement of a Medical Physicist through Europe. Within this context EFOMP has been encouraging the NMOs to establish national education and training schemes and to apply for the EFOMP approval according to our guidelines and criteria. Up to now, only one third of the European countries have received the full or conditional approval, covering about 70% of the NMOs members.
- The Bologna conventions explicitly recommend the introduction of application oriented degrees. This is a unique possibility to redefine physics curricula and to appropriately include Medical Physics. I am currently observing that many universities are now establishing masters courses in Medical Physics at very different levels, and sometimes far away from already existing curricula and the minimum requirements of Medical

Physics in health care. EFOMP will set up recommendations for such study paths, especially concerning the Masters degree in Medical Physics.

- **Medical Physics in Health Care**

Most Medical Physicists in Europe work in hospitals with tasks and duties comprising all aspects of the application of physical methods and technical equipment in diagnostics and therapy. Their tasks and responsibilities are thus very similar to other health care professionals. However in many European countries Medical Physics is, from a legal point of view, still not considered to be a health care profession as such. In those countries where Medical Physics is classified as a health care profession, the required education and skills still differ considerably. In order to guarantee best practice of our profession and facilitate professional mobility within Europe, EFOMP will continue to promote Medical Physics as a regulated profession on the basis of a homogeneous education and training programme, as defined by the EFOMP guidelines.

EFOMP has been working on these problems for the last 25 years, and progress has undoubtedly been made. EFOMP policy statements have been published since 1981 dealing with the different mentioned concerns and are internationally recognized and appreciated as valuable guidelines.

I will play my part in the work and projects that my predecessors have launched successfully, keeping in mind the abovementioned high priority issues.

Wolfgang Schlegel
President of EFOMP

Medical Physics at the European Congress of Radiology 2006

EFOMP participates in the organisation of the Physics in Radiology Track of the European Congress of Radiology. This track consists of Refresher Courses, Scientific Session and the EFOMP Workshop.

This year the Physics in Radiology track consisted of:

Five Refresher Courses on:

1. Display Quality and Diagnostic Accuracy
2. Medical Image Registration: Methods, Applications and Validation
3. Safety Consideration in MR
4. Quality Control and Dose Reduction in Digital Radiology
5. Justification and Optimisation of Multi-detector CT (MDCT) Examinations

Three Scientific Sessions:

1. Computed Tomography
2. Optimisation of Digital Systems
3. MRI and Advanced Technology

The EFOMP Workshop was the 8th in the series with the Theme "New Technology in Diagnostic Radiology". It focused on the technological aspects, the medical requirements and the industry perspective of new detectors for digital imaging in Mammography, in Cardiology and in Interventional Radiology. Some 150 participants attended the EFOMP Workshop, while the participation of the Refresher Courses and Scientific Sessions was varied from 80 to 120 participants. The participants were mainly Medical Physicists with some Radiologists and some Technologists.

Stelios Christofides
Chairman of EFOMP
Scientific Committee