President’s update

I recently wrote to you outlining how the IPEM Board of Trustees plan to ensure continuity of the leadership of IPEM following the resignation of the President Elect. Although the IPEM articles allow for the board to function with a vacancy, the ideal solution would of course be to have a new President Elect who could progress to President from the AGM in September. I also previously indicated that I had been talking to a potential candidate around this possibility and I can confirm we did receive an application for the vacant post of President Elect.

This application was reviewed by Trustees and there was unanimous agreement that the applicant, Professor Mark Tooley, was an excellent candidate and should be offered the position with immediate effect. I am delighted to confirm that Mark has accepted this invitation and as such is the new President Elect of IPEM. May I be the first to publicly congratulate Mark on his new role and thank him for stepping forward to help lead IPEM in these unprecedented circumstances.

As outlined previously, the Trustees will meet with Professor Tooley on the 11th of August to confirm the decision, made at the Board meeting in June, that in this situation the new President Elect could be put forward for election to the Presidency at the AGM in September. I look forward to seeing you at MPEC in September, which will be my last official duty as President of IPEM.

Welcome to the new President Elect

Professor Mark Tooley was, until June, Head of Medical Physics and Bioengineering and Director of Research and Development at the Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust. He is a bioengineering specialist but has developed a broad understanding of all the disciplines within medical physics and engineering. An IPEM Fellow, he has held various positions within the Institute and from 2011-14 was a member Trustee. He is a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering and has strong connections within the Royal College of Physicians. He is passionate about using and promoting physics and engineering in medicine for the good of the public and patients and believes IPEM is ideally positioned to lead on this in collaboration with other professional bodies.

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.
First IPEM e-book is free to Full Members and Fellows
The first e-book produced by IPEM's publishing partners IOPP has been released. Design and Shielding of Radiotherapy Treatment Facilities, IPEM Report 75, 2nd Edition, by Fellows David Eaton and Patrick Horton, provides readers with a single point of reference for protection advice to the construction and modification of radiotherapy facilities. To celebrate the release of the e-book, all Full Members and Fellows are entitled to free access to the electronic version of the book via the IPEM website until the end of the year. All members can enjoy a 30% discount on print copies of this book when redeemed using the following code 'IPEM30'. All hard copy orders should be placed through our distribution partner NBNi by clicking here.

Response to consultation on regulations on medical exposure to ionising radiation
The Department of Health launched a consultation on regulations on medical exposure to ionising radiation mid-way through July. Members of the following IPEM Special Interest Groups - Radiotherapy, Radiation Protection, Nuclear Medicine and Diagnostic Radiology - plus the Radiotherapy Professional Standards Group and the Director of the Science, Research and Innovation Council, produced an extremely comprehensive response to this in an very short timescale to meet the consultation deadline. You can read the response here.

Interested in iCEPSS? Join the webinar next month
A webinar is being held on Tuesday 15 August between 12.30pm and 1.30pm to explain more about the Improving Clinical Engineering and Physical Science Services programme. It is being hosted by Dr Peter Jarritt, former IPEM President, and who is chair of the UK Accreditation Service Technical Advisory Committee for iCEPSS. Places are limited to 100 and to register, click here.

Innovation grants
Last year IPEM handed out almost £50,000 in innovation grants to five recipients for their various projects. The grants, of up to £10,000, are for the purchase of equipment or services to facilitate short term innovation and research projects. The grants are open to Full Members and Fellows and the closing date for applications is Friday 25 August. More here.

CaSE policy officer for Brexit
IPEM, along with 11 other organisations, has funded a new policy officer for the Campaign for Science and Engineering (CaSE), of which IPEM is a member. The two-year role will see James Tooze involved in all aspects of policy analysis and development concerning the science and engineering community and Brexit.

Workforce Intelligence Unit
Initial results from the Clinical Engineering survey show that we have 87 useable, unique responses, with 58 of these coming from services which predominantly provide Equipment Management (MEMO/EBME) and 29 from services providing a wider range of Clinical Engineering activities. The identified workforce in these services (1102 individuals) are predominantly technologists, with 61% of the workforce being registered or eligible for registration with RCT, and a further 8% in a training position. Only 10% are registered Clinical Scientists, although a further 4% are Clinical Scientists in training.
These figures are not final, as the comments demonstrate that not all respondents are familiar with the terms Clinical Scientist, Technologist or Practitioner and inappropriate assignments may have been made. There is much more to be done with this dataset, this is just a very initial analysis. We will be looking at vacancies, training places, provision as well as service requirements.

And finally...

Well done to Gary Cleall, a trainee rehabilitation engineer at King’s College Hospital, who was selected to help provide technical support to athletes at the World Para Athletics Championships in London this month.

For more information, see www.ipem.ac.uk or telephone 01904 610821 or email office@ipem.ac.uk

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