

EDITORIAL

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MPI Special Issues Co-Editors

The contributions of modern medical physics to high quality healthcare for society are possible because of the highly advanced technology and clinical methods for both diagnostic and therapeutic clinical procedures that have developed over the years. The evolution of these technologies and methods is the result of extensive discoveries, inventions, and developments by many physicists, engineers, and other professionals each making specific contributions. That is our history and heritage. Knowledge of that continuing process provides context for modern medical physics clinical activities and appreciation for the foundation of our profession. Providing open access to that for all medical physicists and students around the world is the objective of the IOMP History Project and publications in Medical Physics International.

Our team continues to work on the Medical Physics International (MPI) issues despite the difficult pandemic situation around all of us. We are grateful to all colleagues who contribute to the wide spectrum of the Journal and its Special issues. During the past two months the MPI 2020 regular issue and the Special Issue No.3 attracted significant interest with about 15,000 visits to the web site www.mpjournal.org (c.5200 from North America; c.4800 from Asia and Oceania; c.3800 from Europe; c.700 from Africa; c. 400 from South America). We are glad that the open access to this IOMP publication triggers such interest in the profession and supports many colleagues worldwide.

The Content of the MPI Special History Issues and the interest to these underline the objective of the History project: to research, organize, preserve, and publish on the evolution and developments of medical physics and clinical applications that are the foundation of our profession. The history articles can be accessed at : <http://www.mpjournal.org/history.aspx>

In this MPI Special Edition No.4 we provide four articles from the IOMP History Project, which again present a mixture of methods and equipment history and of professional development in medical physics regions and sub-regions.

The paper on History of Cobalt 60 Radiation Therapy is authored by J. Van Dyk, J. J. Battista, and P.R. Almond – well known specialists in the field. It is significant that the authors have been personally involved in this progress and also share important memories of this foundation part of our professional history. The paper includes comprehensive list with references, tracing the most important steps of this development.

The paper on History of Computed Tomography (part I) traces the initiation of the method up to Spiral CT – a step-by-step process of developments and innovations increasing the quality and capabilities of CT as a medical procedure. The paper includes biographical notes of the main scientists involved in the CT invention and introduction. The paper is prepared by P Sprawls, who is one of the pioneers in the implementation of CT.

The paper on History of Professional Development in the South-East Asian region is related to the 20th anniversary of SEAFOMP. It continues the MPI Issue of May 2020, with focus on the medical physics development in this part of the world. The paper is prepared by the SEAFOMP colleagues, who played significant role in this development (and were collaborating Editors of the previous MPI issue).

The paper on History of Education and Training Conferences and Courses in Central/Eastern Europe is related to the 40th anniversary of EFOMP. It presents the first important steps of the profession in this part of the world and the education and training projects developed there, later used also in other countries. The paper is prepared by S Tabakov, who spent over 25 years on the initiation and organization of Conferences and projects in Central/Eastern Europe.

A number of these papers were planned to be presented at the AAPM Annual Conference History Symposium, but due to the current situation this will be postponed for the next year.

We welcome the contribution of colleagues from all societies, organizations and companies, who plan to join the History project in its various volumes. We look forward to your contributions to the Project.



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Prof. Perry Sprawls



Prof. Geoffrey Ibbott