**Report of The AAPM Delegates to IOMP WORLD CONGRESS**

**September 9, 2009**

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Monday: Commencement of the education committee meeting at 9:30 am. Discussion about the medical physics world bulletin (MPW) no longer being produced in hard copy starting January 2010. Recommendation by the publication committee to the council to produce only digital version of MPW on a quarterly, three times a year, or biannual basis. Emphasis on the content for this digital bulletin not to report committee activities or IOMP news items but to be concentrate on education of medical physicists worldwide by reproducing review articles or providing educational resources for the readers. News and other IOMP related matter are referred to the web page where they can be updated daily.

Wednesday: The council meeting went into session at 2:45 p.m. by the order of President Allen and minutes of the last meeting were unanimously approved. The president reported that now with 80 adhering national organizations and over 16500 members worldwide, the IOMP is very relevant.

As a major objective to enhance the education of medical physicists around the world, the IOMP has started construction of a new website which is designed to become a resource for education. To this end, IOMP has supported the development of the EMITEL project (European Medical Imaging Technology e-Encyclopedia for Lifelong Learning). IOMP will allow fast access to the online medical physics encyclopedia, which will soon be freely available.

In his report to the council, the president noted that the makeover of MPW is in part due to the renewed commitment of IOMP to education. No longer in pages of MPW reports of committees are reflected and those are replaced by articles and resources aimed to provide educational resources for medical physicists. William Hendee announced at the council meeting the recommendation of the publication committee that the MPW be distributed only electronically starting in 2010. Ishmael Parsai who has served as the editor of MPW for the past 9 years has agreed to stay on and see the transition of MPW to digital from paper copy. He along with other committee chairs of IOMP was acknowledged by the incoming president Nuesslin at the IOMP council meeting by being awarded a plaque appreciating their contributions.

The whole world is now officially broken into seven federations encompassing countries with close borders. EFOMP has long been a regional organization to serve the requirements of medical physicists in Europe, SEAFOMP in SE Asia, AFOMP in the Asia-Pacific region and ALFIM in Latin America. Under guidance and support of IOMP, new societies are forming in the middle-east (MEFOMP) and Africa (FAMPO) and of course the AAPM which is viewed as both national and a regional society.

A very important issue presented to the council related to development of a bill of rights for biomedical scientists and engineers. With the potential for discrimination of scientists in the modern era, IOMP decided in 2008, to codify its position by developing a Bill of Rights, which has now been accepted by IOMP, IFMBE and IUPESM. In addition to this, a motion was moved by Barry Allen that IUPESM recognizes the right of scientists worldwide to attend scientific conferences and the exchange of scientific information be free of political status of countries. This motion was also passed unanimously.

The IOMP has also taken a stand on the issue of plagiarism in 2008, and many journals have already published the IOMP’s position as editorials. In the IOMP council on this day, work of Bill Hendee in write-up of the first draft for both, the Bill of Right for scientists, and the Plagiarism document was recognized.

Related to decision making process within the IOMP a new change proposed by the ExComm has now been implemented. That is the ExComm now proposes to assign voting rights to the chairs of the Science, Education and Training, and Professional Relations committees, subject to Council approval.

A new History subcommittee has been established to develop a collective memory of IOMP activities over the years.

Other items discussed include:

Status of recognition of the Medical Physics profession by the International Labor Organization (ILO) has not been changed. The medical physics profession is still listed in the ISCO-08 (International Classification of Occupations) under Unit Group 2111 along with other physicists and astronomers. The only change is that they have placed a paragraph defining medical physics profession under medical physics job category.

On the issue of finances, it was reported that IOMP’s cash holdings have grown over the period of last three years from $291,574 to $330,472, this increase having arisen principally from a contribution from the 2006 World Congress and small operational surpluses in each year. Overall the cumulative surplus has grown by $38,898 in the three years under report.

The council voted Brazil to be the site of the ICMP 2012 meeting. The other contender was Ireland. The vote was a tie and the chairman has to vote to break the tie. Dr. Nusslin the new president voted for Brazil.

The next IOMP World Congress (WC) meeting in 2012 is to be held in China. Seven countries had also submitted applications for the WC 2015. Ballots were handed out to the council members to vote for the applicant countries from 1 to 7 in order of priority. The result of that vote was that CANADA will be the site of WC2015.

In addition to the Bill of Rights discussed above, past president Barry Allen brought forth to the Council’s attention the fact that many scientists particularly from the Middle Eastern region were denied visa to attend this world congress. He proposed that a resolution be agreed upon and submitted to ILO through the IUPESM so that the member countries will recognize and respect the rights of scientific communities in permitting free exchange of information and participation in international conferences. The resolution that was passed with unanimous vote read as follows: “The IOMP recommends that the IUPESM takes appropriate action to secure free exchange of scientists at international conferences according to the IUPESM bill of rights”.

Respectfully submitted,

Ishmael Parsai