President's update

This is my final column as President of IPEM as I step down at the AGM on 13 September after two years as President. I truly do not know where the time has gone! It has been an absolute honour and privilege to serve as President and I would recommend it to any of you who may consider taking on this role in the future. It is a challenging role but I have had fantastic support from all the Trustees and the team in the National office, particularly from CEO Rosemary Cook. I have also had the full support of my family and work colleagues, without which I simply could not have taken on the role. I would therefore like to thank everyone who has supported me.

I have worked with the Trustees to make the role of President more sustainable and work is in progress to continue this process so that future Presidents will hopefully find the post more sustainable and realistic. Reflecting back, one of my main achievements has been around continuing to build our influence - a key element of our new strategic objectives. The benefits of this are often unseen, but one example is improving our international relations, demonstrated by our hosting of the EFOMP Council meeting next month. There are many more examples of our influence and I hope more significant successes to follow.

One of my proudest moments was the success of the Science for Patient Benefit campaign, which has now been adopted internationally and will now also be used as the Academy of Healthcare Science ‘One Voice’ campaign for healthcare science. The Model Linac project has, to put it mildly, been a bit of a roller coaster ride! We have not been able to issue the kits yet but I am still hopeful it will be successful - so watch this space! Finally I would like to wish the President Elect, Professor Mark Tooley, every success as President and I hope he enjoys it as much as I have.

MEIBioeng/MPEC 2017

MEIBioeng/MPEC 2017 brings together for the first time IPEM’s own annual conference with the annual meeting of the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council/Wellcome Medical Engineering Centres event.

A wealth of plenary speakers will be at Sandown Park racecourse for the event on 13-14 September, including Professor Josef Käs, Head of Soft Matter Physics at the University of Leipzig, Professor Steve Williams, Head of Neuroimaging at King’s College London, Professor Gareth Barnes, of the Wellcome Trust Centre for Neuroimaging, and Professor Marco Viceconti, Executive Director of the Insigneo Institute for in silico Medicine, a joint initiative of the University of Sheffield and Sheffield Teaching Hospitals.

A special industry session look at the future of imaging and radiotherapy will feature Stefan Wijnen, of Microsoft Research, Dr Christopher Austin, of GE Healthcare, Professor Heidi Probst, of Sheffield Hallam University, and...
Dr David Roberts, of Elekta Limited. There are a number of sessions relating to engineering and speakers include Professor Stephen O’Connor, of Global Bio Enterprises, and Martin Black prize winners Dr Peter Charlton and Dr Timothy Bonnici, of King’s College London and the University of Oxford. You will also have the chance to find out more about how the UK Accreditation Service and IPEM are developing the Medical Physics and Clinical Engineering (MPACE) accreditation scheme and to ask any questions you might have. As well as workshops on ultrasound and statistics, there is a workshop on a prize-winning virtual reality app showing how hospitals can develop their own VR preparation tools. Please click here to register for the conference.

How IPEM is working for you

**Monthly Direct Debit option for membership fees**
You should have by now received an email from the National Office, giving you the option to pay your IPEM annual membership and RCT renewal fees by monthly Direct Debit. To access the forms to enable you to do this, please click here. If your circumstances have changed, which could affect your membership status, for example, a career break or retirement, please get in touch with our Membership and Training Department at membership@ipem.ac.uk with details.

**iCEPSS becomes MPACE**
The IPEM/UK Accreditation Service (UKAS) joint webinar earlier this month saw the unofficial launch of the UKAS Medical Physics and Clinical Engineering (MPACE) Accreditation Programme. This programme brings together the work undertaken with the Improving Clinical Engineering and Clinical Science Services (iCEPSS) and BS70000 into a formal accreditation programme. Around 125 people registered for the webinar, with 91 joining for some or all of the webinar. This was way beyond expectations and feedback has been positive. The webinar was recorded and can be accessed here. It provides details of the role of accreditation, a brief history of the development of MPACE, iCEPSS and BS70000, as well as the current UKAS activities and proposals for pilot site recruitment and scopes of practice. A number of questions were raised during the presentation and these, together with formal responses, will shortly be available on the UKAS website. The IPEM webpage about the programme has been updated and renamed as MPACE.

**AGM**
The 2017 AGM will be held on Wednesday 13 September at 5.30pm at the MEIBioeng/MPEC 2017 conference. AGM papers have been posted to members and you can vote on resolutions by proxy if you cannot attend in person.

**IPEM Fellows**
A number of Full Members have become Fellows of IPEM during the course of this year, and they are: Dr David Eaton, of Mount Vernon Hospital and who is Chair of the Radiotherapy Special Interest Group, Professor Tim David, of the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand, Dr Anna Barnes, of University College London Hospital and IPEM’s former Vice President External, Dr Scott Semple, of Queen's Medical Research Institute in Edinburgh, Dr Phil Riches, of the University of Strathclyde, Dr Jacqueline Shipley, of the Royal National Hospital for...
Rheumatic Diseases in Bath, and Dr Mark McJury, of the Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre in Glasgow. Congratulations to them all. To learn more about Fellowship and meet the Chair of the Fellowship Panel, Stephen O'Connor, visit the IPEM stand at MEIBioeng/MPEC 2017.

September Scope
The September edition of Scope will be sent to members two weeks later than normal due to unavoidable delays at the publishers.

Marking International Day of Medical Physics 2017
The theme of this year’s International Day of Medical Physics in November is the celebration of the 150th birthday of Marie Curie. To help mark this occasion, we would like to gather 150 photographs of women working in the field of medical physics to use in a specially-designed poster. If you want to take part, please email a photograph of yourself (just head and shoulders will suffice) to eva@ipem.ac.uk as soon as possible.

Honours nominations
On the Queen’s official birthday in June, and at the start of the New Year, a list of people receiving honours is published. To receive an Honour is not just a privilege for the recipient but recognition for the field in which they work.

IPEM has a procedure in place to work up a nomination once a suggestion has been made. The Honours Nomination Advisory Committee (HNAC) consists of seven members who have themselves received Honours. They have the expertise to draw up the nomination form but they need you to identify members whose work deserves recognition. The person nominated should have changed things, by solid, practical achievement and/or their work should have brought distinction to British life or enhanced the UK’s reputation in their area or activity. Most importantly, their contribution should have been ‘outstanding’ – not just long service, or an excellent delivery of their ‘day job’, but something beyond the norm.

Our profession is one which changes people’s lives and there are members who surely deserve this recognition for their work. To suggest names for the HNAC to consider, send them to marie@ipem.ac.uk marked Confidential. Please note, that in line with Cabinet Office requirements, the nominee must not be informed about the nomination at any stage.

Workforce Intelligence Unit
IPEM is preparing a response to the Migratory Advisory Committee’s call for evidence on the economic and social impact of Brexit. It will particularly look at the impact of European Economic Area (EEA) workers in the UK labour market. The Institute wants to respond to this call with well-evidenced information regarding the number of EEA, and other overseas workers, in the medical physics workforce. No specific data on the medical physics and clinical engineering workforce is currently available. While the NHS Electronic Staff Record does collect data on nationality, there are significant shortcomings to using this data, most notably in that it only covers England and Wales and refers to the entire scientific, technical and therapeutic staff group and is not available for the medical physics and clinical engineering workforce alone.

We want to gather information from the healthcare provision workforce (both NHS and independent), academia and industry. Specific workforce data is sought from Heads of Department/Section and they will be sent a personal invitation to respond. Individual responses are requested as well and the survey can be accessed here.

As with all our questionnaires, the data will be reported in accordance with the WIU’s policy on data sharing, which is available on request from Jemimah@ipem.ac.uk. No information identifying the respondent or
any individual will be presented, nor will the information be used for any purpose other than assessing and predicting the impact of migration changes. It is important, however, that the information provided is not anonymous as such data is less robust and subject to duplication. IPEM is committed to maintaining confidentiality and no information identifying the respondent or any individual would be presented without consent.

And finally...

A number of members are due congratulations this month:

- Zoe Clarke, Assistive Technology Clinical Specialist at Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, one of four recipients of this year’s Chief Scientific Officer’s Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) Fellowship scheme.
- Dr Niall MacDougall, Head of Clinical Dosimetry at Barts Health NHS Trust, who has had a paper included in this year’s edition of the Best of BJR.
- Ian Paddick, a consultant physicist with Medical Physics Ltd, who has become the first physicist to be elected as the President of the International Stereotactic Radiosurgery Society (ISRS).
- Alexis Dimitriadis, a PhD student at the University of Surrey, who won the Young Investigator Award for the best presentation of a scientific paper (oral presentation) at the ISRS Congress in Montreux.

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