Life time achievement awards of the Asia-Oceania Federation of Organizations for Medical Physics recognise persons for their outstanding contribution to Medical Physics education, training, research and medical physics profession development in AFOMP region.

The award was established in 2020 and Dr Donald Ian McLean of Canberra Hospital, Australia is one of the two inaugural awardees.

Dr McLean commenced his studies at the University of NSW in Sydney, followed by a degree in Education from Canberra. This focus on education would remain throughout his whole career. He completed a Masters degree and a PhD at the Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane, Australia in 1996. Donald McLean has continued his academic work over the years in parallel with clinical work and teaching ever since resulting in over 90 peer reviewed publications in international journals.

Donald McLean has supervised many postgraduate research students and has been a mentor for many other colleagues in AFOMP countries, an activity which has been sustained over his career. He has also been involved in many workshops and conferences and was Track Co-Chair “Diagnostic Physics, Medical Imaging” track for The World Congress on Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering which was held in Sydney 24 to 29 August, 2003. In particular as regional co-ordinator for IAEA he tried to make sure high quality education and training materials were available for everyone who needed them.

In 2006 he moved from Australia to Vienna to take up a position as Medical Physicist, Dosimetry and Medical Physics Section, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). It is in his time at the Agency until 2011 that he promoted medical imaging and its relation to medical physics and radiation protection all over the world. Dr McLean was involved in the preparation and publication of 17 IAEA documents which provide guidance and standards for the use of ionising radiation in many areas of medicine. However, his main focus stayed within Asia-Oceania where many of the IAEA projects in which he was involved were carried out. Consequently, he joined the Asia-Oceania Federation of Organisations for Medical Physics (AFOMP) Education and Training Committee in 2008 as member.

One of Dr McLean’s most distinguishing traits is his kindness and ability to listen. This has made him so efficient as a role model and mentor for many colleagues in AFOMP countries.

The Asia-Oceania Federation of Organizations for Medical Physics is delighted to present Dr McLean with the AFOMP Life Time Achievement Award 2020.