

EDITORIAL

The profession of Medical Physics along with the associated technology and medical procedures have benefited from extensive innovations and developments for now more than a century. Knowledge of these developments and applications provides a foundation for the continuing contributions of physics and engineering to advances in medicine and healthcare along with an appreciation of our medical physics history and heritage.

The goal of the IOMP History of Medical Physics Project is to document this significant era of achievements and provide insight into the motivations and developments that have established Medical Physics as a major science in the field of medicine and global healthcare.

This first Special Issue of the IOMP Journal Medical Physics International (MPI) begins the series of publications linked with that project, announced last year at MPI, 2017, No1, p. 68-69 (April 2017).

Over the past year the project was announced at various professional events – the AAPM Annual Conference in Denver, the IPEM Annual Conference in London (Esher); the Asia-Oceania Congress of Medical Physics in Jaipur; the IOMP RCB - Regional Coordination Board (including the Presidents of all professional Federations), etc. With the assistance of the RCB Questionnaires were sent to all IOMP Member Societies, almost all of which are now completed. This included an invitation for various organizations and individuals to consider developing materials for the project.

The plan is for the project to be published in 12 volumes. In this Special Issue, prepared for publication during 2017-2018, there are three chapters from two of the volumes. The chapters are about the History of X-ray Tubes development, the History of Film-Screen Receptors development and the History of e-Learning development.

These were prepared to be used as Guides for the development of future chapters in this large project. Using the experience from another large project (e-Encyclopaedia of Medical Physics), we are aware that such Guides are setting important trails in the parallel work of various specialists from many countries.

It is obvious that the History is not a static publication and in future will be further upgraded with materials about new developments, projects and applications. We believe that the History of Medical Physics project will form a sound record of the developments of our profession. It is planned that the initial development of the project will take several years and it will be regularly upgraded in the future.

We welcome the contribution of colleagues from all societies in the various volumes of the History. To facilitate the progress of the development of this large project we included a session “IOMP project History of Medical Physics” during the World Congress in Prague (Monday, 4th June, 8-9 am).

We look forward to your further contributions to the Project

MPI Co-Editors: Perry Sprawls and Slavik Tabakov