Certification of Medical Physicist-
IOMP Perspective

KY Cheung
Vice-President, IOMP

Department of Clinical Oncology
Prince of Wales Hospital, Hong Kong

KYC-ACMP-2010
Mission

To advance medical physics practice worldwide by disseminating scientific and technical information, fostering the educational and professional development of medical physics and promoting the highest quality medical services for patients.
IOMP on Professional Issues

• To foster international cooperation on continual improvement in the status of the medical physics profession worldwide

• To provide guidance on and promote the standards of practice in medical physics and professional conduct

• ...

KYC-ACMP-2010
Professional Certification

• There is a need for certification of medical physicists on a global basis as this can ensure the standard of practice and promote professional status of the medical physics profession

• IOMP support and collaborate with national and international organizations on this important issue

• IOMP welcome the initiative taken by ACMP in exploring global certification of medical physicists

• Need to resolve a few key issues
Useful measures in promoting professional development of medical physics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Official recognition of the medical physics profession</th>
<th>100%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Official definition of medical physicists</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional certification or accreditation of medical physicists</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Survey conducted during IOMP Symposium on Education & Training of MP during 7th AOCMP in 2007

Most important factor that can help promoting professional status of medical physicists

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Formal professional training</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legislative registration</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic qualification</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional certification</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

KYC-ACMP-2010
2 PRC meetings on certification held during WC2009

General consensus amongst the participants on need for professional certification.

KYC-ACMP-2010
Key Issues

- Need a universally accepted definition of medical physicists (MPs) and their role and responsibilities
- A universally accepted basic standard on education and professional training of MPs
- Who should be certified?
- A certification or accreditation structure that is applicable to all member countries
- State recognition
- Who should run the certification board
- Quality control on certification process and standard
- Practical issues on universal implementation

KYC-ACMP-2010
IOMP Policy Statement No. 1- The Medical Physicist: Role and Responsibilities

Defines:

• Medical physics
• Sub-fields (specialties)
• Medical physicists
• Role and Responsibilities
IOMP Policy Statement No. 2- Basic Requirements for Education and Training of Medical Physicists

Defines requirements on:

- Education
- Professional competency training
- Professional certification
- CPD- for maintenance of professional competence
Who should be certified?

Medical physicists working as a health professional in clinical environment should be subject to professional certification.

There is no consensus on MPs engaged in certain areas of work, e.g. academic and R&D.
State Recognition

• MPs working as health professionals should be officially recognized and regulated as such.
• The education and training needs and professional competency of MPs as demonstrated by certification should be officially recognized by state authorities.
Who should run the certification system?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A national body</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IOMP</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFOMP</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Survey conducted during IOMP Symposium on Education & Training of MP in 7th AOCMP in 2007
Finding at two PRC meetings on certification held during WC2009

Divided views. Options raised:

• Forming an international certification body
• Regional organizations to run their own regional certification systems
• National organizations/health competent authorities to run their own national certification boards
• Forming an international accreditation body to accredit certification bodies
• …

KYC-ACMP-2010
Possible Options for IOMP

- Provide guidance for national organizations/health competent authorities to run their own national certification boards
- Support international organizations and expert groups to implement an international certification system
- Quality control - Set up an independent accreditation body for QA of national certification boards
- Set up an independent certification board (not supported by EXCOM)
- In collaboration with national and international organizations, promote state recognition
- …
IOMP Task Group on Professional Certification

Task Group lead by PRC Chair, Dr. Raymond Wu to explore the options.
Practical issues on universal implementation of professional certification:

- Impractical in sub-fields that are not yet well established and the number of MPs is small
- Difficult to implement a national system in some countries where the number of MPs and their trainers is small. An international certification system is needed?
- Resources implications in running an international board
- Standard and credibility of the certification bodies, especially national boards
Summary

• IOMP support the certification of MP on a global basis
• Requirements are specified in IOMP policy documents
• Exploring the options & role of IOMP
• Collaborate & support national and international organizations and expert groups on the issue