

AFOMP Newsletter

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Asia-Oceania Federation of Organizations for Medical Physics

Australia • Bangladesh • Hong Kong • India • Indonesia • Iran • Japan • Korea • Malaysia • Mongolia • Nepal • New Zealand • Pakistan • Singapore • Sri Lanka • Taiwan • Thailand • Vietnam*

The First Issue / December 2007



Kiyonari Inamura, Ph.D President, AFOMP

he purpose of the Asia Oceania Federation of Organizations for Medical Physics (AFOMP) is described in our Constitution, but may be expressed in other brief words as to exchange ideas and to develop and heighten standards in the professional practice of medical physics in the region. Attention has been mainly paid so far to education/training of medical physics in the member countries. The status of education/training has been surveyed twice, and problems have been discussed many times in the Asia Oceania Conferences of Medical Physics (AOCMP). The more intensively we study and discuss the situation in our region, the more problems we find to be solved. The result of our activities has not been so fruitful yet, despite of our continuous efforts.

Our activities such as carrying out training courses of medical physics and cultivating organizations of medical physics in developing countries depend on our budgetary resource. We have to improve this reality of our own by securing the financial basis for AFOMP activities. The financial resource has to be collected and to be spent to hold training courses of Medical Physics, and also to get developing countries to enter into AFOMP as our colleagues in the region.

So, we have to confess that everything is still on the way to be completed. But

AFOMP President's Message

problems are being discussed with enthusiasm by every member of AFOMP executive committee. Most members including myself have paid attention and made effort to solve these financial difficulties. by enrolling companies as Corporate Members. What is the clear difference of contribution to medical practice by medical physicists compared with that by medical doctors and/or radiological technologists? We have to make it clear and present it to enterprises.

Meantime, the 7th AOCMP was held by our colleague Professor Yi Min Hu in Huangshan from 23rd to 27th, August, 2007 in conjunction with Annual Meeting of Chinese Society of Medical Physics. Three of AFOMP Executive Council Member (EXCOM) Professor Barry J Allen, Professor Anchali Krisanachinda and myself visited Vietnam. Possibility of their foundation of medical physics society in Vietnam has now matured. And 8th AOCMP will be held by our new colleague Professor Truong van Viet, Director of Choray Hospital in Ho Chin Minh City, Viet Nam from 30th to 31st, October, 2008 in conjunction with 6th SEACOMP. IOMP President and Immediate Past President of AFOMP, Professor Barry J Allen contributed to the settlement.

On the other hand, one of our colleagues, Past President Dr. KY Cheung visited Mongolia and contributed to have Mongolia as a member of IOMP and AFOMP.

By the way, the definition of the qualified medical physicist has been developed by our Professional Development Committee under Chairman Professor Kwan Hoong Ng. We recognize that this problem is not simply the wording of sentences of definition, but directly influencing the struggles between different professionals. For instance, problems of contradiction or confrontation against radiological technologists is occurring. The Governments of some of AFOMP countries does not always recognize the significance of education/training of medical physicists who are solely defined as qualified medical physicists. They do understand the definition by writing but do not move to prepare a governmental budget to train medical physicists in addition to radiological technologists, which may have some hundred times the population of medical physicists. Sooner or later this question will be coming up in the process of foundation of medical physics organizations in developing countries such as Burma, Mongolia and Viet Nam, and of raising funds from enterprises. We have to spend much time to solve the problems. We have to fix our own definition, thinking over the transient situation of medical physics in our region.

The Biomedical Imaging and Intervention Journal (BIJJ) has been selected as the second official journal of AFOMP, in addition to the Australasian Physical and Engineering Sciences in Medicine (APESM). BIJJ has been selected to be included in the indexing and abstracts by Scopus and Embase (Excerpta Medica). Professor Kwan Hoong Ng is now working towards Medline and eventual SCI.

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Congratulations from IOMP President and Immediate Past President, Barry



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

Dear Colleagues

In this inaugural newsletter of the Asia-Oceania Federation of Organisations for Medical Physics, I am pleased, on behalf of the International Organisation of Medical Physics (IOMP), to wish the AFOMP membership well in its endeavours in the Asia-Pacific region. AFOMP includes some of the most advanced countries with well developed MP societies, and some of the least advanced, with very few MPs on the ground.

AFOMP is at the leading edge in bringing developing countries into the world of medical physics. The latest such entry is Vietnam, which has offered to hold the next regional meeting in Saigon in October 2008. AFOMP and IOMP strongly support this meeting. It is far better to hold such meetings in a developing country, which can then benefit from associated training programs and the influx of world experts. International delegates also benefit from the opportunity for low cost visits to new cultures and environments, and the opportunity to perhaps have a lasting impact on the direction of medical physics, as well as being able to personally support emerging MPs as mentors.

The problems in the AFOMP region

This newsletter will provide a welcome vehicle to members to voice their opinions, and to be informed about new events and commercial developments.

abound. As the immediate past-president, I am well aware that we need to take important steps to help developing countries bridge the technology and funding gaps that exist today. To this end, the formation of the Health Technology and Training Task Group (HTTTG), under the auspices of the International Union of

Physics and Engineering in Medicine (IUPESM), aims to develop and implement policies relating to appropriate technology that will find a place at the district and village levels.

This newsletter will provide a welcome vehicle to members to voice their opinions, and to be informed about new events and commercial developments. MP is a two edged sword; we rely of industry as they rely on us. Together as partners, we can change the status of health technology in developing countries. Its up to AFOMP to show the leadership to ensure that the right steps are taken at the right time.◆

Professor Barry J Allen Ph.D D.Sc

Chair HTTTG President IOMP Past President AFOMP President Elect IUPESM <u>bjallen@unsw.edu.au</u>

AFOMP President's Message

(Continued from previous page)

Logo of Chinese letters $\hat{\mathbf{\pi}}$, $\hat{\mathbf{F}}$ and $\hat{\mathbf{R}}$ are added to official letter head. $\hat{\mathbf{\pi}}$ means cosmos, universe or space, $\hat{\mathbf{F}}$ means time, and $\hat{\mathbf{R}}$ means spirit or soul.

These three letters are picked up from a literature demonstrated in Toji Temple in Kyoto. These letters symbolize our spiritual activities with continuous efforts through wherever, whenever and whatever in the field of medical physics.

As the third AFOMP President, I would like to express my sincere desire to fulfill my duty. I would appreciate it very much, if you fellow members could contribute to AFOMP activity and build up a strong federal organization for Medical Physics in our region in near future. \diamond

Toji Temple in Kyoto 🕨



The lack of recognition of the medical

physics standards of practice is a com-

mon problem in many Asian Countries,

however, accreditation processes, either

national or regional and ideally through

professional organizations, are seen as

The most difficult part of medical phys-

ics is the area of clinical training. Many

clinical places in Asia region cannot

afford the time and investment in the

The large areas of Asia do not have ac-

creditation at present. Asian government

do not administers national accreditation

system for medical physics. Some pro-

fessional Society associating medical

physics administered the accreditation

program of medical physics based on

Medical physics in Asia continues to

regional or international levels.

vital in the educational process.

clinical training of physicists.

Tae-Suk Suh, Ph.D Secretary General, AFOMP

Since Asia has a diverse cultural, social, educational and economical background, the status of medical physics in Asia is also diverse.

AFOMP was born as one of regional organization of medical physics in Asia like EFOMP in Europe or AAPM in USA in July 2000 during the Chicago World Congress on Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering. The AFOMP became a chapter of IOMP (International Organization of Medical Physics) (Table.1).

AFOMP decided to hold AOCMP (Asia-Oceania Congress of medical Physics) every year. The first AOCMP was held in Bangkok, Thailand in 2001, and have been held for 7 times after the first congress until now (Table 2). The eighth AOCMP will be held in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam in 2008.

Table 1. AFOMP Organization Membership

Nation	Organization	Nation	Organization
Australia	ACPSEM	Thailand	TMPS
Bangladesh	BMPA	Mongolia	MSMPI
Hong Kong	HKAMP	Nepal	AMPN
India	AMPI	New Zealand	ACPSEM
Indonesia	IMPA	Pakistan	unknown
Iran	IAMP	PR. China	CSMP
Japan	JSMP	Philippines	POMP
Korea	KSMP	China (Taiwan)	unknown
Malaysia	Malaysian Institute of	Singapore	SMPS
-	Physics (MP subgroup)	Sri Lanka	unknown

Secretary General's Report

Table 2. AOCMP Congress History

	υ	5
Year	City	Nation
2001	Bangkok	Thailand
2002	Gyeongju	Korea
2003	Sydney	Australia
2004	Kuala Lumpur	Malaysia
2005	Kyoto	Japan
2006	Seoul	Korea
2007	HuangShan	China
2008	HoChiMinh City	Vietnam
	(to be held)	

grow slowly, in both members and mission. One of major role of AFOMP is to support the development of medical physics in Asia-Oceania region. To improve the status of medical physicists in Asia, a considered mission supported by goal-oriented action plans is required: especially, promoting advancement of medical physics in developing countries, strengthening the educational, training and professional development of medical physicists, promoting good relations and the exchange of information with other related organizations, gathering industry into the AFOMP to raising commercial fund.

I would like to thank following colleagues for their contribution and help : Dr. K. Inamura from AFOMP ETC, Dr. K.H. Ng from AFOMP PDC, Dr. D. Mclean and J. Drew from IAEA, and Dr. S. Tabakov from IOMP. ❖

AFOMP Definition of a Qualified Medical Physicist Endorsed

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

The professional development committee, after deliberating on an appropriate definition for AFOMP qualified medical physicist since 2003, has finally secured the endorsement from AFOMP council on August 2007 at the Huangshan Congress. The committee has consulted documents from AAPM, ACPSEM, EFOMP, IAEA, IPEM. Meetings, both in person and virtual, were held several times to discuss and fine-tune the working definition.

So finally here it is:

"A qualified Medical Physicist is a person who possesses a university degree at master level or equivalent in physical

Report of the Professional Development Committee

science or engineering science and works in alliance with medical staff in hospitals, universities or research institutes. He/she shall also have received clinical training in the concepts and techniques of applying physics in medicine, including training in the medical application of both ionizing and non-ionizing radiation. This person shall have a thorough knowledge and be able to practice independently in one or more sub-fields of medical physics, including imaging physics, radiation therapy physics, nuclear medicine physics and radiation protection."

Meanwhile the much-awaited Policy Statement No. 1: "The Roles, Responsibilities and Status of the Clinical Medical Physicist in AFOMP" is undergoing copy-editing and should be available soon for council endorsement and subsequent publication.

The following members are gratefully acknowledged for their contribution:

Yoshihisa Akiyama, Kin Yin Cheung, Yimin Hu, Kiyonari Inamura, Hee-Joung Kim, Yaoxiong Huang. Anchali Krisanachinda, Joyce O Leung, AS Pradhan, Howell Round, Tim van Doorn, Toh Jui Wong, Byong-Yong Yi �

Kin Yin Cheung, Ph.D ETC Chair, AFOMP

A FOMP established an Education and Training Committee (ETC) in 2001 to look into issues related to improving education and training of medical physicists (MP) in AFOMP countries. One of the initiatives taken by ETC was the establishment of a co-operative working relationship with IAEA on strengthening medical physics in the region through education and training. In an IAEA Regional Co-operative Agreement (RCA) Project meeting held Hong Kong in 2002, the following problems were identified in most AFOMP member countries:

The problems of education and training of medical physicists

- 1. No agreed definition on roles and responsibilities of MPs
- 2. No agreed definition on qualification of MPs
- 3. Lack of information on the number of MPs required
- 4. No agreed standard for the region on minimum and recommended number of MPs
- 5. Lack of information on education and training facilities and level of their programme
- 6. Lack of legal requirements to enforce the implementation of quality and safety standards
- 7. Lack of official recognition of MPs and their needs
- 8. Differences in implementation of professional standards
- 9. Lack of expertise (trainers) and equipment

In an attempt to look at some of these issues, a survey was conducted in 2003 by AFOMP aiming to identify the manpower and training needs of its member countries. The result of the survey indicated that at least 1000 more medical physicists were required in the region. The survey also indicated that while tertiary education programmes in medical physics up to master level had been established in most countries, comprehensive clinical training programs were not available in general. Another survey conducted by AFOMP ETC in 2005 aiming to collect views from MPs in member countries on the targets and level

Report of the Education and Training Committee

of standardized education and training of medical physics in Asia and Oceania region. The information collected in the surveys provided some insights for AFOMP and its member organizations in formulating their strategies on E&T matters.

Two workshops on medical physics education and training were organized jointly by IOMP ETC and AFOMP ETC (one at WC2003 in Sydney and the other in WC2006 in Seoul) to further explore the above issues. Speakers form AFOMP countries, Europe, North America and IAEA were invited to report the situations on E&T in different parts of the world. A symposium on cooperative strategy for the development of medical physics in Asia was also organized jointly by AFOMP and Korean Society of Medical Physics during WC2006. Another symposium on education and training of medical physics was organized jointly by AFOMP and Chinese Society of Medical Physics during 7th AOCMP held in 2007 in Huangshan, China. One of the conclusions that could be drawn from these meetings was that some of the above mentioned problems could be resolved if a formal definition on the qualification, roles and responsibilities of MP could be established and officially adopted within AFOMP countries together with the implementation of a well defined education and a formal structured professional training system in medical physics.

The definition of medical physicists and their roles and responsibilities had been discussed within AFOMP since 2003, but consensus has yet to come amongst its member countries on these issues mainly due to differences in standard and conditions of practice of the MPs in these countries. ETC and Professional Development Committee (PDC) of AFOMP will continue to explore possible solutions on such issues. The issue was further also discussed during 7th AOCMP and this time a small progress had been made- AFOMP Council endorsed the definition of medical physicist.

AFOMP has in the past few years been in active collaboration with IAEA in its RCA project on the development of clinical training programs for MPs in the region, particularly in the development of the training modules for the training programme for clinical training of MPs in radiation oncology and in implementation of such training programme. AFOMP is pleased to see that Thailand has in year 2007 implemented the IAEA clinical training programme for radiation oncology physics and that some other AFOMP countries are also considering implementing the programme. AFOMP will continue to support the project. AFOMP will also work with IOMP and other national and international organizations on E&T and professional issues with the objective of improving the standard and conditions of practice of MPs. *

AFOMP Quiz #1

Identify the cause of the artifact seen in this image? (The answer is found on page 8)



(Courtesy of Dr. Kwan-Hoong Ng)

The 7th AOCMP at Huangshan Was a Great Success

Kin Yin Cheung, Ph.D and Yimin Hu, Ph.D Co-chair of the 7th AOCMP

he 7th AOCMP was held in the beautiful ancient city of Huangshan, Anhui, China during 23-27 August 2007. The meeting was held in conjunction with 13th Annual Physics Meeting of the Chinese Society of Medical Physics (CSMP). The conference was cosponsored by AFOMP and CSMP and supported by IOMP, Chinese Society of Radiation Oncology (CSRO) and North American Chinese Medical Physicist Association (NACMPA). The Chairman of the meeting was Professor Yimin Hu of Cancer Institute, Beijing, China and the local organizer was Huangshan People's Hospital and Anhui Bengbu Medical College. This was the first time AFOMP collaborated with CSMP in hosting a scientific event in China. The meeting, which was a complete success, laid the foundation for closer collaborations between CSMP and AFOMP.

The main theme of 7th AOCMP was "Integration of Modern Medical Imaging with Radiation Oncology". The meeting was attended by 376 participants (313 local and 63 overseas) and 26 local and international technical exhibitors. Twenty four experts from 10 countries were invited to present their research work and conduct training courses on or related to the main theme of the meeting. A total of 225 scientific abstracts were presented, mostly in parallel sessions. 71% of the presentations were on radiation oncology, 11% on imaging, 6% on medical physics education and training, and 12% on other medical physics specialties.

One of the highlight events of the conference was the IOMP Symposium on Professional Development of Medical Physics. Four speakers, namely Professor Raymond Wu, Dr. Jose Carlos da Cruz, Dr. H. Zaidi (presented on his behalf by KY Cheung), and Professor KH Ng were





invited to report on the current status of medical physics development in North American, South American, African and AFOMP countries, respectively. The fifth symposium speaker, Professor TS Suh was invited to give a review on the nature and achievements of the past AOCMP meetings and the importance of such meetings in promoting the collaboration between medical physicists from different countries and the development of medical physics in the AFOMP region.

A survey was conducted during the IOMP Symposium with questionnaire designed aiming to collect participants' views on the current status and future directions of professional development of the medical physicists in the AFOMP region. 88 participants responded to the survey. The key results of the survey can be summarized as follows: 60% of the respondents were not satisfied with the professional status of medical physicists in their own countries; 79% of them indicated that a professional certification or accreditation system was useful or very useful in promoting the professional status of the medical physicists; 83% preferred a national organization rather than an international organization to run the certification/accreditation system; 95% indicated that an official definition of medical physicist was important or very important for professional development of medical physics; 98% indicated that a formal structured professional training system was important for promoting professional development of medical physicists; 71% were not satisfied with the professional training system for medical physicists in their own countries; 72% were not satisfied with the education system for medical physicists in their own countries; 57% indicated that IOMP was helpful in promoting professional development of medical physicists in their own countries (25% indicated don't know); 69% indicated AFOMP was helpful in promoting professional development of medical physicists in their own countries (21% indicated don't know); 43% indicated formal professional training was the most important factor in promoting professional status of medical physicists in their own countries (25% indicated legislative registration, 14% indicated professional certification and 18% indicated academic qualification were the most important factors); 100% indicated professional recognition was important in promoting the standard of medical physics service in their own countries. The survey data was collected from a sample of the participants at the Huangshan meeting who mainly came from AFOMP countries, China in particular, the result of the survey should be relevant to AFOMP countries in their future planning on education and professional development of medical physicists in their own countries.

(The congress picture can be found in page 9)

The Fifth South East Asian Congress of Medical Physics

Agnette Peralta, M.S and Anchali Krisnachinda, Ph.D

he Fifth South East Asian Congress of Medical Physics of the South East Asian Federation of Organizations for Medical Physics (SEAFOMP) was held in Manila on 21~23 November 2007. Venue was the Thomas Aquinas Research Complex of the University of Santo Tomas (UST). It was organized by the Philippine Organization of Medical Physicists (POMP) and the UST Graduate School in association with SEA-FOMP and the Asia-Oceania Federation of Organizations for Medical Physics (AFOMP). It was co-sponsored by the International Organization for Medical Physics (IOMP), the Department of Health, the Department of Science and Technology, and the University of Santo Tomas. The Congress Organizing Committee co-chairpersons were Director Agnette Peralta of the Bureau of Health Devices and Technology and Prof. Lilian Sison, Dean of the UST Graduate School.

There were 124 participants who came from Malaysia, Thailand, Brunei, the Philippines, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Australia, Italy, Saudi Arabia, and Sweden. Many of the participants were young medical physicist as evidence of the growing interest of this scientific discipline in the South East Asian area.

The congress theme was "Saving Lives Through Physics and Engineering". There were 36 oral and 6 poster presentations of proffered papers in medical physics and biomedical engineering, 16 lectures during the five plenary sessions (in radiation oncology physics; in organization, education, and training of medical physicists; in diagnostic radiology imaging; in nuclear medicine imag-



Young Medical Physicist Award on Oral and Poster presentations

ing; and in radiation protection and health technology); and refresher courses on "QA with Treatment Planning Systems", "QA with Mammographic Systems", and "QA with PET-CT Systems". There was also a symposium on "Education and Training of Medical Physicists" which featured the experience in Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines.

Associated activities were a postconference refresher course on "QA with Linacs" held in cooperation with the POMP at the UST Graduate School and the UST Hospital on 24 November and a nuclear oncology lecture held in cooperation with the Philippine Society of Nuclear Medicine at the UST Hospital in the evening of 23 November.

Highlight of the Congress was the 2nd John Cameron Memorial Lecture delivered by Dr. Kwan-Hoong Ng, Professor of Medical Physics of the Department of Biomedical Imaging of the University of Malaya Medical Center, who is the founding president of SEAFOMP and president-elect of AFOMP. Prof. Ng's topic was "Medical Physics in 2020: Will We Still Be Relevant?"

IOMP President Prof. Barry Allen, AFOMP President Prof. Kiyori Inamura, former AFOMP President Dr. KY Cheung, and SEAFOMP President Prof. Anchali Krisanachinda, were among the lecturers during the plenary sessions.

Cash prizes were awarded to the six best papers upon the recommendation of the Board of Judges headed by Prof. Franco Milano. The awards were given to Thunyarat Chusin and Isra Israngkul Na Ayuthaya of Thailand, Ma Yik Hoay and Wan Hazlinda of Malaysia, Darrin Casipong and Hazel Faustino of the Philippines. \diamondsuit



An Official Report of KFDA UNDP Project

Hye-Kyung Son, Ph.D Scientific Officer, KFDA

K orea Food and Drug Administration (KFDA) is the Korea government agency committed to promoting the public health. KFDA, as a Secondary Standard Dosimetry Laboratory (SSDL), has implemented TLD based quality audit for radiotherapy centers and provided calibration services for radiation measurement instruments.

As an effort to strengthen quality assurance (QA) system on radiotherapy in Asia-Pacific countries, KFDA implemented United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) project, 'Asia and Pacific Network for Quality Assurance in Radiotherapy', from 2005 to 2007. The objective of this project is to set up a network for effective QA system in radiotherapy, and ultimately to improve the radiotherapy quality of the participating countries.

KFDA performed the following activities through this project; a) Analyzing the situation of quality assurance system on radiotherapy in Asia-Pacific Countries, b) Establishing of experts group to support the UNDP, c) Providing a training of national resource persons of the selected Asia-Pacific countries, d) Providing a TLD audit program and technical support by on-site visiting.

In 2005, KFDA held an international workshop on situation analysis of radiotherapy QA systems in Asia-Pacific countries. 10 national and international (Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Philippines, Vietnam) experts participated for the workshop. Through the workshop, we found that the level of QA on radiotherapy is on the starting point in the most of participating countries.

In 2007, KFDA held a 2nd international workshop on current status of radiotherapy and its quality assurance between Asia-Pacific countries. 16 national and international (China, Singapore, Japan, Australia, Hong Kong) experts provided their presentation. Through this workshop, we could share the knowledge and experiences for the QA on radiotherapy and we could enlarge the network for the QA on radiotherapy.

KFDA established the experts group over 30 persons in the field of radiotherapy to support training, on-site visiting and so



The 1^{st} and 2^{nd} KFDA Training for QA on Radiotherapy for Asia-Pacific Countries

on.

By getting a support from the experts group, KFDA provided training for the national resource persons of the selected Asia-Pacific countries to improve their knowledge and technical skill for QA on Radiotherapy. In 2006 & 2007, KFDA held a training course for Asia-Pacific countries. 9 trainees from 9 countries (Afghanistan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Mongolia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan) in 2006 and 6 trainees from 6 countries (Bangladesh, Malaysia, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam) in 2007 participated in the training. After finishing the training course, KFDA issued certificates to the trainees who completed the training course.

KFDA provided the TLD audit program to verify if the dose delivered by treatment is correct or not. In 2006 & 2007, 10 countries (2006; Cambodia, Mongolia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Uzbekistan, 2007; Bangladesh, Malaysia, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam) participated in the TLD audit program.

Also, KFDA provided technical support by on-site visiting with experts (medical physicist and radiation oncologist) and we visited 7 countries (2006; Cambodia, Mongolia, and Sri Lanka, 2007; Vietnam, Malaysia, Thailand, and Indonesia). During the on-site visiting, we checked their QA system, treatment procedure, radiotherapy equipment and so on and we discussed about the results. Based on the results, we suggested or recommended new techniques including treatment method, QA procedures and so on.

We also introduced to the UNDP project and provided the lectures for QA techniques.

Through the UNDP project, we learned that there are high needs for the training program and the technical support from the developing Asia-Pacific countries. Therefore we are sure that it is very important to establish a well-organized training program and technical support for those developing Asia-Pacific countries. \diamondsuit

▼ The 2nd KFDA international workshop on Radiotherapy QA (September 6~7, 2007)



The 8th Asia-Oceania Congress on Medical Physics (AOCMP) and The 6th South-East Asian Congress On Medical Physics (SEACOMP)

CHORAY Hospital, Ho Chi Minh city, Vietnam, October 30-31, 2008 - Web: http://www.choray.org.vn/8AOCMP/

Conference Chair:

- Chair: Prof Truong Van Viet, MD
- Co-Chair: Prof Barry J Allen, PhD DSc

Local Organizers:

- CHORAY Hospital
- · Vietnam Association of Medical Physics
- · Vietnam Society of Radiology Nuclear Medicine
- Radiology Society of Ho Chi Minh city
- **International Scientific Committee:**
- Professor Barry J Allen, PhD DSc
- Professor Kiyonari Inamura, PhD
- Professor Anchali Krisanachinda, PhD
- Professor Ben Mijinheer, PhD
- Professor Kwan Hoong Ng, PhD
- Professor Djarwani Soejoko, PhD
- · Professor Tae Suk Suh, PhD
- Professor John Le Van, PhD

Sponsors:

- · Asian-Oceania Federation of Organizations for Medical Physics (AFOMP)
- · South-East Asian Federation of Organizations for Medical Physics (SEAFOMP)

Co-Sponsors:

• International Organizations for Medical Physics (IOMP)

Answer to AFOMP Quiz #1

Pressure mark or crimp mark due to excessive pressure on film appears as increased optical density (arrow).

Reference: Artifacts in mammography: ways to identify and overcome them - Chaloeykitti L, Muttarak M, Ng KH Singapore Med J 2006; 47(7):634 -41

http://www.sma.org.sg/smj/ smjmainpges/4707main.html Anchali Krisanachinda, Ph.D, SEAFOMP President and Kiyonari Inamura, Ph.D, AFOMP President

Dr. Anchali Krisanachinda, SEAFOMP President and Dr. Kiyonari Inamura, AFOMP President visited CHORAY Hospital, Ho Chi Minh city, Vietnam on October 28-29, 2007 to discuss 8th AOCMP. The followings are the report of the visit .

Asia-Oceania countries will have the opportunity to meet together with the medical physicists, radiation oncologists and radiologists from Vietnam in a historic city, Ho Chi Minh city.

This congress will be organized by CHORAY Hospital in corporation with Vietnam Association of Medical Physics, Vietnam Society of Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, and Radiology Society of Ho Chi Minh city, and sponsored by AFOMP, SEAFOMP and IOMP.

The theme of the congress is "Nurturing Collaborations in Medical Physics". Topics covered in this congress will be

page 9)

(Courtesy of Dr. Napa-

pong Pongnapang)

education and training of medical physics, PACS, interventional radiology, heavy particle therapy, image guided therapy and telemedicine etc.

In addition to regular scientific sessions, this congress will provide special symposium on education, training and professional development of medical physics, refresh courses about IMRT, IGRT and PET/CT etc and practical training courses with corporate members of AFOMP.

Medical physicists of all disciplines and radiation oncologists and radiologists who are interested in attending training/ refresher courses are invited to participate in this special congress.

The Final date of 8th AOCMP have been fixed as follows. Dates: October 30-31, 2008. Training course: October 28-29, 2008. IAEA Training course: November 3-7.

The deadline for early bird registration is May 31, 2008 and the deadline for submission of abstract is July 31, 2008.

AFOMP Quiz #2

Identify the cause of the artifact seen in this image? (The answer is found on

AFOMP NEWS

Call for Expressions of Interest in hosting the 9th AOCMP

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

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 <u>suhsanta@catholic.ac.kr</u> by the end of September 2008.

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

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An AFOMP journal, biij indexed by Scopus

A n official journal of AFOMP, the Biomedical Imaging and Intervention Journal (<u>biij</u>) is now officially indexed by Elsevier Bibliographic Databases, especially <u>Scopus</u>, <u>EMBASE</u> and <u>Compendex</u> as of 2008 onwards. Additionally bijj is indexed by INSPEC, Chemical Abstract, Index Copernicus and DOAJ.

In the confirmation letter from Elsevier, the inclusion of biij is "in recognition of the high quality and relevance (of its contents) to the scientific community".

The acceptance of bij in Elsevier Bibliographic Databases will certainly pave the way of its inclusion in other important indexing services, particularly those provided by Thomson Scientific and National Library of Medicine.

Bij was founded in July 2005 as an open access multidisciplinary online journal that covers medical imaging, nuclear medicine, radiation oncology, medical physics, biomedical engineering and information technology. Its multimediaenabled features such as audio, video, animation and simulation have added a new dimension to scholarly publishing. An updated report of the progress of the journal is published in the editorial January 2008 issue.

One of the unique, very popular features is the '<u>Recorded Presentations</u>' where digitally recorded lectures delivered during conferences, workshops and seminars are available for viewing.

We encourage you to contribute and promote biij.

Kwan-Hoong Ng & BJJ Abdullah Editors

Nahrizul Adib Kadri Managing Editor

The 5th SEACOMP resources are now available

5 th SEACOMP "Saving Lives through Physics and Engineering" was held successfully in Manila, Philippines.

Now, the original sounds on every presentation is now available in biij website by the great job of Dr. Kwan-Hoong Ng and his colleagues.

Please visit the URL:

http://www.biij.org/biomedical-imagingintervention-journal-resources.asp#2007 -seacomp

The 6th SEACOMP will be help in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam in conjunction with 8th AOCMP.

Answer to AFOMP Quiz #2

Artefact caused by a towel that was used to help in positioning a paediatric patient. Due to the wider dynamic range of the CR comparing to conventional film-screen system, radiographic contrast from the towel is readily seen.

Reference: N Pongnapang, Practical guidelines for radiographers to improve computed radiography image quality, Biomed Imaging Interv J 2005;1(2):e12 http://www.biij.org/2005/2/e12/



Calendar of Events

Annual Thai Medical Physics Meeting was held in Pattaya on February 22-24, 2008.

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16th International Conference on Medical Physics (ICMP) "Current and Future Sciences in Radiation Medicine" will be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) on April 14-16, 2008.



The deadline for abstract submission was January 31, 2008. For more detailed information,

please visit the 16th ICMP official website http://www.icmpdubai.com

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ACMP (American College of Medical Physics) annual Meeting will be held in Seattle, WA on May 3-6, 2008. The meeting link is

http://www.acmp.org.

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6th International Conference on Isotopes (ICI) in conjunction with will be held in Seoul, Korea from May 12-16 May, 2008.

The abstract submission was closed by the end of January, 2008. The early registration is due at March 15, 2008.

For the details, please visit website http://6ici.ri.or.kr

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Asian-Pacific Congress of Medical Physics will be held in Taipei on June 21 -22, 2008. This meeting is cosponsored by the Chinese Society of Medical Physicists in Taiwan (CSMPT) and North American Chinese Medical Physicists Association (NACMPA).

For interested persons in attending this meeting, please visit www.nacmpa.org

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CARS 2008 Computer Assisted Radiology and Surgery, 22th International Congress and Exhibition, will be held in Barcelona, Spain on June 25-28, 2008. Deadline for abstract/paper submission is January 20, 2008.

http://www.cars-int.org

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The workshop "Asian-Pacific Congress of Medical Physics" will be held in National Taiwan University Hospital (NTUH), Taipei, Taiwan (http://www.thcc.net.tw/) on June 21 - 22, 2008.

The workshop "Technological & Clinical Updates in Radiation Oncology" will be held in The Cancer Institute at National University Hospital, Singapore on June 28-29, 2008.

The workshop programs are available in AFOMP website.

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50th Anniversary AAPM annual meeting "Honoring the past Celebrating the present Preparing for the future" will be held in

Houston, Texas on July 27~31, 2008.

The deadline for 300 word abstracts and supporting data is March 2. For more detailed information, please visit the AAPM meeting website.

http://www.aapm.org/meetings/08AM/

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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 and abstract deadline will be announced soon.

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8th AOCMP in conjunction with 6th SEACOMP will be held in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

The Final date of 8th AOCMP have been fixed as follows. Dates: October 30-31, 2008. Training course: October 28-29, 2008. IAEA Training course: November 3-7.

Official first announcement is now available in AFOMP website.

Officers and Council of AFOMP

President: Kiyonari Inamura, Ph.D. Kansai University of International Studies Email: ina-kiyo@kuins.ac.jp

Vice President: Kwan-Hoong Ng, Ph.D. Department of Biomedical Imaging (Radiology), University of Malaya 50603 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia Tel: +60-603-7949-2088 Fax: 603-7958-1973 Email: ngkh@um.edu.my

Past President: Barry Allen, Ph.D, D.Sc. St.George Hospital Cancer Care Centre Gray St., Kogarah, NSW 2217 Australia Tel: +61-2-9524-2502 Fax:+61-2-9524-1169 Email: barry.allen@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au

Sectary General: Tae-Suk Suh, Ph.D. Dept. of Biomedical Engineering College of Medicine, The Catholic University of Korea, 505 Banpo-dong, Seocho-gu, Seoul, 137-701, Korea Tel: +82-2-590-2414 Fax: +82-2-532-1779

Email: suhsanta@catholic.ac.kr

Treasurer: Anchali Krisnachinda, Ph.D. Department of Radiology, Faculty of Medicine, Chulalongkorn University, Rama IV Road, Bangkok 10330 Thailand Tel: +66-662-256-4283~4 Fax: 662-256-4162 Email: kanchali@yahoo.com

AFOMP Committee Chairs

Education and Training Committee

Chair: Kin Yin Cheung, Ph.D. Department of Clinical Oncology Prince of Wales Hospital Shatin, Hong Kong SAR, China Tel: +852-2632-2110 Fax: +852-2632-4558 Email: kyCheung@ha.org.hk

Professional Development Committee Chair: Kwan-Hoong Ng, Ph.D.

Scientific Committee

Chair: Shanglian Bao, Ph.D. The Institute of Heavy Ion Physics Peking University, Beijing 100871, China Tel: +86-10-7275-1880 Fax: 86-10-6275-1880 Email: bao@pku.edu.cn

Commercial Fund Committee Chair: Barry Allen, Ph.D, D.Sc.

AFOMP correspondence should be addressed to: Drs. Kiyonari Inamura and Tae-Suk Suh

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)

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