

ANNOUNCEMENT AND REVIEWS

OF RECENT PUBLICATIONS

THE 20TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MEDICAL PHYSICS

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Abstract— The 20th International Conference on Medical Physics, ICMP2013, Brighton, UK (1-4 September 2013) celebrates the 50th anniversary of the IOMP.

Keywords— International Conference, IOMP, EFOMP, IPEM.

INTRODUCTION

In January 1963 four national physics societies, from the UK, Canada, Sweden and the USA, got together to form the IOMP. Their first international conference, the ICMP, was held in Harrogate, UK in 1965 and so it is fitting that IOMP has returned to the UK to celebrate its 50th birthday.

THE PROGRAMME

There is always a temptation, given the history behind this particular conference, to concentrate on what has been achieved in medical physics over the past 50 years. While one should not ignore the work of those who have gone before us, it is even more important to look to the future. So the theme chosen for this meeting is 'New Horizons - Global and Scientific'.

In an age where teleconferencing and virtual meetings are increasingly popular one might ask whether it is really necessary to bring people together in a conference centre for 4 days. The future of medical physics and bioengineering depends on identifying where scientific opportunities might lie both within our own spheres of physics and engineering but also in work coming out of other disciplines. Conferences offer a less pressurized environment in which

one has the opportunity not only to listen to a variety of speakers but also to socialize with them, to explore new ideas and possibly set up new collaborations.

So will the conference provide a scientifically stimulating programme? Well to a certain extent that depends on you the reader. Bring along your latest work and see what others think about it and maybe you will end up with some new ideas. Abstracts can now be submitted online, details are available from the conference website, www.icmp2013.org. The programme covers most areas, ranging from particle radiotherapy to gregarious MRI. As is usual, the proffered papers will be interspersed with plenary lectures, our speakers include Molly Stevens, Professor of Biomedical Materials and Regenerative Medicine at Imperial College, London who has recently been recognised by the TR100, a compilation of the top innovators, under the age of 35, who are transforming technology - and the world - with their work.

On the Sunday, before the official opening ceremony, there will be a number of workshops including thermal imaging cameras, shielding and technology enhanced education in medical physics. There will be a programme on Medical Physics in Africa reflecting IOMP's interest in fostering medical physics in that continent.

While history should not dominate our thinking, it is important for us to acknowledge and advertise what we have achieved. The Opening Ceremony will have a lecture given by Colin Orton. In the entrance hall there will be posters celebrating the influential physicists from around the world, nominated by the national medical physics societies.

What makes Medical Physics different from many other areas of physics is that the end product of our activity benefits patients. We serve the public. So it is fitting that on the Opening Day we should encourage the public to visit the conference. The HPA lecture, aimed at school children and

those young at heart, will be given by Peter Marsden from UCLH. We are also planning an area where children can engage with our sort of science.

Two other ingredients go to making up a good conference: a comprehensive commercial exhibition and a good social programme. Already a number of leading companies have agreed to display their latest products.

Why Brighton and, anyway, where is it? These might be questions that spring to mind. Well it is on the South Coast of England and has excellent rail and road connections both to international airports and to London – but only for your post-conference sightseeing. What Brighton also offers is superb Regency architecture, a long beach and the weather, and perhaps the sea, should be warm in September.

Brighton is famed for its lively night-life both for the younger and older members. So we can guarantee a good social programme, ranging from a traditional Fish and Chip supper on Brighton's famous pier to a walking tour through part of a Victorian sewer.

So book the date, 1st-4th September, into your diary and join us at Brighton for ICMP 2013.

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