

EDITORIAL

This journal, Medical Physics International (MPI), continues to make major contributions to the medical physics profession and especially individual medical physicists and students. It is because of a combination of several unique factors not found with any other journal. Working in collaboration with other major medical physics journals around the world contributes to this success. Most journals focus on peer-reviewed research reports where MPI gives extensive coverage to publications to enhance the development of the medical physics profession especially in applied clinical physics and education. It provides an opportunity for medical physicists and organizations in all countries to share their experiences and progress in the continuing development of the profession. It contributes to a more unified global medical physics community with the inclusion of regions with limited resources.

The Journal *Medical Physics International* completed another successful year. For the first 10 months of 2018 the MPI web site had 105,537 visits. The visits in the period 1/3/2018 - 31/10/2018, identified by country (on the figure below), show that 60% of the visits are from Low and Middle Income countries (LMIC). This is exactly according to the objectives of the Journal – to provide free resources to our colleagues in LMIC, where the professional development needs a strong boost. Naturally, among the most downloaded MPI papers are tutorials and educational materials. We would like to encourage all colleagues to send such materials, which are of great help for the development of the profession in LMIC.

As the only medical physics journal with extensive contributions to medical physics education the global impact is significant. A specific effort is to publish materials that can be used by educators to enhance the effectiveness of their programs, especially with the increasing availability of new and advanced technologies both for diagnostic imaging and therapy.

With the MPI being provided as an open resource and free to all its global impact is extensive. Every medical physicist, regardless of location and availability of resources now has access to the many valuable publications to enhance their careers.

Perry Sprawls, Co-Editor-in-Chief

MPI Journal is part of the long strategy of IOMP, addressing the challenge in front of the profession – the need of almost tripling the number of medical physicists globally by 2035. We produced and published several important papers on this subject – in MPI and in other Journals (the latest one is: Tsapaki V, Tabakov S, Rehani M, Medical physics workforce: A global perspective, *Physica Medica* 55, 2018, p.33-39). In this MPI issue I have included a condensed report about the related to this challenge many activities and initiatives of IOMP during the past term of office (June 2015 - June 2018). As per the tradition of IOMP, these activities will further develop in the new IOMP ExCom term and MPI will continue to strongly support these.

Slavik Tabakov, Co-Editor-in-Chief

