

## 35 YEARS IOMP MEDICAL PHYSICS WORLD: PROUDLY SERVING OUR PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

Colin G. Orton and Magdalena Stoeva

Editors IOMP Medical Physics World Special Issue, Vol. 35 (10), No. 2

**Abstract—** The Special Issue of Medical Physics World dedicated to IDMP 2019 & MPW's 35th anniversary turned into a remarkable selection with contributions from the guest Editor Colin Orton, IOMP ExCom members, RCB, WHO, IAEA, AAPM, MPI Editors, Virginia Tsapaki (immediate past EiC), Ibrahim Duhaini (IOMP coordinator and calendar editor) and the valuable input from Azam Niroomand-Rad and Kwan Ng with excellent papers on MPW and EMPW history.

2019 marked an important milestone in Medical Physics World's history – our 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary. To acknowledge MPW's contribution to the medical physicists worldwide 2 key events have been planned for 2019 - IOMP dedicated the International Day of Medical Physics (IDMP) 2019 to Medical Physics World, and MPW published a special issue. The special issue of eMPW is dedicated to celebration of both the 35th anniversary of the founding of Medical Physics World in 1984, and IDMP on November 7th.

### The origins of Medical Physics World.

It all began at the 2nd World Congress on Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering, Hamburg, 1982, when Professor Larry Lanzl was elected President-Elect of the IOMP. He realized that communication between the Officers and the representatives from the, then, 27 member countries on the IOMP Council, was difficult since it only occurred once every three years at the World Congresses. This was before e-mail and the internet. He decided that what was needed was a newsletter and, because he knew that I was a Past-Editor of the AAPM newsletter (AAPM Quarterly Bulletin), he asked me to help him establish an IOMP newsletter. He did not want this to be a financial burden on the IOMP, so he asked me to try to find corporations willing to advertise in the new newsletter in order to cover the cost. We soon realized that corporations would be unwilling to spend much money to advertise in something that would be distributed to just a few individuals in these countries, so we decided to find a way to distribute the newsletter to all members of all the IOMP member countries. We even envisaged that, ultimately, the newsletter might be able to generate a profit for the IOMP! It was then that we decided to give the newsletter an important sounding title so as to be attractive to potential advertisers. Medical Physics World (MPW) was born.

Since there were about 7,000 individual members of the IOMP member countries, for the IOMP to print and

distribute all 7,000 copies of MPW was clearly going to be prohibitively expensive, so it was decided that the IOMP would pay for the printing but would send all national societies enough copies for them to distribute to their members by whatever means they decided to adopt. Larry was able to convince the IOMP Council to provide \$2,500US as seed money to finance this new publication, which represented about 50% of the total income of the IOMP at the time. He must have been very persuasive! The first issue appeared in 1985 and advertising income was significant enough to soon be able to repay the IOMP for this seed money and, within ten years, to generate an annual profit of over \$10,000US, a very significant fraction of the total income of the IOMP. The rest is history.

### The Special Issue of Medical Physics World

Medical Physics World has been the voice of IOMP and medical physicists worldwide for the last 35 years. It also comes with a Special cover page to outline the milestones in the development of Medical Physics World:



- The very 1st issue of Medical Physics World, 1984
- The 1st eMPW issue, 2010
- Medical Physics World Volume 10, 1994
- Medical Physics World Volume 20, 2004
- Medical Physics World Volume 30, 2014
- The 1st Medical Physics Issue with ISSN, 2014
- The 1st Special Issue of Medical Physics World, dedicated to Marie Curie's 150th Anniversary and the International Day of Medical Physics, 2017

This Special Issue of Medical Physics World is about to mark another milestone in our history – the first issue dedicated to MPW's anniversary and the biggest MPW issue so far.

and the co-Editors-in-Chief of Medical Physics International (Perry Sprawls and Slavik Tabakov). In addition, we have articles on the histories of MPW (Azam Niroomand Rad), the first version of Electronic Medical Physics World, EMPW (Kwan Hoong Ng, et al) and a reprint of Colin Orton's 2015 interview for MPW, some tables showing the contents of past MPWs and the MPW Editors compiled by our current Editor-in-Chief Magdalena Stoeva, a Calendar of some innovations in Medical Physics that happened during the existence of MPW presented by our calendar editor Dr. Duhaini, as well as an article "Exposure to low dose CT for lung and colorectal cancer screening: What are the risks of radiation?", by John Damilakis, which demonstrates how MPW and eMPW have often published scientific articles as well as just "news".

## Medical Physics World

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### IOMP NMOs

National Member Organisations

Algeria	Morocco
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Australia & New Zealand	Nepal
Austria	Netherlands
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## 35 YEARS IOMP MEDICAL PHYSICS WORLD

1984-2019

We acknowledge the contribution of the Medical Physics World Editors and Editorial teams, to mark the 35th Anniversary of the IOMP Medical Physics World bulletin and for their outstanding contribution to IOMP, regional organizations, national organizations and medical physicists worldwide.

Lawrence H. Land  
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Magdalena Stoeva  
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To commemorate the 35th anniversary and to celebrate the International Day of Medical Physics there are messages in this Special Issue from the IOMP (President Madan Rehani and Vice-President John Damilakis), the IOMP Regional Collaboration Board (Slavik Tabakov), the WHO (Maria del Rosario Perez and Adriana Velasquez), the IAEA (Karen Christaki, Giorgia Loreti, Paula Toroi, Virginia Tsapaki and Debbie van der Merwe), the AAPM (Cynthia McCollough, M. Saiful Huq, Bruce Thomadsen), the IDMP Coordinator (Ibrahim Duhaini), a reprint of the Immediate Past Editor-in-Chief of MPW (Virginia Tsapaki) 2017 interview for MPW,

The IOMP Medical Physics World has a long history of serving our professional community and contributing to the advancement of medical physics worldwide by providing a bulletin to all members covering IOMP activities and matters of best interest to medical physicists worldwide. Thanks to the professionalism of the MPW Editors and their editorial teams, who produced 67 successful issues of MPW throughout the last 35 years, Medical Physics World always succeeded to fulfill the mission it was charged with and has proven many times the first commitment made by the first MPW team "... to

make 'Medical Physics World' worthy of its title"  
[Medical Physics World, 1984, vol. 1, no. 1, p. 1-2]

**References:**

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2. Medical Physics World, November 2019, Vol.35 (10), No. 2, Special Issue, <https://www.iomp.org/>

3. Medical Physics World 1984, Vol.1, No. 1, [https://www.iomp.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/mpw\\_Volume\\_1\\_Number\\_1.pdf](https://www.iomp.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/mpw_Volume_1_Number_1.pdf)