



## December 2017

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### Season's Greetings and Best Wishes for 2018

#### IN BRIEF

IPEM writes to NHS Digital about planned closure of Secure File Transfer Service  
Level 7 (Masters) Apprenticeship Development

World Congress 2024 bid

Opportunities with EFOMP - more [here](#).

Are you a musician and fancy playing at MPEC 2018? Sign up [here!](#)

Get involved with IPEM with some career development opportunities available [now](#).

Obtain Associate Membership of the RCR [here](#).

Change to your membership status? Click [here](#).

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#### President's Update



I have now been your President for exactly three months, it has been a really interesting time, and I feel very honoured to represent you all at many meetings and events. It is great to hear how well we are perceived, when I talk to people outside our community, and how valued our space is. We are very much at the cutting edge of medicine and biology, and lots of exciting things are on the horizon. In the last couple of weeks I have had some very useful meetings, in particular with Fiona Carragher, the Deputy Chief Scientific Officer, and Dr Dougal Goodman, the CEO of the prestigious Foundation for Science and Technology. Both of these people have strong links to government and can help us extend our influence there, and they are very supportive of what we do. I was particularly pleased with the response to our call for performers for the concert next autumn at MPEC. This will be something different and a great way to showcase the talent we have in our community. Finally, my warm wishes to you all for the festive season and a prosperous New Year.

#### How IPEM is working for you

**IPEM writes to NHS Digital about planned closure of Secure File Transfer Service**

A letter has been sent to NHS Digital raising concerns about the planned closure of the Secure File Transfer Service. David Eaton, as chair of the Radiotherapy Special Interest Group, wrote on behalf of the Institute to flag up concerns about this planned closure and the effect that would have on the radiotherapy community and PET/CT to

#### IPEM LATEST

[Updated policy statement on: Recommendations for the provision of a physics service to radiotherapy](#)

[Dept of Health publishes full response to consultation on Draft Ionising Radiation \(Medical Exposure\) Regulations 2018](#)

[RP-SIG update](#)

[REBSIG update](#)

#### Trainee News

[Trainee induction and specialism day 2018](#)

[One year into the STP - a student perspective](#)

[Tales from New Zealand](#)

transfer imaging data. The letter asked for the service to be continued for the foreseeable future and added that IPEM would be happy to work with NHS Digital on developing a new platform for the transfer of large datasets.

### **Level 7 (Masters) Apprenticeship Development**

There have been several enquiries about the possibility of developing a Level 7 Apprenticeship to complement the existing training routes to Clinical Scientist. Robert Farley, Director of the Professional and Standards Council, said behind the scenes work on the feasibility of such an apprenticeship and clarification over the role of IPEM in developing it has been ongoing for much of this year. There is still some background preparation to be done but it is hoped there will be visible movement and opportunities for members to get involved in the first quarter of 2018.

### **World Congress 2024 bid**

As part of our international strategy, IPEM is bidding to host the IUPESM World Congress on Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering in the UK in 2024. We have submitted a formal expression of interest, and the preparation of the bid document is underway, with five cities in the running as potential hosts: Birmingham, Brighton, Glasgow, Liverpool and Manchester.

### **Opportunities with EFOMP**

A number of vacancies are available to members to apply for on a range of advisory committees with the European Federation of Organisations for Medical Physics - more [here](#).

### **MPEC concert**

We will be celebrating the 70th anniversary of the founding of the NHS, and showcasing the musical talents of members, with a concert during the MPEC Conference at York in September 2018. Thank you to all the members who have already put their names forward to perform: if there are more musicians out there who would like to get involved, please email [music@ipem.ac.uk](mailto:music@ipem.ac.uk).

### **Explaining radiation risk to patients**

As a member of the Clinical Imaging Board, we are working on a project to produce leaflets for patients about the balance of risks and benefits involved in modern imaging techniques. Members Jim Thurston and Mark McDade, and Public Engagement Panel members Helen King and Howard Widdall, will be contributing for IPEM.

### **Update on the Model Linac project**

IPEM has ended its partnership with the Fairybricks charity, which proved unable to deliver on this project. However, Past President David Brettle is still determined to bring the idea to fruition, and he is exploring options for obtaining the model bricks and creating the kits to give to children undergoing radiotherapy.

### **IPEM's CEO joins CaSE board**

IPEM CEO Rosemary Cook has been elected a Trustee and Director of the Campaign for Science and Engineering (CaSE). IPEM is a member of CaSE, and the objectives of the two charities are very similar, so IPEM Trustees agreed that this would be beneficial to both organisations.

### **Coming soon, a new-look Physics World website**

Covering a broader range of science news than ever before, the redesigned Physics World website will have dedicated channels in medical physics, and in biophysics and bioengineering, to bring you the latest breakthroughs and news.

Early career scientists are being offered the chance to work with the [Institute of Physics Publishing, who publish the IPEM journals Physics](#)

## **Conferences**

[Breast MRI for Screening, Diagnosis, Treatment Planning & Evaluation, 27 February in London](#)

[Wheelchair Stability and Tuning, 6 March in York](#)

[more 2018 conferences](#)

## **External events & activities**

[PSA special report on regulating health workforce](#)

[Apply for 2018 Healthcare Science Awards](#)

[CRUK report on non-surgical cancer treatments workforce](#)

[ECMP2018 call for abstracts](#)

[AHA awards 2018](#)

[IAEA Human Health Campus](#)

[ECMP 2018 programme of joint sessions](#)

[Register for EUTEMPE courses](#)

[Registration opens for the Chief Scientific Officer's 2018 conference](#)

[IAEA Nuclear Medicine Physics handbook](#)

[Apply for the BIR Siemens Research award](#)

## **IPEM Journals Pick of the month**

[Physics in Medicine and Biology](#)

[First patients treated with a 1.5 T MRI-Linac: clinical proof of concept of a high-precision, high-field MRI guided radiotherapy treatment](#)

[Physiological Measurement](#)

[Estimation of sleep stages in a healthy adult population from](#)

in Medicine and Biology and Physiological Measurement. You will be able to learn from IOPP's experienced writers and editors, enabling you to craft compelling news stories and build up a portfolio of work that will be published on Physics World. To find out more please email [susan.curtis@iop.org](mailto:susan.curtis@iop.org).

#### **Associate membership of the RCR**

Two years ago IPEM conducted a survey regarding the offer of opening Associate membership of the Royal College of Radiologists to medical physicists. Some 94 per cent of members who responded were in favour of this. By way of a mutual agreement between RCR and IPEM, the offer is now open - more [here](#).

#### **Assessor training for the Science Council**

The Science Council is looking for assessors across the RSciTech, RSci and CSci registers. Volunteering with the Science Council helps towards annual CPD and creates links within the scientific community. More [here](#).

#### **Change to membership status?**

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](mailto:membership@ipem.ac.uk) with details.

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#### **Workforce Intelligence Unit**

The Radiotherapy Census has now closed. Unfortunately the response rate in terms of radiotherapy centres was lower than in 2015, 76% compared to 92%. The difference is predominantly because of a much lower response from the independent sector, and so, as staffing is lower in independent centres than NHS centres, a high percentage of the workforce will still have been captured. Initial analysis suggests that the vacancy rate amongst Clinical Scientists has decreased slightly to 7.8% from 9%. The establishment has increased slightly more than projected, so it is encouraging to see that the vacancy rate has decreased. Given the results of the overseas workforce survey (14% of the radiotherapy workforce is from overseas), it is likely that this reduction in vacancy rate has been achieved by recruitment from abroad. Vacancy rates and establishment for technologists have yet to be analysed.

We are now working on getting the Diagnostic Radiology/ Radiation Protection Survey out in January. Apologies for the delay, which has been caused by the need for an additional overseas workforce survey.

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#### **And finally...**



We wish you all the best for the festive season and for the coming New Year.

Please note the National Office will be closed from 4pm on 22 December and will re-open on 2 January.



For more information, see [www.ipem.ac.uk](http://www.ipem.ac.uk) or telephone 01904 610821 or email: [office@ipem.ac.uk](mailto:office@ipem.ac.uk)

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