

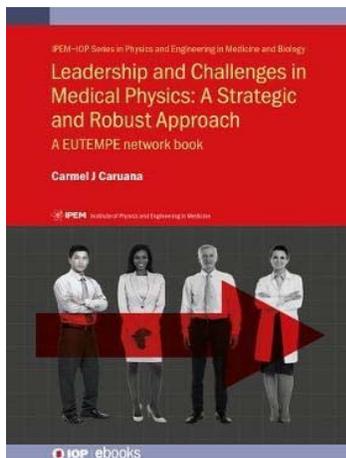
LEADERSHIP AND CHALLENGES IN MEDICAL PHYSICS: A STRATEGIC AND ROBUST APPROACH by C Caruana

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Carmel J Caruana

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Medical physicists as clinical scientists are facing tremendous challenges in their professional clinical practice and administration in the real world. Confronted with strategic planning, project planning, team building, negotiation skill, manpower development, ...they are more confused and frustrated. Furthermore, our education and training programmes do not equip them in dealing with the complex issues in healthcare settings.

Professor Caruana, a very experienced academic as well as clinical medical physicist, is the originator and leader of the EFOMP-EUTEMPE module MPE01 on 'Leadership in Medical Physics', advocates a contemporary practical approach for aspiring leaders. He says candidly, 'We are a highly intelligent group, we have excelled as clinical scientists - I am very confident that we can excel in leadership too provided we give it the attention it deserves'!

In this very readable 104-page 10-chapter book, the author aims to present aspiring future medical physics leaders with effective, strategic and robust leadership skills in a very competitive and uncertain world. He has in mind to impart healthy leadership and leadership styles, organizational politics, organizational psychology and negotiating skills.

The author provides a compendium of SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) themes for leaders with a resource of several ideas to trigger initial SWOT brainstorming sessions when developing strategic plans with the team. It also has a compendium describing various leadership styles.

This book is filled with reflection/discussion points or case studies to facilitate a systematic approach for strategic planning. It is also sprinkled with many words of wisdom. One that I particularly like is this; 'Please keep in mind that no book will turn you into a leader – Ultimately *you have to make yourself one*.

The book can certainly benefit from the inclusion of diagrams like mindmaps showing the relationships between the abstract ideas to help our early career practitioners remember better when it comes to putting them into practice. It would be nice to see future case studies showing how these ideas are put into real practice by real people.

If you are curious to find out how you could survive and win the political game, then this primer is highly recommended for you.

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