

## PETER H S SMITH AWARDED THE IUPESM AWARD OF MERIT, 2015



The IUPESM Award of Merit is awarded triennially by the International Union of Physics and Engineering Sciences in Medicine (IUPESM) at the World Congress on Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering to honour professionals who have exerted a significant impact on the science and scientific practice of Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering and have significantly influenced the development of the professions of Medical Physics and/or Biomedical Engineering.

During 2015 Dr Peter H S Smith was elected by the IUPESM Award and Honours Committee as the recipient of this very prestigious Award.

Peter H S Smith graduated in physics and chemistry from the University of Keele in 1965 and took his DPhil in Solid State Physics from the University of Oxford in 1970. In 1988 Peter Smith was elected Fellow of the UK Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine (IPEM). In the same year he received a Certificate in Health Economics from the University of Aberdeen. Additionally to these Peter Smith was Certificated as a Radiation Protection Adviser.

Very early in his career Peter Smith worked as voluntary Assistant Lecturer at the University College of Science and Education in Ghana. Later he worked as Medical Physicist at the Royal Marsden Hospital, London. From 1977 to 1994 he was the founding Director of North Wales Medical Physics and Clinical Engineering Service, initiating and developing a comprehensive medical physics, except for radiotherapy physics, and engineering service for the whole of North Wales. Following this, from 1994 to 2003, he was Chief Executive of the newly established Northern Ireland

Regional Medical Physics Agency. Alongside this he was Visiting Professor at the University of Ulster.

Initial scientific research by Peter Smith was in the field of nuclear medicine, new radiopharmaceuticals for imaging and therapy and pharmino-kinetics, and he then moved to radiation protection, patient dosimetry and environmental radiation. However, due to the nature and circumstances of his main posts, his major focus was on facilitating research, establishing research programmes and collaboration with local universities.

Throughout his career Peter Smith has been actively involved in professional organisations at the UK, European and the international level and has held numerous positions of several professional organisations as well as serving on many governmental and health advisory committees. Among these he has been Treasurer and then President-Elect of the UK Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine (IPEM); Honorary Scientific Secretary of the British Institute of Radiology (BIR); Treasurer of the European Federation of Organisations for Medical Physics (EFOMP) 1997-2003; Secretary General of the International Organisation for Medical Physics (IOMP) 2003 to 2009; Treasurer of the International Union of Physics and Engineering in Medicine (IUPESM) 2006-2009 and 2012-2015.

Peter Smith has actively involved in the organisation of many Conferences and World Congresses, including Chair of the International Conference on Medical Physics, 2001, Belfast, UK. He has also taken part in numerous International projects, including the project EMIT, awarded with the EU Leonardo da Vinci Award, and the project EMITEL, developing the first Medical Physics e-Encyclopaedia.

After 2006 Peter Smith took an active part (with Fridtjof Nuesslin) in the discussions of IOMP with the International Labour Organisation, related to the inclusion of the professions of medical physicists in the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO-08). This was a major achievement for the profession, especially for many developing countries, where the professions were not officially recognised. Following this Peter Smith took part at the initiation of the discussions with the World Health Organisation (WHO), leading to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding and agreement of a joint plan of action. This was followed up by succeeding Officers of the IOMP and resulted in 2015 with the recognition of the

IOMP as a NGO (Non-Governmental Organisation) by the WHO.

The active participation of Peter H S Smith in the field of the global medical physics professional development has been widely recognised and acknowledged.

Congratulations on behalf of IOMP Executive Committee:

Slavik Tabakov, PhD, Hon.Prof.  
Vice-President IOMP  
Dept. Medical Eng. & Physics, King's College  
Hospital, London, UK