

AbstractID: 8300 Title: Education, training and registration schemes for Medical Physicists in Europe

The medical physicist working in a clinical setting is a member of the clinical team responsible for diagnosis and treatment of patients. The qualified medical physicist has a unique competence and carries a range of responsibilities in his/her area of practice, for example for equipment, techniques and methods used in the clinical routine, for the introduction, adaptation and optimisation of new methods, for calibration, accuracy, safety, quality assurance and quality control, and generally also for many areas of research and development. In order to acquire and maintain sufficient knowledge and an appropriate level of competence, both initial and continuing education and training are necessary. European legislation has challenged many professional organisations to propose harmonised professional standards of high quality. The European Union's Directives concerning basic safety standards and medical exposures have given a statutory requirement for physicists to be involved in the medical uses of ionising radiation; and have given impetus to the discussions of education and training requirements in medical physics. Whilst these Directives primarily deal with medical *radiation* physics, their consequences will also effectively set the standards for other branches of medical physics. They will gradually affect every European country, even though they are binding only on EU Member States. The European Federation of Organisations for Medical Physics, EFOMP, is an umbrella organisation for National Medical Physics Organisations, with one of its main objectives to harmonise and promote the best practice of Medical Physics within Europe. The federal structure allows EFOMP to represent the medical physics profession, without constraining the diversity of national opinions, which constitutes the essence of Europe. The EFOMP approach to achieve harmonisation in the qualification of the Medical Physicist is to encourage the establishment of national education and training schemes at all levels, in line with EFOMP recommendations unanimously adopted by National Member Organisations. EFOMP has established a structure for recognition of National Registration Schemes for Medical Physicists, including a regular renewal mechanism connected to CPD Schemes. The EFOMP efforts, resulting in recommendations on a structured system for education and training, CPD and registration schemes, have been recognised by the European Community.

Educational objectives:

Presentation of

1. the general situation of education and training in Europe
2. the impact of EU Directives in clinical Medical Radiation Physics
3. the role of EFOMP, the European Federation of Organisations for Medical Physics