EDITORIALS

This issue of the Journal Medical Physics International (MPI, Dec 2020) continues with the focus on the IOMP Regional Organisations (RO). The focus now is on AFOMP (Asia- Oceania Federation of Organizations for Medical Physics), which celebrates this year its 20th Anniversary. This issue follows the previous three issues focussed on the African Region, the South and Central America and the Caribbean Region and the South-East Asian Region . The current issue includes papers tracing the development of our profession in Australia and New Zealand, Bangladesh, Japan, India, Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand. All these papers show the steady development of medical physics in AFOMP – the fastest growing Region of IOMP. We are grateful to Prof. Arun Chougule, Prof. Eva Bezak and Prof. Anupama Azhari from AFOMP - our Contributing Co-Editors of the MPI Dec 2020 – who solicited papers from the Region.

It is fully understandable that this MPI Issue reflects also on the reaction of our profession to the very difficult time for all people related to the current pandemic. We included the results of a survey related to the reaction to Covid-19 in the professional societies in AFOMP. Also, we included a paper describing the activities in the International Master in Advanced Medical Physics in ICTP and University of Trieste during this period.

The section of Educational papers show examples for various educational activities, both in normal time and during the Covid-19 pandemic. We also included ideas on the development of Repositories for sharing imaging materials for education and information about the new AAPM Virtual Museum. An invited paper from the USA Society of Directors of Academic Programmes gives example for inter-University collaboration in the field.

The current MPI issue includes also a Technical innovation paper related to Mathematical Probabilistic and Computational Generators of Discrete Probabilistic Distributions Applied to Medical Physics, as well as an extensive review of the Modern Technology in Radiation Oncology. Together with this are included several reviews of new books in medical physics.

MPI – the professional and educational journal of IOMP, continues to provide vital information to our readers worldwide and each issue has thousands of downloads. During the period June-December 2020 there had been c.48,000 visits to the MPI web site (c.37% from N.America, 28% from Asia and 27% from Europe). We believe that many colleagues will find interesting information in the new issue of the MPI Journal. Soon we shall be ready with the new Special Issue on Medical Physics History, focussed on History of Ultrasound in Medicine.

We are taking this opportunity to send best wishes to all our colleagues and readers for the New Year 2021!

Slavik Tabakov MPI Co-Editor-in-Chief

In this Edition we reflect on the life and many contributions to the medical physics profession by Dr. John (Jack) Cunningham, one of the pioneers and leaders in the field of radiation therapy in his long-time collaboration with Dr. Harold Johns, the inventor and developer of Cobalt radiation therapy. The results of his extensive research are documented in the references in Obituary.

It was the textbook, Radiological Physics, authored by the two universally known as “Johns and Cunningham” that served as the foundation of medical physics education around the world for many years. The First Edition was published in 1953 followed by other periodic editions covering advances in medical physics and radiology. The books contained numerous tables of data, attenuation coefficients, scatter ratios, depth dose for treatment planning, etc. that were used as references by physicists in many applications.

Now Johns and Cunningham serves as a major historical resource covering the science and technology of medical physics for several decades. A copy of the 4th Edition can be downloaded from the AAPM Author Archives at: https://w3.aapm.org/pubs/authorArchives.php.

Perry Sprawls MPI Co-Editor-in-Chief