



Dear colleagues,

Healthcare today is unimaginable without Medical Physics - many healthcare technologies and methods as Computed Tomography, Ultrasound Scanners, Gamma Cameras, Magnetic Resonance, Radiotherapy Linear Accelerators, Lasers, and many more, are invented and introduced by medical physicists, who also train the medical staff for their use.

The International Organisation for Medical Physics (IOMP) unites all colleagues in the medical physics societies from 82 countries, and has now reached 20,000 members.

Since its foundation in 1963, IOMP has been instrumental in the global growth of the medical physics community and expanding of its contribution to healthcare through various research, clinical, educational and other professional activities. Medical Physicists developed thousands of new methods and equipment, introduced in clinical practice their safe and effective use, trained and educated tens of thousands of colleagues, pioneered unique e-learning, took part in many collaborative projects and made our profession one of the pillars of contemporary medicine. It is vital that we keep engaging the general public and media, making them aware of the extremely dynamic and significant role of our profession in Healthcare.

In order to continue the increasing visibility of our profession and the community spirit among colleagues, the IOMP introduced an International Day of Medical Physics (IDMP), to be celebrated each year on 7 November. The date is significant as it is the birthday of the great Polish-French scientist Maria Sklodowska Curie, whose pioneering work on radiation physics is fundamental for our profession.

The International Day of Medical Physics is an annual event and each year it has

a different theme – the previous two celebrations focussed on Radiation Safety and Medical Imaging. Colleagues from over 40 countries have organised many scientific, professional and social events, such as scientific sessions, joint symposia with radiologists and other colleagues, professional evenings, etc. I would like to heartily thank all colleagues who organised and took part in these celebrations, as this is very important for the visibility of our profession.

The theme for the 3rd IDMP on 7 November 2015 is 'Better Medical Physics = Better Cancer Care in Radiation Oncology'. More than half of medical physicists work in Radiotherapy and their contribution is crucial for Radiation Oncology.

This highly skilled and trained healthcare workforce deals with some of the most complex equipment of our time and we want to focus the global attention to this extremely important contribution of medical physicists to healthcare.

I am sure that many societies plan activities related to IDMP and in order to help with the coordination of these events IOMP has formed a Task Group, headed by Prof Damilakis, Chair of IOMP Education and Training Committee.

Together with the activities inside our large IOMP community we shall work closely with our other international partners as the International Atomic Energy Agency, the World Health Organization, the International Union of Physics and Engineering Sciences in Medicine, the UNESCO International Centre for Theoretical Physics, the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics, the International Society of Radiology and all other fellow Institutions.

I would like to encourage all colleagues to take part in the celebration on 7 November and to engage the local media. I am looking forward to our collaboration for creating an exciting and inspiring IDMP!

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President IOMP