EFOMP News

European Federation of Organisations for Medical Physics

EFOMP Special Interest Group: Biomedical physics education for the medical / healthcare professions

The role of biomedical physicists in the education of the medical/healthcare professions is becoming more important owing to the rapid increase in the number and sophistication of the clinical and biomedical devices used. The EFOMP council has set up an SIG to develop further this aspect of the role of the biomedical physicist and ensure its relevance to modern medical/healthcare education. Its members represent medical physicists from the EU and a judicious mix of physicists of either academic and/or hospital based medical physics departments. This ensures a pan-European perspective, representation of the various categories of stakeholders from within the profession and the right balance between theory and practice. The SIG will address the following objectives:

a) carry out a comprehensive SWOT-based Europe-wide position audit for the role, including curricular challenges within higher and medical/healthcare professional education
b) propose a strategic plan for the development of the role
c) propose a curriculum development model which would be structured enough for systematic curriculum development yet generic enough to be applicable to all healthcare professions and national/local needs.

The results of the research will be published in Physica Medica/European Journal of Medical Physics to guarantee wide dissemination. The commitment of the international physics community to this topic is further evidenced by the fact that Theme 12 at the *World Congress of Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering* (WC2009, Munich) will include the new research track *Biomedical physics education of the medical/healthcare professions and the general public.* The Track chairs Stelios Christofides and Carmel J. Caruana welcome articles from both physicists and the medical/healthcare professions.

Carmel J. Caruana, Malta, and Marta Wasilewska-Radwanska, Polen

Modernising Scientific Careers in the UK

In November the Department of Health in England published a consultation document on proposals to change the way in which training and education is carried out for healthcare scientists that use science or engineering. For medical physicists this involves competitive entry for science graduates to a fully funded 3 year Scientific Training Programme including also an MSc. On completion of training, trainees will be eligible to apply to be registered as a Healthcare Scientist.
There then follows opportunity for further training either by competitive entry to a Higher Specialist Scientific Training Programme or by obtaining employment as a Senior Healthcare Scientist. Both routes will lead to entry to a Higher Specialist Register for Scientists and the opportunity to apply for consultant level scientist appointments. Details on the proposal can be found at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/ DH_091137.

This proposal represents a very significant development in the way in which scientists and technologists will be trained to work in the health service in the UK.

Peter Sharp, United Kingdom

New EFOMP Policy Statement no.12: Recomendations on Education and Training.

The first EFOMP policy statement PS1 was published in 1984 on the same subject as in PS12. The need to update PS1 was recognized and it was decided to collect new information on the status for education and training in medical physics.A questionnaire was sent to all NMOs in 2005. 25 responses out of the 35 NMOs were received. The results of the survey have been published in Eur. J. Med. Phys/ Physica Medica 2008, 24(1) 3-20.
On basis of this survey new EFOMP recommendations have been proposed and accepted by NMOs after a postal ballot. PS12 will be available on the EFOMP website and published in Eur. J. Med. Phys/Physica Medica.

Kjeld Olsen, Denmark, and Teresa Eudaldo, Spain