President’s Update from David Brettle

Welcome to 2016! We started the year by focusing on developing the IPEM strategy for 2016-2019.

It is important for me to have the views of as many members as possible and we worked hard to ensure we had a good cross section of the membership on the IPEM Strategy Day on the 15 January. It was a very successful day and it was great to see such a high level of engagement since member engagement is what moves IPEM forward and keeps it relevant. If you haven’t been able to attend but want to give us your views on IPEM’s future direction there is still time to get in touch – email strategy@ipem.ac.uk or attend the strategy conference calls with me in February. Dates will be emailed to you shortly.

How IPEM is working for you

IPEM responds to suggested cuts in training budget

A response to the Health Select Committee on the Chancellor’s Comprehensive Spending Review was submitted strongly arguing for the training cuts to be reconsidered. Data from our workforce intelligence unit on vacancies and staffing levels was used as evidence of the impact these cuts will have.

Gathering input to BS70000 for coordinated IPEM response

BS70000 has been written as a standard to enable accreditation of Medical Physics and Clinical Engineering Services. This draft standard is now available for public comment up until the 18 March 2016. Please email your comments to Richard Scott, VP Professional or see his guide to the BSI public comment system if you want to comment as an individual on their website.

Response to Chief Professional Officers’ Medicines Scoping Project

Various SIGs responded to this consultation about the potential need for clinical scientists and/or technologists to prescribe, supply or administer medicines in the course of their work. For this NHS England project IPEM submitted a collective response via the Academy for Healthcare Science. The Registered Scientists pointed out the link with the issue of registration for clinical technologists, who work most closely with patients, and who could potentially create most benefit for patients by being able to provide medicines more quickly or efficiently during the course of their treatment.

The 2015 members’ survey results

The results of the 2015 member survey are now available for members to see on the website. The full response file from Survey Monkey is there, showing graphs and statistics for every question, plus all members’ comments. Or you can look at a summary of the key points, which includes a list of actions that Trustees have agreed in response to members’ comments and concerns.

Thank you to everyone who took the trouble to reply to the survey – and congratulations to Rosy Plaistow from Cambridge University Hospitals, who won a day delegate registration at a one day scientific meeting in the prize
Workforce Intelligence Unit
The Radiotherapy Physics census closed in December, and we received 74 responses from 83 (56 NHS, 17 Independent) centres. This is a fantastic response rate, over 90%, and is now the most robust dataset there is on the radiotherapy physics workforce.

The vacancy rate among Clinical Scientists is 9%, Physics Practitioners 9.2% and Engineering Practitioners 7.2%. This is a high vacancy rate, especially in view of the reduced STP commissions for 2016. This data, along with data from the Rehabilitation Engineering workforce and others has been used to write a response to the Chancellor’s Comprehensive Spending Review (See above)

A report on the Rehabilitation Engineering Workforce survey will be out later this month and look out for surveys coming soon on PET/CT and Ultrasound.

Opportunities
Interested in Education and Training for technologists?
We are looking for clinical technologists from different specialisms to contribute to the Clinical Technologists Education and Training Panel. If you want to contribute please email Marie Goodall

Internal Audit Panel Members – closing date: 31 January 2016
We are looking for members to assist with our proposed programme of internal audits to check compliance with our operational policies. Time commitment is about 1 day per year in York with panel meetings being by tele or video conference. If interested please send a short CV and a covering email to Kathryn Surtees

The Professional Standards Council is looking for a secretary for the meetings. Email Marie Goodall by 31 January if you are interested.

MPEC 2016 News: New Format with free members day and Abstract Submission now open
Free Members Day on Monday 12th September
Scientific programme on Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th including the Biennial Radiotherapy conference.

We are inviting abstracts from all with an interest in physics and engineering in medicine. MPEC 2016 is a great opportunity to showcase your work, as well as network with like-minded peers. The event will be held in Manchester to coincide with Manchester's status as European City of Science in 2016. Click here for more information and to submit an abstract