**Report to IAC on activities at the ICMP 2016**

* The International Conference on Medical Physics (<http://www.icmp2016.org>) was held in Bangkok on December 9-12, 2016. The conference theme was 'Medical Physics Propelling Global Health'

An extensive program was complemented this year for the first time with an “IOMP School” program consisting of 22 panels and mini-symposia in research, education and professional topics.

The three delegates to IOMP – Melissa Martin, Yakov Pipman, and Allan Wilkinson attended the ICMP in Bangkok. A significant number of AAPM members, including the AAPM delegates, delivered invited talks and participated in workshops and symposia.

The organizers, headed by Dr Anchali Krisanachinda, provided a very successful and organized conference.

The Scientific Committee, chaired by Dr Geoff Ibbott, did a vast amount of work to evaluate hundreds of submissions. The abstracts will be published in the IOMP online journal “Medical Physics International”

* **The IOMP School** is a new activity that started at ICMP 2016. It consisted of 42 educational/professional sessions and mini-Symposia. These were well attended and participation was excellent. These “schools” will be repeated and encouraged at future ICMP and IOMP events when possible.
* **International Co-Ordination Board Meeting**. Martin and Pipman attended, where representatives of all the IOMP’s Regional Organizations reported on their region’s activities and plans.
* **AFOMP** reported that current activities include policy statements, newsletter, website, journals and the Asia-Oceanic Congress on Medical Physics (AOCMP), which is held each year to coincide with the AFOMP Council meeting. Future development will focus on educational, training and professional development of medical physicists, promoting research and disseminating knowledge and expertise through the official congress or symposium. They will develop resources to share information about useful publications, libraries, and data. Another focus is to promote guidelines of practice standards and accreditation for medical physicists in collaboration with IMPCB and IAEA.
* **SEAFOMP**’s president, James Lee reported that SEAFOMP was officially accepted as a regional chapter of the IOMP at Chicago World Congress in 2000 with five member countries, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Since its formation, it has organized a series of congresses to promote scientific exchange and mutual support, ICMP 2016 being the most important and recent one.
* **EFOMP’s** president, John Damilakis, reported on strengthened relationships with other societies and cited signed MOU’s between EFOMP and EANM, ESTRO, ESMRMB, MELODI, EFRS, ESR and AAPM. They expect soon to add MEFOMP to this list. Six committees are developing medical physics throughout Europe. He also reported that the inaugural European Congress of Medical Physics (ECMP) was held in Athens, in September 2016 and was a big success. The next ECMP will be in Copenhagen in August 2018.
* **IPEM –** Stephen Keevil (Past-President) An international strategy has now been agreed and forms a key part of IPEMs activities: the President and Vice-President (International) are also attending this conference. An MOU has been agreed with AMPI and will be officially signed here at ICMP. The 2017 IPEM Conference (MPEC) will, for the first time, be combined with the Medical Engineering Initiative’s Bioengineering conference. This will be held in London and following the EFOMP Council meeting in York earlier in the week to give attendees the opportunity to attend both events.
* **AAPM** – Melissa Martin (President-Elect) reported that AAPM currently has just under 9000 members, around 1200 of which are international. She mentioned the three large meetings annually; the main annual meeting and exhibition is held in July/August, the Spring Clinical meeting and the collaboration with the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) in November. Melissa and Yakov mentioned that there is a wealth of educational and reference material. TG reports are online and are available to members and non-members as well. The AAPM’s Virtual Library is mostly free for use by colleagues from LMIC. AAPM produce two journals – the subscription based ‘MedicalPhysics’ and the open-access ‘Journal of Applied Clinical Medical Physics’. Dr Chougule, inquired about making the publications available free of charge to India. Melissa stated that this will need to be formally requested and cannot be guaranteed.
* **MEFOMP –** Dr Hanan Aldousari reported that 12 countries in the Middle East and Gulf area make up MEFOMP. They have two meetings a year to discuss the status of medical physics in the region. There are five Committees: Science, Publications, Professional Relations, Education & Training and Awards & Honors. They have two workshops coming up in 2017: ‘Medical Physics’ in Dubai in January and ‘Radiation Safety Culture in Health Care’, in Qatar in February. They are aiming to increase awareness of MP in the region as there are countries that do not have many medical physicists.
* **FAMPO -** Chris Trauernicht reported that there are only around 450 medical physicists in all of Africa and FAMPO does have a number of issues with regards to administration and banking.

AFROSAFE, a campaign organized by PACORI and radiation workers in Africa whose goal is to identify and address issues arising from radiation protection in medicine in Africa, was launched in 2015. FAMPO is among the stakeholders and held a session at the World Congress in Toronto to discuss building medical physics capacity in developing countries.

FAMPO endorsed the AAPM/IOMP ISEP Symposium held in Rabat in March 2016. A second ISEP course is planned for 2017 in South Africa.

The Medical Physics component of the 2016 AFROBIOMEDIC Conference that was endorsed by IOMP, FAMPO and co-sponsored by AAPM, was unfortunately cancelled due to lack of funding from a number of pledged entities.

A number of celebrations took place to mark IDMP in African centers.

Dr Tabakov noted that IOMP can help out by providing lecturers to go to a training centre in Africa, which the IAEA is proposing to develop, and asked about the election of a new President which is currently happening at the AGM in Tunisia.

* **ALFIM** – Simone Kodlulovich Renha (recent past President) mentioned that 12 national associations make up ALFIM and member numbers are still very low, but they are increasing.

ALFIM produces a Scientific Journal, newsletter and holds events. The most recent was the triennial Latin American Congress of Medical Physics in Cordoba, Argentina. IOMP supported the congress (AAPM was a co-sponsor).

She mentioned that Central America is an area that has not developed much in medical physics. The ICTP is supportive of developing in Mexico a Masters Program for the region, perhaps similar to the one in Trieste. In that regard there are plans to hold a conference in South Mexico with a focus on education & training to help develop that program. Brazil and Argentina in particular are asked to support this idea and to encourage attendance. Pipman added that this is a joint initiative between the government of Mexico and UNESCO, under which the ICTP operates. Dr Tsapaki suggested holding an IOMP School at the Conference.

* **IDMP -** Dr Tabakov noted that 2017 is particularly special because it will be 150 years since the birth of Marie Curie. The theme chosen is “Medical Physics: Providing a holistic approach to female patients and female staff safety in Radiation Medicine”. It was emphasized that IDMP should be seen as an opportunity to reach out beyond the MP community to raise awareness among the public. Ideas for future themes and events are encouraged.

Among further efforts to promote IDMP are:

* Get Google to create a ‘Doodle’ for IDMP
* Ask UNESCO to list IDMP as one of their international days.
* **IOMP awards.** Individuals and organizations are encouraged to submit names for the IOMP awards
* **Future ICMP and WC**. Societies are encouraged to consider the possibility of hosting a future event. Bids will soon be opened for the next ICMP (possibly 2019) and for the 2024 World Congress.
* **AAPM and IOMP joint programs.** Pipman reported that work has gone into the two joint international projects between AAPM and IOMP – the Library program and the Equipment Donation program, to update them to the current needs in LMICs. The AAPM’s ISEP SC will be chaired by Pipman starting in 2017 and it will seek tighter coordination with IOMP and the regional organizers. Wilkinson had discussions with the new IPEM president regarding donations of books to the library program.
* **IOMP incorporation.** IOMP is now considering taking steps toward incorporation, at the moment it is not known what this will ultimately look like, but everyone will be kept informed of developments.
* **Delegation votes.** The Secretary-General, Dr Tsapaki, appreciates delegates for voting for the new NMO’s but asked for everyone to encourage other delegates to vote as numbers are still low.
* **International Medical Physics Certification Board (IMPCB) (**[**http://www.impcbdb.org/**](http://www.impcbdb.org/)**).** The IOMP, is the Principal Supporting Organization of the IMPCB, with three Board members. Both organizations are pursuing activities in accordance with the 2015 MoU, according to which:

*“The activities of the IMPCB are related to the standardization and accreditation of certification programs for medical physicists, whilst the accreditation of education and training programs is the responsibility of the IOMP”.* IMPCB’s requirements for certification and accreditation of certification programs are in accordance with the requirements in IOMP guidelines.

Currently there are 15 supporting organizations. These are national and regional Medical Physics Organizations. The Nigerian Association of Medical Physicists is the most recent to join.