

AFOMP Newsletter

Asia-Oceania Federation of Organizations for Medical Physics

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http://www.afomp.org

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Vol.2 No.1 / June 2008

AFOMP President's Message



Kiyonari Inamura, Ph.D President, AFOMP

Te have experienced many events since our News Letter Vol. 1 was published. One of them was attendance of key members of AFOMP to 25th Annual Meeting of ACMP (American College of Medical Physics) held in Seattle on May 3-6, 2008. They presented five papers and discussed key issues at the Symposium titled "International Medical Physicists Symposium: Certification of **Experienced Clinical Medical Physicists** - an International Cooperative Effort". Our AFOMP Secretary General: Professor Tae-Suk Suh served as the moderator. That was our first activity by which AFOMP could make appearance in an international theater. We collected the latest information on maintenance of certification and work value of medical

physicist in USA that would be reflected to our future activities of AFOMP.

Another example was 5th Korea-Japan Joint Meeting on Medical Physics held in Jeju, Korea, on September 10-12, 2008. Even though it was rather local meeting, AFOMP President explained role of AFOMP at the Symposium on Education and Training of Medical Physics. Also we discussed possibility of integration of domestic meetings such as K-J meeting into future AFOMP meetings.

One of official journals of AFOMP, BIIJ (Biomedical Imaging and Intervention Journal) published a paper on the survey result of present situation of medical physics in AFOMP area. 1 That is most valuable report after three reports of the like in the past we carried out. Outline of the report is: (1) High workload of physicists with more than 500 patients per year per physicist. (2) Less than one ROMP (radiation oncology medical physicists) per two oncologists in average (3) One megavoltage treatment unit per medical physicist (4) A structured clinical training program is necessary. (5) The number of patients per physicist varies more significantly (250 to 800). (6) AFOMP has an important role to play by defining professional responsibilities and educational standard and by bringing physicists together and organizing conferences and workshops.

On the other hand, new horizon was explored at international conferences such as CARS 2008 (22nd International Congress and Exhibition of Computer Assisted Radiology and Surgery) held in Barcelona, Spain, on June 25-28, 2008. Scientists from AFOMP countries such as Japan and Korea presented papers on the subjects of possible future contributions of medical physicists. In addition to the basic research and developments on radiation therapy and diagnostic imaging, translational research on medical image application into cancer therapy and surgery such as computer assisted image guided therapy, interventional radiology and surgical robotics was presented and discussed.

I am pleased to report on the progress of our AFOMP activities based on financial support from Corporate Members and grants from IOMP. The first education and training courses/workshops on topics on image quality assurance are being held in Ho Chin Minh city on October 29th 2008, the day before 8th AOCMP opens. This is the first training course under the name of AFOMP.

Also we have been making another effort of education and training since AFOMP

(Continued on next page)

▼ At the ACMP Sympositum "International Medical Physicists Symposium"



Table of Contents
President's Message

HTTTG Palliative Therapy Workshop



Barry Allen, Ph.D, D.Sc President, IOMP

The Health Technology and Training Task Group (HTTTG, www.iupesm.org) is holding a palliative therapy workshop (PTWS) as part of AOCMP08 (www.choray.org.vn/8AOCMP/) in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

In developing countries, more than 80% of patients present with advanced cancer, which cannot be cured in the West, but require palliative therapy to maintain quality of life and relive pain. Of course, this result does not include cancer patients who do not present at all, as access to therapy is too far away to be considered as an option. Yet, many developing countries are keen to install the latest radiotherapy equipment in city hospitals, although such facilities clearly do not serve the interests of the vast majority of potential patients.

The task of the PTWS is to examine the most appropriate methods and training for palliative cancer therapy centre in rural communities. Following my reviews of rural health technology in the Mekong Delta, Vietnam, several provinces in the Philippines and in Vanuatu, it was abundantly clear that the rural populations of these countries would continue to be denied palliation for cancer and other diseases unless a change of philosophy was introduced. The PTWS will provide the sociological, medical physics and clinical basis to introduce this change, by bringing together all aspects of the task to define the appropriate technology and training required for the rural regions of developing countries.

Without pre-empting the outcome of the workshop, the following key questions will be placed on the table, viz:

• How different are the dose depth distributions for Co60, 4 and 6 MV linacs for palliative therapy

Relative to linacs, the following statistics need to be reviewed¹:

- Capital costs ~4 times lower for Co 60
- Running costs are ~10 times lower
- Down time ~8 times lower
- *Maintenance and QA* ~7 *times lower*
- Cost per dose fraction 2-3 times lower
- Power costs ~ 10 times lower

These factors may not represent the situation in the Western city hospitals or in rural locations in developing countries, but are based on median values. Power costs are not an important consideration in the West, but this may not be the case

in the Provincial hospitals serving rural communities.

Down time from equipment failure may be much worse than stated above, depending on available funds for repairs and availability of replacements and engineers.

Another question relates to the role of radionuclide therapy in palliation and the appropriate choice of radioisotopes emitting low or high energy beta or alpha radiation².

The availability of trained radiation oncologists, medical physicists, radiologists and engineers will be quite poor in rural centres, such that a balance between expertise, on site skills and training and telemedicine must be achieved. What is the role of telemedicine and can it span the knowledge gap between the city specialist and rural radiotherapist.

The workshop will be charged with determining the appropriate staffing levels for operation of a palliative radiotherapy centre in regional centres of rural communities in developing countries.

I look forward to a successful workshop that might set the pattern for future planning of radiotherapy in developing countries.

References

- 1. Van der Giessen PH et al, radiotherapy and Oncology 2004: 7; 347-355
- 2.IAEA-TECDOC-1549

AFOMP President's Message

(Continued from previous page)

Subcommittee titled "Subcommittee for the support of an RCA project on Strengthening Medical Physics" was organized in 2002, and AFOMP and IAEA agreed on the cooperation/joint work. Items of cooperation are: (1) To review, examine and endorse Tec Doc (technical documents) published by IAEA, (2) To share complementary roles for the IAEA and AFOMP each other, (3) Key roles for IAEA are: (i) Targeting global leveled training tools based on structured program. (ii) To train the trainers. (iii) To develop tools and portfolios for completion of core competencies. (4) Key roles for AFOMP are: (i) To concentrate at the local level with special emphasis on provincial sites, (ii) To train the trainees using equipment that they have, (iii) To increase the number of trainees and (iv) To work from the bottom up.

Implementation guide and application form of RCA Training Program were sent to member countries. Organization of National Responsible Organization was recommended. The deadline is set on the end of 2008.

Needless to say, the biggest event for us is annual academic assembly: Asia-Oceania Congress of Medical Physics. The eighth AOCMP is being held in Cho Ray Hospital in Ho Chin Minh City on October 30-31, 2008 under the Presidency of Prof. Truong Van Viet, Dr. med., Director of Cho Ray Hospital and Vice Chancellor of Ho Chi Minh Uni-

versity of Medicine. Pre-congress training course on October 29th and post-congress workshop are being held, so that four days program is organized. I would like to express sincere gratitude to Domestic Organizing Committee Member who has made every effort to hold successful meeting. In addition, I am very pleased to congratulate on foundation of Vietnam Association for Medical Physics (VAMP). The first meeting of VAMP is being held on October 29th, 2008.

<u>References</u>

1. T Kron, KY Cheung, J Dai, et al. Medical physics aspects of cancer care in the Asia Pacific region Biomed Imaging Interv J 2008; 4(3):e33

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Announcement of 5th Korea Japan Joint Meeting on Medical Physics

Tae Suk Suh, Ph.D. Organizing Committee Chair Youngyih Han, Ph.D Scientific Committee Chair Soo Il Kwon, President, The 5th Korea-Japan Joint Meeting on Medical Physics

he 5th Korea-Japan Joint Meeting on Medical Physics (The 5th KJMMP) will be held during 10-12 September, 2008 in Jeju Hanwha Resort in Jeju, Korea. It will be held in conjunction with the 37th Meeting of Korean Society of Medical Physics (KSMP) and the 96th Meeting of Japan Society of Medical Physics (JSMP). This Joint Meeting has been already held 4 times (two in Korea, two in Japan). The past four Joint Meetings were quite successful and have made an important role to promote research activities in medical physics, while offering a great opportunity of cultural exchange between two societies.

The theme of 5th KJMP is "New Horizon of Medical Physics". Professor William Hendee from the University of Wiscon-

▼ Waves crashing on Jeju seashore





▲ Congress venue - Hanwha resort

sin, USA will give a plenary speech on "Entrepreneurship in Medical Physics". Another plenary speaker Dr. Tatsuaki Kanai from NIRS, Japan will also give a presentation on "Progress in Carbon Radiotherapy". There are three symposiums: "Advanced Technology in Radiation Therapy", "The State of Art Molecular Imaging Technology", and "Education and Training of Medical Physics". The young investigator's awards will be provided to young scientists from Korea and Japan through the competition in "Young Investigator's Presentation Session".

5th KJMP will provide a great opportunity for the attendees to update themselves on the current trends in various

fields of medical physics by exchanging scientific and technological information as well as strengthening friendship between Korean and Japanese medical physicists. In addition to the academic aspects of the Congress, Jeju offers unique experiences for all the members with its rich heritages and tradition lifestyle.

▼ Invited speakers Dr. William Hendee and Dr. Daniel Low at 50th AAPM



▼ Crater lake on Halla Mountain



Medical physics aspects of cancer care in the Asia Pacific region

Kwan-Hoong Ng, Ph.D PDC Chair, AFOMP

An Ad-hoc working group on Medical Physics in the Asia Pacific Region led by Professors Tomas Kron and KY Cheung has laboured for a year to respond to a request by the Biomedical Imaging and Intervention Journal (www.biij.org) editor Professor Kwan-Hoong Ng to coordinate and prepare an article that addresses the current status of radiation oncology medical physicists (ROMPs) in the region.

If you want to find out:

- 1. What roles do ROMPs play in radiotherapy?
- 2. On the average how many hours a week do ROMPs spend in treatment planning?

- 3. What is the work load like in different countries?
- 4. What is the ratio of ROMPs to on-cologists?

And many other issues...

Then read this latest paper by:

Kron T, Cheung KY, Dai J, Ravindran P, Soejoko D, Inamura K, Song JY, Bold L, Srivastava R, Rodriguez L, Wong TJ, Kumara A, Lee CC, Krisanachinda A, Nguyen XC, Ng KH, Biomed Imaging Interv J 2008; 4(3):e33

<URL: http://www.biij.org/2008/3/e33/>

AFOMP Quiz #3

What is the name of the artifact seen in this CT image? Identify its cause. (The answer is found on page 5)



(Courtesy of Dr. Napapong Pongnapang)



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Announcement of 8th AOCMP & 6th SEACOMP in Vietnam

Nguyen Truong Son, MD, Ph.D Organizing Committee Chairperson

Hoang Hoa Hai, MD Organizing Committee Secretariat

We are greatly honored to welcome you in Ho Chi Minh city to attend 8th Asia Oceania Congress Of Medical Physics and the 6th South-East Asian Congress of Medical Physics.

In order to share the experiences an mutual understanding in Asia countries, we would like to invite some international experts and great speakers to contribute enormously to the important event in our region.

This congress will give a new measure in Medical physics and your experience and knowledge will be stimulating the development and cooperation in our region. The theme of the Congress is:

"Nurturing Collaborations in Medical Physics"

Over 100 participants from regions and 50 local participants already registered for the Congress. Many Keynote speakers such as:

Barry J Allen Ho-Ling Anthony Liu Kwan Hoong Na N. Suntharalingam

Kiyonari Inamura Kin-vin CHEUNG Tastuki Kanai A. Krisanachinda

Looking forward to seeing you in Ho Chi Minh city.

The congress will cover various topics of medical physics, including:

- · Education /training in medical physics
- PET & cyclotron
- · Digital imaging
- Functional imaging
- Magnetic resonance imaging
- Medical informatics
 Modeling and simulations
- · Molecular imaging
- · Nuclear medicine
- Radiobiology
- · Signal processing
- · Interventional radiology
- PACS

- Quality assurance
- · Diagnostic radiology
- Biophysics
- Image processing
- · Medical electron-

- · Non-ionizing radiation
- · Radiation dosimetry
- · Radiation protection · Radiation therapy
 - · Regulations and organizations
 - Ultrasound
 - Image guided therapy Heavy particle therapy
- Telemedicine & teleradiology



The Cho Ray Hospital



Announcement of ICMPRPR-2k9 in India

Dr.D.P.Agarwal Organizing Chairman

Dr. Arun Chougule Organizing Secretary

International Conference on Medical Physics, Radiation Protection and Radiobiology (ICMPRPR 2k9) is being organized in conjunction with 14th North Zone Chapter of association of Medical Physicists of India (AMPI) at Sawai Man Singh (SMS) Medical College & Hospital, Jaipur during 11 - 13, February, 2009. Jaipur, pink city of India, is one of the planned heritage cities of India with great tourist attractions. Delhi (capital of





India), Agra (Taj Mahal) and Jaipur form a GOLDEN TRIANGLE and are the most sought tourist attractions. Weather during February is very pleasant (15-20)Celsius).

Already over 35 overseas faculty have agreed to deliver invited talks during the conference. We have planned oration, invited talks, panel discussion, oral papers, posters during various scientific sessions in addition to trade exhibition. We are expecting over 400 delegates for this mega event in a six decade old states premier medical institute.

In addition to scientific Programme, we will offer cultural feast, sight seeing,

Rajasthani hospitality, culture and food.

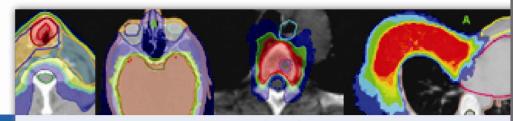
This will be great opportunity to meet old friends, make new contacts, and explore one of the beautiful city and the state of Rajasthan in addition to day long scientific / educational programme.

I, on behalf of my institute and the Organising committee invite you to ICMPRPR 2k9 at Jaipur during 11 – 13 February, 2009.

The conference information is available on www.ampi-nc.org









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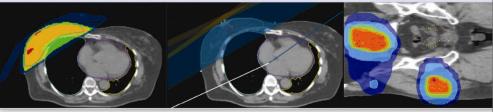
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AFOMP NEWS

Call for Expressions of Interest in hosting the 9th,10th AOCMP

The AFOMP executive committee is seeking expressions of interest (EOI) in hosting the 9th, 10th Asia-Oceania Congress on Medical Physics in 2009 and 2010.

The expressions of interest must contain the following details and follow the same order/structure in order to be considered.

- 1. Congress highlights
- 2. Proposing party description
- 3. Congress venue
- 4. Accommodation facilities
- 5. Social events
- 6. Transportation
- 7. Local organizing committee
- 8. Budget plan
- 9. Others

The expressions of interest should be sent to Dr. Tae-Suk Suh, Sectary General at suhsanta@catholic.ac.kr before the October 20, 2008.

The detailed qualification criteria and template is also available via AFOMP website www.afomp.org.

AFOMP Travel Award

Goals of the Awards

- 1. To assist young medical physicists from developing countries in AFOMP region to participate in medical physics scientific, educational and professional activities at the international level and make them more effective to advance medical physics in their own country.
- 2. To foster international co-operation in the field of medical physics between AFOMP member countries.

The Awards

- 1. US\$z250 for medical physicists from Vietnam outside HCM City and those from Cambodia and Laos
- 2. US\$ 500 for speakers from outside Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos

Mandatory Requirements

A medical physicist from an AFOMP member country practicing in hospital/ clinic at the age of 45 or under.

A physicist has his/her paper accepted by 8th AOCMP (this condition does not apply to applicants from Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar).

Each awardee must submit a short report by November 15 2008 to the AFOMP Secretary-General and their Medical Physics Association/Society on what was learnt at the Congress and how they intend applying this in their own country.

Application and Procedure

- 1. Submission through national medical physics organization. All applications must be made through the country's Medical Physics Association/Society.
- 2. Duly completed application forms must be sent by email to:

Dr. Kin Yin Cheung, Chairman of 8th AOCMP Awards Committee, kycheung@ha.org.hk by 15 October 2008.

For the details, please find the article on AFOMP website or 8th AOCMP website.

ICSU Grants Program

Introduction

The ICSU Grants Programme supports collaborative scientific initiatives of relevance to science and society. It is a competitive, peer-reviewed programme for ICSU Scientific Unions, Interdisciplinary Bodies, and Joint Initiatives in collaboration with other ICSU bodies including Regional Offices.

Review Criteria and Selection Process

Proposals will be reviewed in terms of scientific merit, relevance to the ICSU Strategic Plan and the priorities of the ICSU Regional Offices, innovative nature, interdisciplinary and international focus, visible and measurable outputs, and potential for developing follow-on activities.

Each proposal will be reviewed independently by at least three members of ICSU's Committee on Scientific Planning and Review and, if necessary, external reviewers. The final ranking of proposals is a consensus decision by the whole Committee. Results will be announced in February 2009 and funds will be made available immediately thereafter.

Lead and Supporting Applicants

Each application must have one Lead Applicant, who will assume the principal responsibility for the project, and at least one, or preferably several, Supporting Applicants. The roles of Supporting Applicants and any other partners in preparing and carrying out the work must be made clear in the application.

Submission of Applications

All applications must be submitted via email to maureen@icsu.org no later than 1 December 2008. Only the electronic application format is acceptable and applications received in other formats will not be considered.

Reports

Grant recipients must submit a final project report as well as an itemized financial statement showing the utilization of funds in conformity with work plans by 1 June 2010.

For the details, please find the article on AFOMP website.

New Corporate Members

We have invited new four companies as a corporate membership.





unfors Unfors, is a well-known manufac-

turer of measuring instruments for OA and service of diagnostic X-ray equipment. Unfors offers a new line of radiation protection meters.



Best Theratronics Ltd. is a Canadian compo-Theratronics nent of TeamBest. Formerly part of MDS Nordion. They manufacture external beam therapy units and self-contained blood irradiators.



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the area of advanced medical equipment design.

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Answer to AFOMP Quiz #3

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Calendar of Events

10-12 September 2008

5th Korea Japan Joint Meeting on Medical Physics (KJMP) will be held in Jeju, Korea on September 10~12, 2008.

KJMP is held every three year and is hosted by Korea and Japan in turn.

Meeting program can be found in official website http://www.ksmp.or.kr

21-25 September 2008

ASTRO (American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology) 50th Annual Meeting: Boston, MA USA

http://www.astro.org/Meetings/ AnnualMeetings/index.asp

18 - 25 October 2008

2008 IEEE Nuclear Science Symposium and Medical Imaging Conference (2008 NSS/MIC): Dresden, Germany

Its scope covers Detectors, software, signal processing and systems for ionizing radiation. Medical imaging detector and system development for PET, SPECT and other imaging based on nuclear techniques.

20 - 24 October 2008

The IAEA is organizing jointly with the ICTP in Trieste-Italy a one week course on "advanced radiotherapy techniques with emphasis on imaging and treatment planning".

The course will be held during 20-24 October 2008. The information on the course and application procedures can be found in the ICTP website:

http://cdsagenda5.ictp.it/full_display.php?ida=a07173 or

http://agenda.ictp.it/smr.php?1964

The application deadline is 15 June 2008.

29 Oct - 1 Nov 2008

The 8th AOCMP and 6th SEACOMP will be held in Ho Chi Minh city, Vietnam with the theme of "Nurturing Collaborations in Medical Physics".

The final dates of 8th AOCMP are:

- Training course: October 28th to 29th, 2008
- AOCMP & SEACOMP: October 30th to 31st, 2008
- Palliative Radiotherapy Workshop for Developing Countries by Convener Prof. Barry J Allen: November 1st, 2008
- IAEA Training course: November 3rd to 7th, 2008

The deadline for submission of abstract is September 30, 2008 and the official website is:

http://www.choray.org.vn/8AOCMP/

30 Nov - 5 Dec 2008

RSNA (Radiological Society of North America) Annual Meeting: Chicago, USA

http://www.rsna.org

11 - 13 February 2009

International Conference on Medical Physics, Radiation Protection & Radiobiology (ICMPRPR-2K9) will be held in SMS Medical College & Hospital, Jaipur, India in 11~13, February 2009.

The first announcement can be found on AFOMP website (www.afomp.org). If you need further information, please contact Dr. Arun Chougule:

Email: arunchougle@rediffmail.com arunchougule1@dataone.in arunchougule11@gmail.com

7 - 11 June 2009

ISRS 2009, 9th Biennial Congress and Exhibition of the International Stereotactic Radiosurgery Society, will be held in Seoul, Korea in 7~11, June 2009.

- Venue: Sheraton Grande Walkerhill
- Contact: isrs2009@iceo.be
- Local Organizing Committee Dong Gyu Kim, M.D. (Chair) Il Han Kim, M.D. (Co-Chair) Tae Suk Suh, Ph.D. (Co-Chair)
- ISRS President Roberto Spiegelmann, M.D.

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Advertising requests should be addressed to: Dr. Barry Allen

Event information should be addressed to: Dr. Tae-Suk Suh

AFOMP webmaster: Mr. Jeong-Hoon Park (jhoon@catholic.ac.kr) and Mr. Seungjong Oh (bhead@catholic.ac.kr)

AFOMP newsletter contact: Mr. Jeong-Hoon Park (jhoon@catholic.ac.kr)

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- Humboldt University, Campus Charite Mitte, Germany
- INCOR Heart Institute of the School of Medicine Hospital, Sao Paulo University, Brazil
- Iwate Medical University, Japan
- Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, USA
- Leiden University Medical Center, The Netherlands
- Mount Elizabeth Hospital, Singapore
- Toronto General Hospital, University Health Network and Mount Sinai Hospital, Canada

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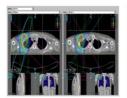


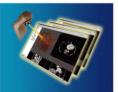
EXTERNAL BEAM THERAPY FOR CLINICIANS BY CLINICIANS

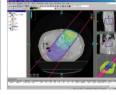




- Windows-based treatment planning system
- Highly efficient planning with advanced contouring tools
- Conforming DICOM3 and DICOM-RT standards
- Photon dose calculation with CCC and Clarkson Algorithm
- Electron dose calculation with Hogstrom Algorithm
- Thorough after sales service and technical support







CorePLAN Functions

- Efficient image acquisition through PACS
- 3D rendering of plans including beams, VOIs, etc.
- Intuitive MLC, block, wedge edit user interface
- High performance and high speed dose calculation
- Advanced plan evaluation with NTCP and DVH
- Flexible plan management with multi-plan function

* Academic version is available.



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