NEW PRESIDENT OF THE IOMP 2022-2025

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We live in a world that is constantly changing. The world looks strikingly different from the one W.V. Mayneord lived in when he became the IOMP’s first President almost 60 years ago. We need to address current issues and try to predict the future.

During the Council Meeting at the World Congress in Singapore I sketched a few plans that will be discussed with the IOMP ExCom during my presidential term. The pandemic did not allow many of you to participate in this important meeting and, for this reason, I’ll provide a summary here.

We need to expand the visibility of IOMP and the work of our members. There are many ways to do this. For example, IOMP’s website is not only its internet identity but also an excellent tool for communication with colleagues and the public. Any effort should be made to improve and enrich the content and expand our website.

We need to achieve financial sustainability through efficient and effective financial planning. There are several ways to increase income for the benefit of the Medical Physics society, for example, we can increase the number of corporate members by strengthening our relationship with the industry.

IOMP has a duty to ensure that all medical physicists have access to the educational opportunities needed to acquire, maintain, and refine the knowledge and skills to fulfill their role in the clinical and academic environment. We provide advanced education through the ‘IOMP School’. The main activity so far was the organization of webinars. We will continue organizing webinars. There is high demand for developing continuing education courses in medical physics due to the rapid development of medical techniques based on ionizing and non-ionizing radiation. I hope that the covid pandemic will be soon over in all countries of the world and we will be able to organize onsite events, for example, a Workshop Series for cutting-edge topics. Moreover, the School needs an operation manual to describe in detail the processes that the School uses to provide its services.

We should also consider developing an e-learning platform to provide on-line medical physics material that meets different levels of knowledge and interests. This platform will provide opportunities of sharing resources such as webinar recordings with other colleagues all over the world.

The IOMP Journal Medical Physics International (MPI) has now completed its tenth year since the first issue of the Journal in April 2013. Dr. Slavik Tabakov and Dr. Perry Sprawls have completed their 2nd term as Editors-in-Chief and I would like to wholeheartedly thank them for their valuable services. At the time of writing this article, we are in the process of selecting the new MPI Editors-in-Chief.

We need to increase the impact of IOMP’s publications and further develop our publishing portfolio. Specific actions may include exploring new publishing models and potentially developing a new journal. We also need to produce a number of policy statements, guidelines, and recommendations. All IOMP committees can play an important role in policymaking, and especially the Professional Relations Committee, the Science Committee and the Education and Training committee.

We have excellent relationships with international organizations such as the IAEA, WHO, and ICRP. It is true that the healthcare sector is ‘an interdependent world’. To meet challenges and address major issues, it is important to develop a strong and positive relationship with international organizations and interested parties in the area of health care.

We also need to streamline processes and improve internal organizational structure. To be a valued organization, and able to achieve our strategic goals, we
should improve internal organization. The Rules Committee will review and update the Bylaws as necessary.

IOMP is a reliable source for public information on matters related to medical physics. We will work to increase the effectiveness of existing IOMP programs such as the IDMP and the IMPW to communicate the benefits of medical physics research, clinical and other services to the public. We can also increase the amount of information IOMP provides to the public and create resources that target policymakers to provide them with better understanding of the benefits and importance of medical physics.

I'm convinced that the success of our work depends on the commitment and expertise of volunteers. The current membership of IOMP covers national and regional organizations which together represent about 30,000 medical physicists. Working together, we can ensure that medical physics realizes its true potential as a force for a better world.

I am really honored to have become IOMP’s President for the term 2022-2025 and determined to keep the organization growing strongly. I would like to assure National Member Organizations, Regional Organizations and all our members that the new Executive Committee will continue to support the development of our profession globally.