

MEDICAL PHYSICS WORLD

Bulletin of the International Organization for Medical Physics

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President's Message

Dear Fellow Members of IOMP,

It is a great honour and privilege for me to be able to take over from Dr. Colin Orton the presidency of the IOMP for the next three years. Due to reasons beyond my control, I was unable to attend the World Congress in Chicago; but, believe me, I have been and I am very much in spirit although not in person with you all wishing you every success in the further development of our ideas and practice in medical physics.

Instead of outlining our aims for the the future, which will be, a continuation of those pursued relentlessly for the past three years by both my predecessor, Dr Orton, and Secretary General Gary Fullerton, together with all the Chairpersons of the Committees, let me shortly delve into history and ethics of medical physics since the year 2000 seems to provide a good opportunity for that.

Medical physics has been regarded by some to be a part of medicine, and by most to be applied physics. It has also been difficult to draw a dividing line between medical physics and biomedical engineering. The International Union for Physical and Engineering Sciences, headed for the past three years with such great success by Professor Keith Boddy, has been partly an answer to this dilemma as it combined into itself the two organizations, IOMP and IFMBE. The best evidence of international recognition of medical physics and biomedical engineering by the world's scientific community is the fact that after so many unsuccessful attempts on our part the IUPESM has been finally admitted as a full member of the prestigious International Council of Scientific Unions.

As Otto Glaser put it in the preface to his monumental work "MEDICAL PHYSICS" more than 50 years ago: "Many discoveries of fundamental physical phenomena in recent de-

cedes, combined with extraordinary development of earlier discoveries and successful application of numerous basic principles of physics in medical practice, have fostered the notion that medical physics as a distinctive achievement of the twentieth century." Progress in medicine has often been related to advances in physics. Most medical physicists started their professional career as physicists. I, for one, spent my first years after graduation doing research and teaching in solid state physics at the Experimental Physics Department of the University of Warsaw, Poland. It was only later than I turned to medicine and over thirty years ago helped to establish the Polish Society of Medical Physics, inspired by the then newly established IOMP.

The term "medical physics" was coined in 1856 in a book entitled "Medizinische Physik" (in German) by A. Fick of Zürich (Switzerland) and another one, published in 1891, entitled "Essentials of Medical Physics" by F.J. Brockway. The very term 'physics' has also had a long tradition in the English language, or other European languages, since it is derived from the Greek work "ta fisika" (which is the plural of the word 'physic') that in the Middle English meant the theory of diseases and their treatment or the art of healing. How close medicine has been to physics as a science is best reflected in the term 'physicist' connected to another term 'physician', now meaning one who practices the healing art, but which, as late as 1833, also meant a student of physics. In fact, as Whewell wrote in 1840 "we might perhaps still use 'physician' as the equivalent of the French 'physicien', but probably it would be better to coin a new word". On the other hand, in Blackwood Magazine in 1843, this new term "physicist" was criticised since "its four sibilant consonants fizzle like a ...squibb".

There is one other problem that I would like to share with you. There are challenges facing medical physics and medicine in general. Some people think that there is now a crisis in medicine, which has resulted paradoxically from the spectacular achievements in all fields

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of medicine, and the inability of mastering the invasion of science, in particular biology, physics and engineering, both in the technical and intellectual planes on medical practices.

Is science being used for the benefit of sick people? Due to rigorous and exact scientific methods, medicine, a permanent companion of medical physics, has become too expensive for many, and, what is more, it is often accused of being de-humanized, and of losing sight of the main ideal of ethics and professional conduct provided by Hippocrates almost 2500 years ago who was first to forge the famous saying 'salus aegroti suprema lex'. Let us not be surprised with the scientific methods and techniques of physics and mathematics we have introduced into the life sciences. This philosophy which treats the human being as a highly-developed machine that can be switched on and off at will. Thanks to medical physics and biomedical engineering our ability to conserve and prolong, but also to end human life, has led us to face often unsurmountable ethical and legal problems.

(continued on page 18)

Secretary General's Report

Dear IOMP Members,

It was very good to see so many of you in Chicago this summer at the World Congress on Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering. The Congress was highly successful by most measures. There was a total registration of 5313, which is the largest meeting since the 3700 reported in 1988 in San Antonio. The number of physics registrants was 3461 versus 1813 bioengineers. The Chicago2000 organizers paid the IOMP meeting expenses of \$17,500 immediately following the meeting and informed us that an additional payment for profit share is expected. The profit for the meeting will be determined as soon as all outstanding expenses are resolved. Profit in the range of \$235,000 with an IOMP profit share of approximately \$39,000 is predicted. The Director of AAPM informed IOMP that he plans to disburse profit shares in early 2001. These additional and somewhat unexpected funds will allow expansion of IOMP programming over the next three years. IOMP thanks the American hosts for their contributions to the future international medical physics programs and hopes that national members will convey their thanks as well.

Welcome New National Members

A group of 6 new member nations were approved by the IOMP Council at the meeting in Chicago, which brings the national members total to 72. Please join the IOMP Council in welcoming Bangladesh, Chile, Egypt, Nepal, Portugal and Singapore to the IOMP family. The Council also voted unanimously to accept two additional regional chapters from Asia. Details concerning the new chapters and the National members that are participating in these regional organizations are given on the IOMP home page <http://www.iomp.org>.

Election of Officers

The Secretary General reported that as a result of the election at the first council meeting in Chicago the IOMP officers for 2000/2003 are: Oskar Chomiccki, President, Azam Niroomand-Rad, Vice-President and Gary Fullerton, Secretary General. Nisakorn Manatrakul was selected by the IOMP Officers to serve as the IOMP Treasurer with the proposal that the office of Treasurer should be added to the list of elected positions as soon as possible. The following IOMP members were selected to serve as Chairmen of the standing Committees: Awards Committee (Fridtjof Nuesslin), Education and Training Committee (Slavik Tabakov), Finance Committee (Nisakorn Manatrakul), Professional Relations Committee (Andries van Aswegen), Publications Committee (Gino Fallone), Science Committee (Cari Borrás), Nominations Committee (Oskar Chomiccki) and Ad Hoc Governance Committee (Colin Orton).

International Advisory Council

The International Advisory Council held the first meeting in Chicago and elected Professor Fridtjof Nuesslin from Germany as Chairman and Kwan Ng from Malaysia as Co-chairman. The Council discussed a number of new initiatives to promote more active regional cooperation as well as improve cooperation with programs with international organizations such as the IAEA, PAHO, WHO and UNESCO.

Participation in IUPESM

The Council discussed the issue of continued participation of IOMP in the IUPESM and conjoint World Congresses on a triennial basis. Motion: "That, having been admitted to ICSU as a Full Member, having received reaffirmation of support from IFMBE and IOMP, the IOMP supports authorizing the IUPESM Administrative Council to take actions as necessary to further this new international status." This motion raised questions concerning the needs of medical physicists for a world meeting outside the restrictions of the "World Congress on Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering" but it was concluded that the ability to influence international science was too important for IOMP to neglect. The International Advisory Council was asked to consider other options to provide better venues for interchange between medical physicists.

Virtual Meetings of the IOMP Council

The IOMP Council agreed to conduct business between the triennial Congresses using the "Virtual Meeting" procedure proposed by the Secretary General. These meetings are conducted using e-mail communications and will be implemented as soon as possible.

In summary the past three years have been both exciting and productive. The electronic communications developments have greatly increased the range of participation of members from all parts of the world. This should be greatly improved in 2000/2003 with the authorization to hire a 1/4 time secretary in the IOMP Secretariat. The end point of this process will be the eventual creation of a permanent Secretariat with professional staff. Until then the part time IOMP Secretariat looks forward to working with you in achieving the goals set forward by the founders. Please refer to <http://www.iomp.org> for background information, statutes, bylaws, membership information and other details of importance.

Gary Fullerton, Ph.D., Secretary General IOMP

Officers and Council of IOMP 2000

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Vice-President's Report

Let me start by saying what a great pleasure it has been for me to serve our association as Editor of Medical Physics World (MPW) for the past six years and to serve as Chair of Education and Training Committee for the past three years and as a member of ETC for the past 10 years. I specially enjoyed meeting many of you at various IOMP/AAPM meetings and courses/workshops. It has also been a great privilege for me to have the opportunity to participate in the establishment of the IOMP Marie Sklodowska-Curie Award which was presented for the first time to Professor Cameron at the Triennial World Congresses 2000 in Chicago. Detailed of my past activities, which were presented at the WC-2000, are reported separately in this issue of MPW (see page 18).

Let me now continue by saying that it is a great privilege to have been elected to serve you and the IOMP for six more years in my new capacity as Vice-President. I am honored to represent our medical physics colleagues and profession around the world and certainly find it to be a challenge to uphold the high standards established by my previous predecessors.

As stated in my pledge during the WC 2000 meeting in Chicago, IOMP must continue to provide the highest level of scientific exchange, educational opportunities, and professional support to its adhering national organizations. We should continue promoting the role and stature of medical physicists worldwide by seeking recognition by the International Labor Organization. We must make efforts to have greater participation and input from developing countries in the IOMP affairs as well as organization of the triennial WC Meetings. We should continue expanding on Internet communication and make information for all the medical physics educational and scientific programs available on the IOMP web site. The IOMP should continue its effort in establishing regional medical physics organizations as well as helping to establish national organizations for those countries that do not have one. In addition, one of our challenges should be to strengthen the IOMP financial position by seeking more revenue such as Corporate Membership / sponsorship in this era of tight budgeting strategy. Not only we must regain the corporate members that we have lost in the past few years, but also we must devise new strategy to attract new corporate members and sponsors for our programs.

I hope that we will be able to satisfy our aspirations and your expectations. Please let us know of your ideas or any proposal for achieving your goals for betterment of our profession word wide. We need all the help we can get.

*Azam Niroomand-Rad, Ph.D.
Vice-President*

Editor's Report

It is with great pleasure that I write to you as the new editor of the Medical Physics World (MPW), the official bulletin of the International Organization for Medical Physics (IOMP). I am honored to serve the IOMP members in this capacity and certainly find it to be a challenge to uphold the high standards and level of quality established by my predecessors.

Commencing with Dr. Lawrence Lanzl, who served as first editor, the MPW has continued to be nurtured by the outstanding contributions of Drs. Colin Orton, Richard Maughan, Bhudatt Paliwal, and Azam Niroomand-Rad. I have been fortunate to work with Azam for the past few years as the Associate Editor of the MPW, which has helped me to appreciate and be sensitive to satisfying the needs of our members through MPW bulletin.

Our challenges are numerous. In addition to the financial responsibilities as a self-supporting magazine, technical issues demand a timely publication of our bulletin. With a reading audience from seventy-one countries around the globe, the dissemination of current information is essential. This service can be an effective instrument to assure that our members practicing in technologically-challenged environments are equipped with the knowledge to make sound, scientific decisions. Our goal is to eventually provide our membership access to live information.

As charged by our Mission Statement, the Editorial Board of the MPW is "to contribute to the advancement of medical physics worldwide by providing a printed bulletin of IOMP activities to all members". Additionally, the Editorial Board is committed to "disseminate information, promote communication and provide news of use for all countries but especially in developing countries".

On behalf of myself and my colleagues of the Editorial Board team (Drs. Vrinda Narayana, and Carter Schroy), we pledge to continue the tradition of excellence that is the characteristic of this organization and of this magazine. We pledge our dedication to the continuation of this vital link to the world's medical physics community.

To achieve our goals, we need your help and encourage all of our readers to send us your comments and suggestions. In addition to publishing the officers' reports and other related IOMP news, we would appreciate receiving educational and technical reports useful to our general audience.

Our short-term goal is to keep the composition and appearance of the magazine the same while gradually migrating all of our shared data to an Internet-based information source. The time line for this task will depend upon the technology base of the readers. The model we are envisioning for the future is that of progressively fewer paper versions of the magazine and more subscribers utilizing an E-zine format (yet to be determined). The IOMP Publication Committee is currently evaluating different projects related to this issue as well as education and information for medical physicists around the world through the use of an electronic medium.

For more information, point your browser to the IOMP site (<http://www.iomp.org>) which will provide you with the most current news and information related to these topics.

E. Ishmael Parsai, Ph.D., Editor

Treasurer's Report

I am greatly honored and privileged to have been elected to serve on the new IOMP Treasurer. A new IOMP Finance Committee has been established to innovate, oversee and proactively address the needs of the IOMP. The following are charges and names of members of the Finance Committee.

Charges of the Financial Committee are to:

1. Submit an Annual Budget to the IOMP Council.
2. Submit audited annual accounts to the Council.
3. Analyze dues structure and make recommendations to Council for any necessary changes.
4. Work with the Secretary General on arrangements for IOMP-sponsored events, including World Congresses, and report to the Council.

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We are very pleased to serve as the IOMP Finance Committee. Please let us know of your concerns and ideas.

Nisakorn Manatrakul, M.Sc.

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REPORT OF THE IOMP PROFESSIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE (TERM 1997-2000)

- 1. INTRODUCTION** In 1998 the name of the previous Developing Countries Committee was changed to the Professional Relations Committee (PRC). The charge of the Committee was furthermore directed towards the improvement of the professional capacity of medical physicists world wide by providing systematized knowledge concerning clinical training, standards of practice, personnel resources and physical resources necessary to provide quality services in the areas of clinical medical physics. The Committee should promote research and documentation to determine the nature and principles of professional conduct necessary to assure quality patient care and put such information in a useful form for all countries but especially in developing countries.
- 2. PRC MEMBERS** Ms Mariana de Cabrejas, Argentina, (South & Central America) Dr Stelios Christofides, Cyprus, (Middle East) Dr Kwan-Hoong Ng, Malaysia, (South East Asia & Far East) Dr Abdus S Mollah, Bangladesh, (Indian subcontinent & surrounding countries) Dr Marta Radwanska, Poland, (Eastern Europe) Dr Habib Zaidi, Switzerland, (Northern Africa) Dr Wynand Strydom, South Africa, (Central & Southern Africa) Mr Mohammed Zaidi, USA, (Communications & Equipment exchange program) Dr Marilyn Stovall, USA, (IOMP Libraries program)
- 3. EQUIPMENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM** This program was the most active of the PRC's activities mainly due to the enthusiasm of the program co-ordinator, Mr Mohammed Zaidi. A report on the donations that were successfully handled is given in Addendum 1.
- 4. STATUS OF MEDICAL PHYSICIST CERTIFICATION** The Committee was requested to make a survey of the status of Medical Physicist certification in the member states. A questionnaire was sent through the office of the Secretary General to all member countries of the IOMP. The report on the survey is included as Addendum 2 and the main observations were: * 31 Countries of 69 responded. * Official certification authorities exist in 17 countries. * Sudan (2), United States (3) and Venezuela (3) have more than one official certification authority. * Belgium has recently started with its certification process, while a new certification system in the United Kingdom starts during October 2000. * The totals of the columns under "Number of practicing medical physicists" include the numbers of persons registered with all the authorities in the USA - however individuals can be registered with more than one authority. The totals are therefore not very precise.
- 5. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM** The PRC was requested, on relative short notice, to compile guidelines for the allocation of the limited IOMP funds to assist colleagues (especially from developing countries) to attend the World Congress in Chicago. These guidelines were further discussed and refined at the PRC meeting in Chicago and the final decision which was approved, will appear in the next issue of the MPW.
The Financial Assistance program was communicated by the PRC members to the countries under their responsibility and also listed on the IOMP Webpage. Despite this, many colleagues were not aware of the program. Two major prerequisites existed for qualification i.e. (i) the applicant's abstract had to be accepted by the Congress Committee and (ii) the applicant's country had to be a paid up member of the IOMP. These were the main shortcomings in many cases. Financial assistance to attend the World Congress in Chicago was eventually given to 8 persons.
- 6. TWINNING PROGRAM** The IOMP had earlier established a "twinning program" where medical physicists in developing countries could be brought into touch with colleagues in developed countries in order to assist with day-to-day problems, give advice on certain issues, etc.
Ms Ann Dixon-Brown used to be in charge of this program but unfortunately, due to ill health, she could not continue. The program therefore hadn't made many inroads up to now. There is a definite need for this type of collaboration and a special effort will be made to identify people who will be willing to get the program running again.
- 7. CONCLUSION** The Committee had a relatively slow start to its activities due to many factors, but with the necessary enthusiasm of its members and feedback from member countries, objectives can be identified to improve the professional status of medical physicists to a level that will make everyone proud of the profession.

I would like to thank the committee members for their support during this term of office. Also, a special word of thanks to the IOMP President, Prof. Colin Orton, and the IOMP Secretary General, Prof. Gary Fullerton, for their interest and guidance as far as the activities of the PRC were concerned.

ANDRIES VAN ASWEGEN, PhD Chair: IOMP Professional Relations Committee
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ADDENDUM 1

IOMP PRC - DONATION OF USED EQUIPMENT - REPORT

Jul-Dec 2000. * The PRC is working with IAEA to have some equipment donated to very poor nations who cannot afford to pay for shipment. * Shipment of three Alcyon-II Co-60 teletherapy units is in progress - two going to Mount Tabor Medical Mission Hospital, Pudukottai, India and one to Jawahar Lal Nehru Cancer Hospital and Research Center, Bhopal, India. * A Siemens Mevatron is being shipped to Jawahar Lal Nehru Cancer Hospital and Research Center, Bhopal, MP, India. * A Theratron Co-60 machine being shipped to Continentally Aided National Cancer Education & Research (CANCER), Chennai Sea Port (Madras), India * Commitments were received for one Mevatron and a Theratron Co-60 to be sent to Egypt and Romania.

Jan-Jun 2000. * The PRC shipped a Theratronics Treatment Planning System (TPS) 300 including two monitors, scanner, and plotter to the Assut Medical School, Assut, Egypt. * Theratronics - Theraplan 300 Treatment Planning System shipped to Jawahar Lal Nehru Cancer Hospital and Research Center, Bhopal, MP, India. * Two reconditioned Block Cutters one being shipped to Institute of Radiotherapy and Nuclear Medicine (IRNUM), University of Peshawar, Pakistan and the other to Padhar Hospital, Betul, India. * A Theratron 780 unit was moved to Peru.

Jul-Dec 1999. During the last six months the PRC was not able to ship any equipment due to mismatch, non-availability of shipping expenses, and changes in the developing world. A couple of matching is underway and we might be able to ship some equipment in the very near future.

Jan-Jun 1999. In February 1999, a Theratron Treatment Planning Computer (TPC) 500 including two monitors, scanner, and plotter was shipped to the Institute of Radiotherapy & Nuclear Medicine (IRNUM), Peshawar University, Peshawar, Pakistan.

ADDENDUM 2

STATUS OF MEDICAL PHYSICIST CERTIFICATION

Country Certification Authority Number of Practicing Medical Physicists Main Field of Application (certified) Comments

	Y/N	Number Certified	Uncertified/ Trainees	Retired/ Abroad	Rad Oncol	Diagn Radiol	Nucl Med	Rad	Prot	Other
Algeria	Y	1	20	1	10	10	3	5	2	0
Argentina	Y	1	55	4	2	50	0	5	0	0
Austria	Y	1	28	60	0	11	3	7	5	3
Belgium	Y	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Certific from 1/1/2000										
Chile	Y	1	41	0	0	37	0	0	2	0
Cyprus	N	4	3	2	2	0	1	2	0	
IPEM certification										
Denmark	Y	1	39	16	0	28	3	8	0	0
Ecuador	N	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Estonia	N	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
France	Y	1	250	10	3	225	2	8	0	0
Georgia	N	0	53	0	18	25	0	1	0	0
Uncertified Person										
Hungary	N	0	65	0	0	0	0	0	0	
India	N	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Indonesia	N	0	23	0	8	4	1	2	8	
Uncertified										
Morocco	N	0	12	8	6	0	1	1	0	
Uncertified										
Nepal	Y	1	5	4	0	4	1	0	1	0
Netherlands	Y	1	181	0	3	62	14	26	0	88
New Zealand	Y	1	18	25	0	2	8	0	0	4
Norway	N	0	65	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Seeking Cert										
Pakistan	Y	1	18	7	1	22	0	2	0	0
Philippines	N	0	20	0	9	0	0	0	11	
Seeking Cert										
Russia	Y	1	575	150	200	200	115	85	175	0
No MP Speciality										
Sri Lanka	N	0	8	0	5	0	3	0	0	
No Official Certification										
South Africa	Y	1	72	4	12	24	3	12	4	0
Sudan	Y	2	9	5	2	7	3	2	3	0
Tanzania	N	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	
Only Medical Cert.										
Turkey	N	50	85	5	70	5	20	40	0	
No official certification										
Ukraine	N	(?)	200	0	0	60	80	35	25	0
Data doubtful										
United Kingdom	Y	1	880	200	0	112	112	0	63	0
New auth on 1/10/2000										
USA - ABR	Y	1	1895	0	87	1383	256	256	0	0
73% in RT										
USA - ABMP	Y	1	530	0	24	0	0	0	0	0
23% in Diagnostic										
USA - ABHP	Y	1	106	0	22	0	0	0	0	0
Venezuela	Y	3	0	16	2	7	2	0	7	0
Answers in Spanish										
TOTAL			4976	846	383	2364	639	477	342	114

COMMENTS

- 31 Countries of 69 responded.
- Official certification authorities exist in 17 countries.
- Sudan (2), United States (3) and Venezuela (3) have more than one official certification authority.
- Belgium has recently started with its certification process, while a new certification system in the United Kingdom starts during October 2000.
- The totals of the columns under "Number of practicing medical physicists" include the numbers of persons registered with all the authorities in the USA - however individuals can be registered with more than one authority. The totals are therefore not very precise.
- Comments on data received from Venezuela were in Spanish and could not be interpreted.
- The data from Ukraine listed the three certification authorities as "technician, engineer and investigator" which also makes it difficult to interpret.

Past-President's Report

As has been the case with all previous Past Presidents, I have moved on to duties within our umbrella organization, the International Union for Physicists and Engineering Sciences in Medicine (IUPESM), where I am a representative of the IOMP as an Officer on their Council. As one of my activities I will Chair the IUPESM Education and Training Committee, where I hope to be able to continue to develop some of my ideas for the application of modern technology to the education of medical physicists and biomedical engineers in the developing world, especially distance learning.

Unlike previous Past Presidents, however, I have been given a specific duty for the IOMP: to draft revised Statutes and Bylaws for our Organization. Our existing Statutes and Bylaws were written over thirty years ago and have changed little since. They are clearly way out-of-date and need to be revised to take into account the very great increase in size of the IOMP and the significant opportunities that the new communications systems offer us. Our tradition has been for our Officers, Council, and Committees to meet just once every three years, and to conduct almost all of our business at that time. This clearly inhibits progress. Now, with e-mail communication available to almost all our Council and Committee members, we are able to "meet" far more frequently in "virtual space". We need our Statutes and, especially, our Bylaws, to formalize these "virtual meetings", especially where "virtual ballots" are required. Our Bylaws need to stipulate when and how such virtual meetings and ballots may be conducted, and how to retain anonymity for our voting Delegates.

Another change I think is necessary involves the Officers of the IOMP. Currently, we have just three Officers: President, Vice President, and Secretary General. With an Organization as large as ours, I feel we need more people at the top to make "executive" decisions. Our Council, with about 100 Delegates, is too large to be involved in making most decisions. Conversely, our Officers are too few. We need a compromise. An Executive Committee with, say, 5 - 10 members, might be the answer. Please let me know what you think.

Any member who is interested in assisting me in the task of drafting these revised Statutes and Bylaws should contact me by e-mail at ortonc@kci.wayne.edu. I welcome any assistance I can get on this important task.

*Colin G. Orton,
Immediate Past President.*

Publications Committee (PC) Report

The members of the committee are:

Gino Fallone, Ph.D. (Chairman) Larry DeWerd, Ph.D., Secretary (GOMP Editor) Alun Beddoe, Ph.D. (PMB Editor) John Cameron, Ph.D. (EMPW Editor) Oskar Chomicki, PhD, ex-officio Enrique Gaona, M.S. (ALFIM) Gary Fullerton, Ph.D., ex-officio (IOMP Home Page Editor) Kwan-Hoong Ng, Ph.D. (EMPW Editor) Azam Niroomand-Rad, Ph.D., ex-officio (MPW Editor) Stuart Meldrum, Ph.D. (PM Editor) Colin Orton, PhD, (MP Editor) Ishmael Parsai, Ph.D. (MPW Editor) David Evans, PhD, web-consultant to the Committee

The charge of the IOMP Publications Committee is to improve medical physics worldwide by providing appropriate publication vehicles for knowledge generated as a research, education and professional programs of the Organization. The focus of the Committee includes both printed and electronic documents that are prepared with the intent to put information in a useful form that can be easily viewed by all countries but especially in developing countries.

The first meeting of the IOMP Publication Committee was held on July 23, 2000 during the World Congress in Chicago. General issues in the domain of the Publication Committee were discussed. These include changing the name of "Electronic Medical Physics World" to avoid confusion with the Electronic Publication of Medical Physics World. We are considering instituting an on-line medical physics textbook with input from various interested parties. A very large part of our duties in the next few months is to create an IOMP web-site which would offer a comprehensive list of services (Global on-line medical physics textbook, medical physics bibliography, and other services) to the international medical physics community. A proposed web-site has already been designed by our web consultant and is now being reviewed for form and content. We intend to operate with meetings and vote through international e-mail facilities, and would organize in-person meetings when required and when possible.

*Gino Fallone, Ph.D.
Chairman, Publication Committee*

Announcement Journal of Applied Clinical Medical Physics (JACMP)

The American College of Medical Physics (ACMP) has recently launched a new electronic journal called the Journal of Applied Clinical Medical Physics. (JACMP).

This is an applied journal, publishing papers that will help the clinical medical physicists perform their responsibilities more effectively and efficiently, and for the increased benefit of the patient. Manuscripts in clinical practice, administration, regulations, health physics, machine and equipment maintenance, etc. will be considered for publication. The journal is published in English. The manuscripts are fully refereed and the journal is archival in nature. There are four issues per year.

For the years 2000 and 2001 the JACMP is subscription free and may be found on the Internet at <http://ojps.aip.org/acm> or by going to the ACMP home page and linking to the journal <http://www.acmp.org>

Readers and authors are welcome worldwide. There are no page charges. For more details and instructions authors should follow the manuscript submission link on the journal page.

Gino Fallone, Chair *Peter R. Almond, Editor-in Chief*
Univ. Alberta, Canada
gfallone@phys.ualberta.ca

Past Editor's Report

I very much enjoyed the opportunity to serve in the capacity of the Editor of the Medical Physics World since 1994. However, because of my increased duties as the Vice-President, I felt it would not be fair to the Bulletin if I cannot devote the necessary time to keep it healthy. I therefore resigned and pleaded to Dr. Ishmael Parsai, Associate Editor since 1997, to assume the Editorship responsibilities. Fortunately he agreed to be the next Editor and his appointment was unanimously approved by the IOMP Officers. I am confident that the Bulletin is in very capable hands and would continue to serve our organization well.

Following is a brief outline of the MPW profile since 1994:

• Vol.10(2), 1994:	20 pages,	11700 copies
• Vol.11(1), 1995:	20 pages,	12000 copies
• Vol.11(2), 1995:	16 pages,	12050 copies
• Vol.12(1), 1996:	16 pages,	12200 copies
• Vol.12(2), 1996:	16 pages,	12400 copies
• Vol.13(1), 1997:	12 pages,	13650 copies
• Vol.13(2), 1997:	24 pages,	14600 copies
• Vol.14(1), 1998:	20 pages,	13900 copies
• Vol.14(2), 1998:	24 pages,	16500 copies
• Vol.15(1), 1999:	20 pages,	14390 copies
• Vol.15(2), 1999:	24 pages,	14800 copies
• Vol.16(1), 2000:	24 pages,	15150 copies

TOTAL:

• 12 Vols. 236 pages, 163340 copies

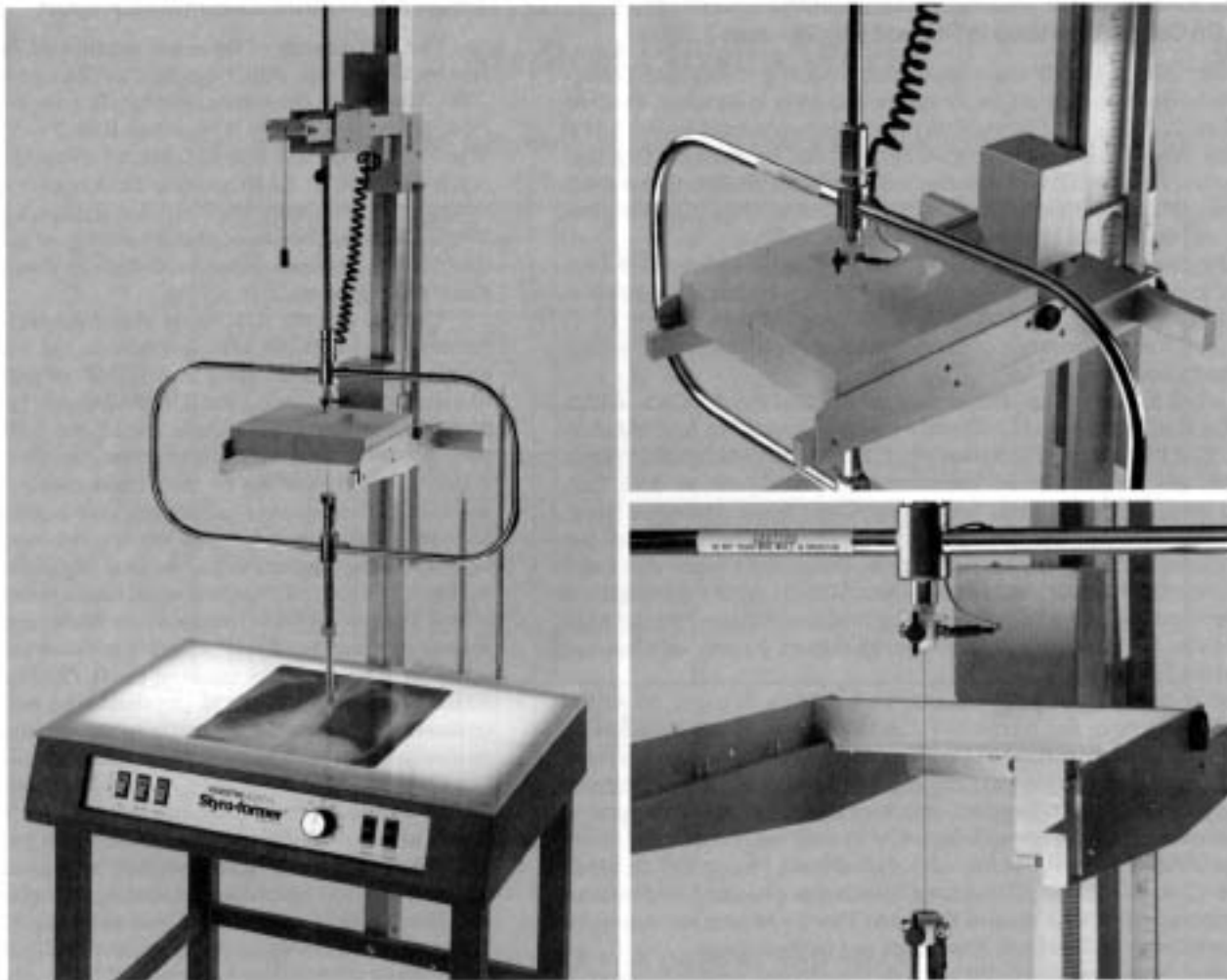
Following is a summary outline of the yearly MPW Account since 1994:

• As of January 1995:	\$2500.00*
• As of January 1996:	\$3490.03
• As of January 1997:	\$2931.00
• As of January 1998:	\$2830.26
• As of January 1999:	\$6449.91
• As of January 2000:	\$9717.04
• As of October 2000:	\$6354.39
*[\$1000.00 (IOMP Payment) + \$1500.00 (Past-Editor - Dr. Paliwal's Payment)]	

Net gain from 12 Vols.: \$3854.39

Last but not least, I would like to express my appreciation to my colleagues, Ishmael Parsai, Ali Meigooni, Rodica Alecu, Geoffrey Ibbott, and Carter Schroy who helped in various capacities in publication of the Bulletin. I also wish to acknowledge the continuous superb services, which has been provided to us by Herb Carrington, staff of Heightman Gerand Publishing Company in Detroit, MI.

*Azam Niroomand-Rad, PhD
Past Editor*



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Report of AAPM / IOMP International Scientific Exchange Program On Course/Workshop in Thailand May 29 - June 2, 2000

The 10th* AAPM / IOMP one-week Course/Workshop in Radiation Therapy Physics was held successfully at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand, May 29 - June 2, 2000. The Course/Workshop was co-sponsored by the AAPM International Scientific Exchange Programs (ISEP) and International Organization for Medical Physics (IOMP) Education and Training Committee. The program was organized by the Department of Radiology, Faculty of Medicine, Chulalongkorn University and the Medical Physics Club of Thailand.

The objectives of this course/workshop were to update the knowledge of medical physics, to present advanced radiation therapy physics to clinical physicists, to compare calibration of photons and electron beams using IAEA and AAPM TG-21 protocols, to exchange information concerning medical physics profession in Thailand and nearby countries.

Dr. Anchali Krisanachinda, President of the Medical Physics Club of Thailand, was the Host Director and Co-Director of this program. The AAPM faculty were: Drs. Faiz Khan, Azam Niroomand-Rad, Bhudatt Paliwal, Ishmael Parsai, James Purdy and Theodor Torson. There were 102 participants: 81 from Thailand and a total of 21 participants from Hong Kong, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Singapore and USA. Most of these participants were medical physicists, few radiation oncologists, technologists and vendors. The program began with a welcoming address by Professor Vacharee Buachum M.D., Head of the Department of Radiology, and was officially inaugurated by Professor Adisorn Patradul M.D. Associate Dean for Planning and Development Affairs, Faculty of Medicine, Chulalongkorn University.

A total of 16 copies of *Khan's* books, with author's discount, 10 AAPM reports and monograph, and 6 books by Jim Purdy, were also donated to the Medical Physics Club of Thailand and to the participants from each foreign country. Certificates of Participation and Certificates of Appreciation were presented to the participants and faculty. The certificates were signed by Drs. Ken Hogstrom, AAPM President, Azam Niroomand-Rad, AAPM ISEP and IOMP ETC Chair, Colin Orton, IOMP President, and Anchali Krisanachinda, President of the Medical Physics Club of Thailand. The closing speech was presented by Professor Prayuth Rojpornpradith, M.D. Head of Radiation Therapy Section and was ended by the farewell party of Thai food, Thai dance and national songs.

Evaluation forms were distributed to the participants and were collected upon completion of the program. Various aspects of the program including the quality and the quantity of the lectures (including handout materials) presented by each faculty during the course/ workshop were evaluated. The results of the evaluation (37 respondents) were summarized. General comments were noted by some of the respondents at the end of the evaluation form.

The local expenses of the faculty were supported by the Host Institution and their travel expenses were financed by funds provided by the AAPM, Medical Physics Foundation, and vendors. Corporate Sponsors (+\$1,000) were Computerized Medical System (CMS), Elekta Oncology System, Medical Physics Foundation, Nucletron Corporation (USA), SSGI/ Prowess Systems, Siemens Medical Systems, Varian Oncology Systems. Contributors (\$100-499) were DIACOR, HUESTIS, and Standard Imaging. The local expenses were supported by Bicon/Harshaw- Radiation Measurement Products, MDS Nordion- Science Advancing Health, Canada, Philips Electronics (Thailand) Co.Ltd. and Elekta Oncology System Ltd., Panja Engineering Co.Ltd., Siemens Ltd., Supreme Products Co.Ltd. and BrainLAB, Thai Technomed Co.Ltd. and CMS, Varian Pacific Incorporation, 3D Technologies Inc, Prowess, Syncor International (Thailand) Co.Ltd. Corporate Sponsors were offered a table-top space for exhibition of their products in a room adjacent to the lecture hall. We are grateful to these organizations and companies for their generous contributions. We also wish to acknowledge the commitment and effort of Dr. Anchali Krisanachinda and the staff of Local Organizing Committee in the past two years in organizing and implementing this program. This workshop provided an excellent opportunity for interaction among the medical physicists from different countries in the regions with an unforgettable friendship among the faculty and the participants. We also like to thank the AAPM faculty for volunteering their time and effort in this endeavor.

Anchali Krisanachinda, Ph.D.

*Assistant Professor
Medical Chulalongkorn
University Center
Bangkok Thailand
Reported on 6/2000*

** Pakistan (1992), Poland (1993), Iran (1994), Turkey (1995), Morocco (1996), Russia (1997), Egypt (1998), Brazil (1999), Romania (1999).*

Azam Niroomand-Rad, Ph.D.

*Professor Faculty of Medicine
Chair, AAPM ISEP, IOMP ETC
Georgetown University
Washington D.C. USA*

Awards & Honors Committee Report

The first meeting of the newly established Awards and Honors Committee (AHC) was held in Chicago in July 22, 2000. Most of the committee members [Carlos de Almeida, Fridtjof Nüsslin, Azam Niroomand-Rad, Perry Sprawls, Wynard Strydom, and Slavik Tabakov] attended this meeting. In addition, Dr. Endo, proxy to Dr. Akiro Ito along with two representative from MDS Nordion (Dennis Moorey and Peter D'Amico) also attended this meeting. At this meeting the election of Azam Niroomand-Rad, as committee co-Chair was approved.

The tasks of the AHC were also discussed in detail. Among these were the selection criteria and timeline for nomination of the existing two IOMP awards; Marie-Sklodowska-Curie Award and IUPESM Award. The purpose of the Marie-Sklodowska-Curie Award, the IOMP's most prestigious life-time Award, is to honor scientists who have distinguished themselves by their international reputation due to contributions in (a) advancement of medical physics knowledge based upon independent original research; and/or (b) education and training of medical physicists, medical students, medical residents, and allied health personnel; and/or development; and/or (c) advancement of the medical physics profession in the IOMP adhering national and international organizations. The intent of the IUPESM Award for IOMP is to honor a medical physicist who has made an outstanding contribution primarily to the advancement of medical physics profession in international arena.

On occasion of the World Congress 2000, the AHC was pleased to honor Professor John Cameron, as the first recipient of the Marie-Sklodowska-Curie Award for his many life-time contributions in advancement of medical physics science as well as education and training of medical physicists worldwide. The committee was also pleased to honor Professor Keith Boddy as the recipient of IUPESM award for his major contribution in having IUPESM union (IOMP + IFMBE) be accepted as a member organization in the ICSU (International Council for Science). Moreover, it was suggested and agreed to place the names of the IOMP awardees in the IOMP web site.

It was suggested and approved to establish the IOMP third award to honor a medical physicist who has contributed primarily to the teaching of medical physicists worldwide. Thanks to the generosity of MDS-Nordion, this award will be named the Harold Johns Award which will be presented, for the first time, at the WC-2003 in Sydney Australia. Please check IOMP web for the announcement of the award nomination for WC 2003. All member organizations are encouraged to send their nominations to the AHC following the deadlines requirements which will be posted on the web sometime during 2001.

Last, we wish to express our gratitude to Azam Niroomand-Rad who has been the driving force in establishing the Marie-Sklodowska-Curie Award and providing guidelines for selection criteria of this award. She has also provided us with many valuable ideas as a member and co-Chair of the AHC. However, due to her increasing duties as IOMP recently elected Vice-president, she prefers not to continue working with the AHC. Subsequently, Perry Sprawls agreed and was approved to serve as the AHC co-chair. With this change, following are the current members of the AHC: Carlos de Almeida, John Coles, Akiro Ito, Fridtjof Nüsslin (chair), Perry Sprawls (co-chair), Wynard Strydom, and Slavik Tabakov.

*Fridtjof Nüsslin, Ph.D.
Chair, IOMP AHC*

*Azam Niroomand-Rad, Ph.D.
Past Co-Chair, IOMP AHC*

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Donation Of Used Equipment – PRC Report for July-Dec. 2000

Shipment of three Alcyon-II Co-60 teletherapy machine is in progress. The Indian Government has yet to issue a "No Objection Certificate" (NOC) for the importation of these machines. India needs assurance from the manufacturers to install and service the machines for the next five years. The former manufacturer (GE) has sold them to Varian. Contacts are being made with Varian to resolve this issue. I shall be very thankful if someone can help me with this issue.

A Siemens's Mevatron is being shipped to Jawahar Lal Nehru Cancer Hospital and Research Center, Bhopal, India. Their NOC is also at the final stage as the local Siemens' has agreed to install and service the machine.

Theratron Theraplan 300 Treatment planning system is in Mumbai, India and waiting clearance at this moment. It has been donated by Radiological Associates of Sacramento (Mercy San Juan Radiation Oncology Center, Carmichael, California). I am thankful to their medical physicist, Jonathan Bareng, for his help.

One of the two used block cutters donated by Huestis has reached Pandhar Hospital, Betul, India and the other one is to go to Pakistan. Necessary arrangement for shipping is being made.

EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE:

- Treatment planning systems, two Mevatron, Co-6- machine (4Theratron and a Picker C-9).

EQUIPMENT NEEDED:

- Film dosimeter, radiation field analyzer, rectal monitor, cavity chamber, TLD readers, ultrasound system with sectorial transducer, surgical aspiration system, gastroscope, cardiocograph and micro-analyzer for blood, urine and biochemistry analysis.

The equipment available is in good working condition. The recipient has to pay for shipping and handling only. If you want to donate a used equipment to IOMP or want some equipment donate to your organization, please contact Mohammed Zaidi at 208-526-2132, Fax 208-526-2548 or e-mail: zaidimk@id.doe.gov

Status AAPM/IOMP Libraries – Sept. 15, 2000

We currently have 85 active libraries in 50 countries. In late July, we added a new library in Semiplatinsk, Kazakhstan. We have initiated three donations to three libraries in the past three months. In addition, two donations are being matched with an appropriate library.

We continue to work with Brenda Trigg at IOPP to coordinate donations of books to new and existing libraries; all new libraries receive at least five books. We communicate regularly with Kathy Burroughs at AAPM to coordinate donations of Medical Physics Journal subscriptions; at this time 37 members donate their subscriptions to libraries. The Society for Radiological Protection has made three mailings of their quarterly publication, the Journal of Radiological Protection, to all active libraries. The fourth mailing for the year will be sent soon.

We are enhancing the libraries' access to information by means of the Internet and CD-ROMs. For example, the IOMP/AAPM has donated CDs of the proceedings of their recent meeting, which we are forwarding to the libraries. Also, the Journal of the American College of Medical Physics has allowed free access to its electronic journal for an additional year.

Anyone wishing to donate materials or establish a library is asked to contact the curator.

Marilyn Stovall, Ph.D.
AAPM/IOMP Curator

New Publications from IAEA

International Atomic Energy Agency announced July 6, 2000 that they are releasing two new publications. These publications are available directly from IAEA, your agents, or a local bookseller.

Safety Report Series #17 LESSONS LEARNED FROM ACCIDENTAL EXPOSURE IN RADIOTHERAPY Price: 340 Austrian Schillings

- **SUMMARY:** This safety report is a review of a large number of events that may serve as a checklist against which to test the vulnerability of a facility to potential accidents, and to provide a basis for improving safety in the use of radiation in medical applications. It is also intended to encourage the development of a questioning and learning attitude, the adoption of measures for the prevention of accidents and preparation for the mitigation of the consequences of accidents, if they occur.
- **CONTENTS:** 1. Introduction, 2. Review of Accidents, 3. Classification of Accidents, 4. Lessons learned and measures for prevention of accidents, Appendix, Appendix II of the BSS: Medical Exposure: Optimization of protection for medical exposures.
- Chinese, Spanish, and French editions planned.

Safety Report Series #18 INDIRECT METHODS FOR ASSESSING INTAKES OF RADIONUCLIDES CAUSING OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE Price: 360 Austrian Schillings

- **SUMMARY:** This safety report provides assistance in the setting up and operation of an indirect monitoring program for workers. It complements Safety Series #114 (Direct Methods of Monitoring Radionuclides in the Human Body, 1996.) It gives technical advice on the collection and analysis of biological and human samples used to estimate intake levels of radionuclides. The analytical methods described may also be applied to the monitoring of patients following medical treatment or of members of the public following a release of radionuclides to the environment.
- **CONTENTS:** 1. Introduction, 2. Selection of samples and methods of analysis; 3. Biological Samples; 4. Physical samples; 5. Techniques of Analysis; 6. Activity calculation and statistical considerations; 7. Quality Assurance; 8. Records and reports; Appendix,(App 1-9)

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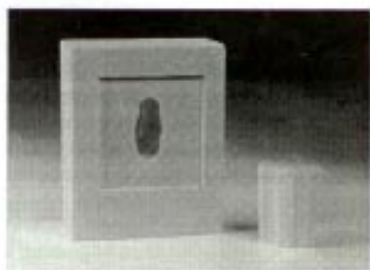
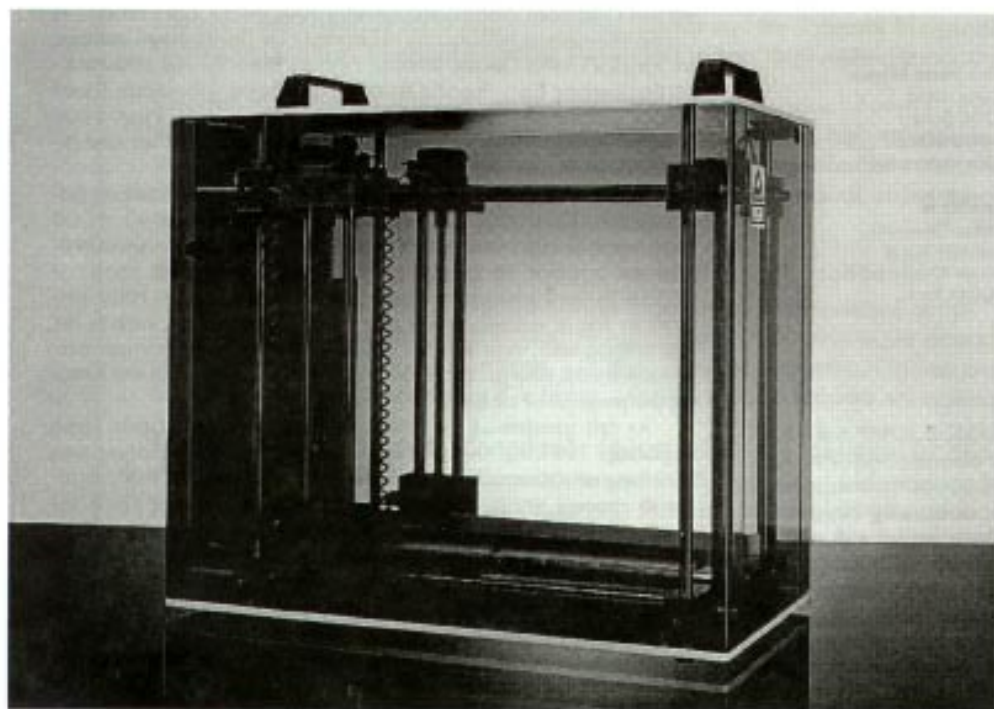
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IUPESM President Message

Dear colleagues from IOMP,

It is an honour and a privilege to serve as President of IUPESM and I hope this presentation will keep you informed of the projects of our Union and, perhaps, will motivate you to become more involved. To work between 1997 and 2000 with Keith Boddy and Gary Fullerton was very fruitful and pleasant. I am conscious of the challenge to take the succession of "mon ami Keith". I am so happy to work with him, now Past President, and to continue to have the energetic and innovative support of the Secretary General Gary Fullerton.

All the progress during these past 3 years has been possible thanks to the excellent support of the Officers and Council Members as well as other members of IUPESM and I hope the new team will continue this tradition of collaboration and friendship.

Let me introduce to you this new team:

Officers of the Council

President Jean-Pierre Morucci
Vice President Colin Orton
Past President Keith Boddy
Secretary General Gary Fullerton
Treasurer Gary Fullerton

Ordinary Members of the Council

IFMBE President Dov Jaron
IOMP President Oskar Chomicki
IFMBE Vice-President Joachim Nagel
IOMP Vice-President Azam Niroomand-Rad
IFMBE Secretary-General Heikki Terio

Ordinary Members-at-Large

Inger-Lena Lamm (IOMP)
Kwan-Hoong Ng (IOMP)
Takeyoshi Dohi (IFMBE)
Helmut Hutten (IFMBE)

During the General Assembly, as IFMBE & IOMP were confident that their memberships would endorse the continued existence of IUPESM, President Boddy requested a consensus motion from the Presidents of both the IOMP and IFMBE concerning the future of IUPESM. The Presidents and Vice-Presidents moved and seconded the following motion. Motion: "That, having been admitted to ICSU as a Full Member, having received reaffirmation of support from IFMBE and IOMP, the IUPESM General Assembly authorizes the Council to take actions necessary to further this new international status" and that the present IUPESM level of cooperation be continued and that IOMP and IFMBE continue the practice of holding combined World Congresses at three year intervals.

This motion was approved unanimously. As a result of this additions to the bylaws of the IUPESM for creating new committees were approved by the Assembly:

The Standing Committees of the IUPESM are now: The extant Standing Committees, which are primarily administrative:

- 1) the Congress Organizing Committee, (Dov Jaron—Chair, Colin Orton, Gary Fullerton, Takeyoshi Dohi and Didier Geiger)
- 2) the Nominating Committee (Keith Boddy—Chair, Jean-Pierre Morucci, Banu Onaral, Antonio Fernando Catelli Infantosi, Jack Cunningham)
- 3) the Awards Committee. (Colin Orton—Chair, Zibin Yang, Fridtjof Nuesslin, Joachim Nagel)
- 4) the single ad hoc Committee, the Developing Countries Committee, relates to corresponding Committees of IFMBE and IOMP The new committees:
- 5) The ICSU Liaison Committee. (Jean-Pierre Morucci—Chair, Keith Boddy, Niilo Saranummi, Fumihiko Kajiya, Hideo Ohashi, Nandor Richter, Peter Inia, Carri Borrás, Medan Rehani, Dov Jaron, Oskar Chomicki, Azam Niroomand-Rad and Joachim Nagel).
- 6) The Training and Education Committee. (Colin Orton—Chair, Helmut Hutten, Oskar Chomicki, Azam Niroomand-Rad, Hideo Okashi, Pieter Inea, Slavik Tabakov, Joachim Nagel and Nicholas Pallikarakis)
- 7) Regional Development Committee. (Helmut Hutten—Chair, Oskar Chomicki, Dan Adam, Mladen Poluta, Myoung Ho Lee, Cari Borrás, Medan Rehani)
- 8) Public and International Relations Committee. (Fumihiko Kajiya Chair, Takeyoshi Dohi, Keith Boddy, Pedro Andreo, Inger-Lena Lamm, Heikki Terio)

The agreed functions of the new committees are shown on the IUPESM site (www.iupesm.org).

For all these Committees ex-officio appointments have been proposed to match people from IFMBE and IOMP and to better tie the respective efforts of each organisation to IUPESM in order to strengthen the ability to achieve our ambitious objectives laid out in the IUPESM statutes. We need to specify exactly what we are seeking for IUPESM to achieve in future and identify what IFMBE and IOMP have in common for truly joint ventures. Administrative Council in Chicago has taken the opportunity to mix new members of the Council with the "ancients" in the different committees. It is a very nice tradition that all the "ancients" accept not to leave totally the Union.

In Nice, the Union established Key Programmes: 1) Public and Governmental Understanding of Health Sciences; 2) Education, Training and Continued Professional Development for the 21st Century; 3) Global Biomedical Information Networking for Developing Countries for which a Global On-line Medical Physics Textbook and a Biomedical Engineering Encyclopedia are being developed; 4) Evidence Based Health Technology; 5) Medical Equipment Evaluation. Progress on these programmes and updated proposals from Chicago are also reported on our home page.

I believe that we need to decide on long-range goals and set priorities first. Clearly, our resources are quite limited and we should focus our activities in those directions that can provide maximum benefits and in which we can be most effective. The dramatic impact of the new technologies on the distribution of information is being particularly felt in science, where many of the innovations, such as the World Wide Web, were initiated. The new developments provide enormous potential benefits for the scientific information chain and hence for the progress of science.

As full member of the International Council for Science since September 1999, we must be able to integrate our own programmes which are complementary to and symbiotic with those of ICSU in order to create a strong collaboration with the members of the ICSU family. Symbiosis of the highest quality is vital if we are to achieve the full potential of our new status. We have the opportunity, within the International Council for Science, to make contributions to the exploitation of the Physical & Engineering Sciences in Medicine for the benefit of patients & people with disabilities world-wide & especially in Developing Countries. To do so is a major challenge in which we must succeed. Now the real work begins in ensuring that IUPESM is an effective and influential partner within ICSU.

We are proposing and seeking collaboration with COSTED, INASP & PCBS from which Keith Boddy has in 1999 received very positive and encouraging feedback.

Committee on Science and Technology in Developing Countries (COSTED). The main purpose of COSTED is to stimulate and facilitate participation of developing countries' scientists and scientific institutions in the activities of international science and technology. COSTED helps generate international programmes and projects that increase the scientific and technological capacity of developing countries and which address problems relevant to their cultural and socio-economic development.

Program for Capacity Building in Science (PCBS). It activities focus on the promotion of science education beginning at the primary level, the promotion of the public understanding of science, and reducing the isolation of scientists

International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP) INASP is a programme of the Committee of Scientific Information of ICSU. An International directory (INASP-Health ;Directory 1999) of organisations working to improve access to reliable information for healthcare workers in developing and transitional countries is available. INASP-Health Services include : 1) Advisory and referral network 2) Health Information Forum 3) Needs and Provision Database INASP-Health welcomes (free of charge) all those who are willing to share their experience and expertise with others to improve access to reliable information.

(continued on page 18)



Princess Margaret Hospital
University Health Network

EXPLORE THE FUTURE IN ONTARIO, CANADA

Cancer Care Ontario's eight regional cancer centres and the Princess Margaret Hospital are currently recruiting qualified **Medical/Clinical Physicists** to join their multidisciplinary radiation program teams.

Located in Ontario, Canada's largest province with a population of over 10 million, the nine centres are equipped to support modern 3D radiation treatment planning, high energy photon and electron radiation treatment and LDR and HDR brachytherapy. Several regional cancer centres and the Princess Margaret Hospital have virtual simulation capability and perform stereotactic radiosurgery, I-125 brachytherapy, total body irradiation, and IMRT.

Cancer Care Ontario

Cancer Care Ontario's eight regional cancer centres are the foundation of one of the world's largest cancer treatment, research, and education organization. The centres are located in Ontario's major regional centres - Toronto, Hamilton, London, Windsor, Kingston, Ottawa, Sudbury and Thunder Bay. Three additional centres in Kitchener, Mississauga and Oshawa are expected to open in early 2002.

Princess Margaret Hospital (part of the University Health Network)

Princess Margaret Hospital is Canada's largest teaching hospital and research facility exclusively devoted to cancer treatment, research and education. The hospital houses 14 linear accelerators and 3 cobalt 60 units, as well as 3D treatment planning and simulation facilities.

Ontario centres have been pioneers in the development of new radiation sources, digital portal imaging systems, tools for radiosurgery, and dose calculation algorithms for 3D treatment planning now used on computer systems worldwide. Some centres are involved with laser photodynamic therapy and radiobiology research programs.

Medical/clinical physicists are eligible for academic appointments with affiliated universities and are active participants in clinical training programs.

Successful candidates will have a MSc or PhD (preferred) in medical physics or related discipline from a recognized university, at least two years of clinical experience and membership or eligibility for membership in the Canadian College of Physicists in Medicine (CCPM). A proven record of productivity in research or clinical development activity will be a definite asset.

Cancer Care Ontario and Princess Margaret Hospital offer outstanding compensation (salary \$79,403 to \$105,000 annually for medical physicist; \$92,195 to \$118,000 annually for senior medical physicist) and benefit packages, including comprehensive health care. In addition, successful candidates will be reimbursed relocation expenses according to policy.

Please submit curriculum vitae to:

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Cancer Care Ontario & Princess Margaret Hospital
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- Reports from IOMP Officers, Committees, etc.
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News items, calendar events and advertising inquiries should be directed to the Associate Editor, Vrinda Narayana, Ph.D. at address below:

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Rev. 10/2000

IUPESM President Message

(continued from page 16)

The other collaborations that may be available through ICSU include UNESCO, WHO, IAEA, EU and National Academies. IUPESM needs to approach the National Science Academies to initiate a dialogue of the standing of biomedical engineers and medical physicists in the respective Academies among their members and to ensure the recognition of our disciplines as scientific disciplines. The goal is to get our field recognised also at the national level in the Academies as it is the case in some countries. To establish and conduct such a dialogue, we might also consider asking and /or convincing the National Academies to appoint a liaison person

To conclude, I have the fascinating challenge to be the President of this Union until the next World Congress in Sydney in 2003 and I am well aware of the importance and difficulty in steering such an international organisation. I will do my best to prove worthy of your confidence for the coming three years, to meet your expectations and to help, support and facilitate the tasks and the missions of the different committees.

To lead and monitor these ongoing activities during the coming three years, all the Council and Committees chairmen and members need your help, your statements and your advertisements. Don't hesitate to contact them, we need your input. I will try to continue to vitalise IUPESM as a more authoritative, self-sufficient and meaningful organisation. IUPESM can act as a highly effective and dynamic leader in relations with ICSU and other major international Unions or bodies.

Jean-Pierre Morucci, President

President's Message

(continued from page 1)

Therefore, it is clear that medical physics carries more than any other branch of science with it the burden of moral responsibility since in practice it involves direct and immediate responsibility for human life. Let me thus recall the pledge formulated by a distinguished Polish-born physicist and Nobel prize winner (one of the first British medical physicists), Joseph Rotblat, at the Third World Conference on "Science for the Twenty-First Century," on 26 June-1 July in Budapest (Hungary):

"I promise to work for a better world, where science and technology are used in socially responsible ways. I will not use my education for any purpose intended to harm human beings or the environment. Throughout my career I will consider the ethical implications of my work before I take action...."

To end these historical and moral considerations let me assure you that I will try my best to come up to our Past President's expectations that, as he put it, "under [the new leadership] the IOMP will continue to be worthy of its great tradition both as regards the well-being of the organisation as well as that of all its members and humankind in general."

Oskar A. Chomicki, President

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John Cameron Receives 1st IOMP “M. S. Curie” Award

During World Congress 2000, the first IOMP Marie Sklodowska Curie Award was presented to Professor John Cameron. This award recognizes John’s distinguished career and many contributions to the fields of medical physics, medicine, education, and society. He is now Professor Emeritus at the University of Wisconsin where he was the founding chairman of the Department of Medical Physics in

1980. This department has provided educational opportunities for hundreds of medical physicists around the world. The programs under Dr. Cameron’s direction have emphasized the application of physics for diagnostic purposes and the safe utilization of radiation for human benefit. His pioneering work in thermoluminescent dosimetry (TLD) provided a practical technology for measuring radiation dosages to both patients and personnel working in radiation environments. His development of a method for measuring bone mineral content is the foundation of the bone densitometry procedures used today to detect osteoporosis.

In addition to major scientific innovations, John has been a leader in the applications of physics to solve practical problems in x-ray image quality control and minimizing patient radiation exposure. After he and his colleagues developed the equipment and techniques for quality control testing, he recognized the need to make the equipment available to others. In 1974 he and his wife, Von, founded the non-profit Radiation Measurements Inc to manufacture practical quality control and radiation measuring devices. The company grew as new products were added and in 1987 he sold the business with the proceeds going to support medical physics activities, especially through the Medical Physics Foundation.

John’s philosophy, in a nutshell, is to use capitalism for altruistic purposes. He says he wants his ideas and his products to fill a need in society, “I’m not a commercial-type person, but I know you need to have commercial products to get things done,” he says.

After his formal retirement from the University of Wisconsin in 1986, Professor Cameron formed the non-profit Medical Physics Publishing Corp. This has become one of the largest publishers of books, proceedings, and other educational material in the field of medical physics. A principle motivation for establishing MPP was to give the medical physics community and the general public access to medical physics literature and general science and medical educational materials at a reasonable cost. It also provides an opportunity for medical physicists to publish books and educational materials that would not be economically feasible with the larger publishers.

One of his public education missions concerns radiation - but from a different perspective. Low level radiation risks, he says, have become highly exaggerated. The country is spending billions of dollars a year to reduce low-level radiation that might actually be beneficial to our health. He points out those areas of the world with the highest radon levels, on average, have below-average rates of lung cancer. Rather than fuel hysteria, he believes we should be harnessing more

benefits of radiation. The use of radiation to sterilize meat products, for example, could virtually eliminate bacteria that claim numerous lives each year and keep food fresher longer.

“People have gone crazy about unproven risks of radiation, while alcohol and smoking - which cause the most deaths each - get little attention,” he says.

An example of his practical approach to public education is the introduction of the BERT (Background Equivalent Radiation Time) as a unit for expressing radiation exposure. An exposure (such as for a chest x-ray) is expressed as the time over which natural background radiation would produce the same exposure.

Dr. Cameron is truly an international medical physicist who has devoted much of his time and resources to the improvement of medical physics in the developing countries of the world. His international activities began in 1952 when he joined the faculty of the University of Sao Paulo in Brazil. Since then, he has made about forty visits to Brazil to carry on medical physics activities. In 1969 he organized a meeting of the Brazilian medical physicists, which led to the formation of the Association of Brazilian Physicists in Medicine (ABPM). While much of his international work is in Latin America, perhaps because he speaks Portuguese and Spanish, he has contributed to the medical physics profession in many other countries, which includes serving as a director of the College of Medical Physics at the International Center of Theoretical Physics in Trieste, Italy.

He is recognized as an outstanding educator and teacher who encourages others to think and be creative in finding new ways to solve problems. This comes from his interest and research in the human mental process. His publication of *A Proposed Model of Imagination and Creativity*, or Cameron’s “Origin of Ideas” might be recognized as one of his major scientific contributions.

One of the John’s characteristics that makes him special is his constant effort to help other people, especially medical physicists. This comes in many forms, such as providing guidance and advice, obtaining funding for activities, providing contacts with other physicists, and having a sincere interest in their lives and work. In fact, John was a co-founder of EMPW (<http://www.medphysics.wisc.edu/~empw>) and he helped introduce a section called “Ask a Medical Physicist” which is now a popular site for interchanging ideas.

*Perry Sprawls,
Emory University School of Medicine
Atlanta, Georgia, USA*

FYI: Madame Curie’s bio available on the InterNet!

We have located what may be the best source of information on Madame Marie Sklodowska Curie on the InterNet. It is located in the American Institute of Physics web site (www.aip.org.) To access this fascinating data, select “History Center”, then select the “Curie Volume” that contains “Marie Curie and the Science of Radioactivity”. It contains chapters dealing with Marie Sklodowska’s early life in Poland, as a student in Paris, her marriage to Pierre, and their careers together and apart.

International Organization for Medical Physics Corporate Affiliates, 2000

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Education and Training Committee (ETC) Report - WC2000

The first physical meeting of the Education and Training Committee (ETC), since WC-1997, was held in Chicago in July 22, 2000. Most of the committee members [Cari Borrás (PAHO), Amparo Marles (Chile), Azam Niroomand-Rad (Chair), Wynard Strydom (S. Africa), and Slavik Tabakov (UK)] attended this meeting. The ETC Mission, Policy & Procedures, especially those developed and adopted in the past 3 years by the ETC Chair, were reviewed. The educational activities of the ETC in the past 3 years were also reviewed. Following is a time line summary of the ETC educational programs revised/organized by the ETC members in the past three years:

* May 10-14, 98:	Cairo, Egypt	ETC Member: Azam	IOMP Support: \$0.00
* May 22-25, 98:	Beijing, China	ETC Member: Ye-cho Huang	IOMP Support: \$0.00
* October 27, 99:	Beijing, China	ETC Member: Ye-cho Huang	IOMP Support: \$0.00
* Nov. 1-3, 99:	Xian, China	ETC Member: Ye-cho Huang	IOMP Support: \$0.00
* Nov. 6-9, 98:	New Delhi, India	ETC Member: Rehani	IOMP Support: \$3000.00
* Nov. 22-25, 98:	Mexico City, Mexico	ETC Member: Marles	IOMP Support: \$3000.00
* June 9-13, 99:	San Paulo, Brazil	ETC Member: Marles	IOMP Support: \$0.00
* June 6-10, 99:	Tallin, Estonia	ETC Member: Tabakov	IOMP Support: \$0.00
* June 10-14, 99:	Cluj, Romania	ETC Member: Tabakov, Azam	IOMP Support: \$2500.00
* Dec. 5-10, 99:	Dhaka, Bangladesh	ETC Member: Azam	IOMP Support: \$0.00
* April 10-11, 00:	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	ETC Member: Ng	IOMP Support: \$0.00
* May/June, 00:	Bangkok, Thailand	ETC Member: Ng, Azam	IOMP Support: \$2500.00
* Sept. 3-5, 00:	Prague, Italy	ETC Member: Tabakov	IOMP Support: \$1500.00

It is essential to note that, in the IOMP first Council meeting in Chicago, it was suggested and approved by the Delegates that the ETC co-sponsored programs should be supported / endorsed by 3 countries or a regional IOMP Chapter if one exists.

The compilation of the worldwide graduate education programs in medical physics was also discussed. Following is the alphabetical list of medical physics graduate programs collected to the moment (available at the IOMP web site):

* Argentina	Buenos Aires	Degree: Specialist	Program Director: Ms. Diana Beatriz
* Australia	Adelaide	Degree: MSc / PhD	Program Director: Prof. Van Doorn
* Bulgaria	Plovdiv	Degree: MSc	Program Director: Dr. Slavik Tabakov
* Columbia	Santafa de Bogota	Degree: MSc	Program Director: Dr. Maria Plazas
* Ecuador	Guayaquil	Degree: MP	Program Director: Ms. Florenico Pinela
* Finland	Turku	Degree: PhD	Program Director: Dr. Aaro Kiuru
* Finland	Tampere	Degree: MSc	Program Director: Prof. Hannu Eskola
* Finland	Helsinki	Degree: PhD	Program Director: Dr. Sauli Savolainen
* India	New Delhi	Degree: PhD	Program Director: Dr. Maden Rehani
* Malaysia	Kuala Lumpur	Degree: MSc	Program Director: Dr. Kwan-Hoong Ng
* Mexico	Mexico	Degree: MSc	Program Director: Dr. Maria-Ester Brandan
* New Zealand	Hamilton	Degree: MSc	Program Director: Dr. Round
* Philippines	Manila	Degree: MSc	Program Director: ———
* Poland	Krakow	Degree: MSc	Program Director: Prof. Marta W.Radwanska
* Russia	Moscow	Degree: MSc	Program Director: Prof. Vladimir Klimanov
* South Africa	Medunsa	Degree: BSc	Program Director: Prof. W. Strydom
* Thailand	Bangkok	Degree: MSc	Program Director: Dr. Ratana Pirabul
* USA	Detroit	Degree: MSc, PhD	Program Director: Dr. Orton
* USA	San Antonio	Degree: MSc	Program Director: Dr. Fullerton
* Venezuela	Caracas	Degree: Msc	Program Director: Dr. Federico Gutt

The ETC members recognize that this is a valuable task that needs to be continued. Therefore, ETC will continue collecting information for other educational courses worldwide. Please forward information directly to Dr S. Tabakov (slavik.tabakov@kcl.ac.uk),

As you may know, Prof. Azam Niroomand-Rad, stepped down as ETC Chair due to her increased duties as the IOMP Vice-President. The committee expressed gratitude to her and wished her success in her future involvement in the international medical physics activities.

The new Education and Training Committee members, as approved by the IOMP Executive Committee, are: Ye-Cho Huang (China), Amparo Marles, (Chile), Adel A. Mustafa, (USA); Kwan-Hoong Ng (Malaysia); C.M. Pathak (India), Wynard J Strydom (South Africa), and Slavik Tabakov (UK - Chair). Having already received applications for IOMP endorsement, the new ETC started its activities as early as August 2000. To this moment the two approved applications for endorsement are: * International Conference on Radiation and its Role in Diagnosis and Treatment in Iran (Teheran), 18-20 October 2000 (\$0); * Course on Contemporary Magnetic Resonance and Diagnostic Radiology Imaging in Bulgaria (Sofia and Plovdiv - Inter-University Medical Physics Course), October 9-14 2000 (\$0).

During September 2000 another IOMP ETC supported activity took part in Prague (EMERALD Seminar on Medical Physics Training) - a separate report on the subject will soon be submitted to MPW. Meanwhile information for it could be seen at www.emerald2.net

Azam Niroomand Rad, Ph.D.
Chair ETC 1997-2000

Slavik Tabakov, Ph.D.
Chair, ETC 2000-2003

Calendar of Events

The following are taken from the Medical Physics Calendar of Events [<http://medphys.org/calendar/>] which is maintained for the international medical physics community. Contributions may be sent to Carter Schroy whose regular and email addresses appear elsewhere in this issue of MPW.

6-12 January 2001

- The Physics of Radiation Therapy; Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
AAPM/IOMP International Scientific Exchange Program e-mail: malghazi@uci.edu

30 Jan - 2 Feb 2001

- International Congress of Radiation Oncology (ICRO); Melbourne, Australia <http://www.isro.be>; e-mail: info@isro.be

2-6 March 2001

- European Congress of Radiology (ECR 2001); Vienna, Austria <http://www.ecr.org>; e-mail: office@ecr.org

including 4 March 2001

- Advances in Combined Modalities and Image Fusion (at ECR 2001) <http://www.efomp.org/confs/ws2001info.html>; e-mail: r.nowotny@bmt.p.akh-wien.ac.at

5-9 March 2001

- Brachytherapy, Radiobiology, Treatment Machines, QA and Portal Imaging; Sutton, Surrey, UK e-mail: alan@icr.ac.uk; <http://www.icr.ac.uk/physics/courses/rtcourset.html>

21-27 April 2001

- International Society for Magnetic Resonance in Medicine; Glasgow, Scotland e-mail: info@ismrm.org; URL: www.ismrm.org

28 May-1 June 2001

- 13th Symposium on Microdosimetry; Stresa, Italy Radiation quality, molecular mechanisms, cellular effects and health consequences of low level ionising radiation e-mail: Cherubini@lnl.infn.it; http://sunlnl.lnl.infn.it/~micros01/MICROS_2001.html

4-7 June 2001

- 5th Int'l Stereotactic Radiosurgery Society Congress; Jerusalem, Israel <http://www.isrs-jerusalem.com>; e-mail: congs@internationaltc.co.il

29 June - 1 July 2001

- 6th Int'l Symposium on 3D Conformal Radiation Therapy and IMRT; Williamsburg, VA <http://www.imrt.rdo.vcu.edu/>

2-6 July 2001

- 13th Int'l Conference on Solid State Dosimetry; Jerusalem, Israel e-mail: info@ssd2001.org; URL: <http://www.ssd2001.org/>

22-26 July 2001

- AAPM 43rd Annual Meeting; Salt Lake City, UT USA e-mail: aapm@aapm.org; <http://aapm.org>

21-25 October 2001

- ECCO 11 / ESTRO 20; Lisbon, Portugal European Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology e-mail: info@estro.be; URL: <http://www.estro.be>

21-25 October 2001

- 6th Congress of the Asian Federation for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (AFSUMB '01); Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia e-mail: basrij@medicine.med.um.edu.my

25-30 November 2001

- Radiological Society of North America Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL USA <http://www.rsna.org> www.rsna.org
Carter Schroy Associate Editor, Calendar of Events

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