Acting President’s Update

The temporary stepping down of the President David Brettle due to illness has meant that I and many of the other Officers and Trustees have been busy ensuring that the work of IPEM continues uninterrupted. Significant issues for IPEM include the restructuring to ensure that IPEM is able to fully deliver on its strategic objectives for the next three years; we anticipate that a new structure will be in place by October’s Trustee Board. Discussions are ongoing with the Academy for Healthcare Science, as it continues to develop its role representing issues common across all healthcare science professions.

IPEM CEO Rosemary Cook is taking a lead role in helping the Academy revise the terms of references of its Council for this purpose. IPEM’s engagement with its academic membership also continues, including new arrangements for joint working with the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) and the Institute of Mechanical Engineering (I MechE). Over time there will be a series of IPEM-IET-I MechE events and activities relevant to members. Significant events for IPEM members which are upcoming include the annual Medical Physics and Engineering Conference and the 2016 Innovation Awards - the closing date for these is 31 July and there is still plenty of time to submit your application.

Peter Hoskins

Launch of the Science for Patient Benefit campaign

A campaign to inform patients and the public that ‘without physics and engineering there would be no modern healthcare’ has been launched. The Science for Patient Benefit campaign was unveiled at St James’s University Hospital in Leeds by IPEM to highlight the crucial role medical physics and clinical engineering play in delivering a safe and effective service to patients.

The aim of the campaign is to inform people about the vital role our members play in their treatment and care and to also let other colleagues know, who might take for granted the work you do.

A whole range of materials to support the campaign have been produced, including posters, banners, lanyards and pens, and they are now available to you for use in your workplace.

The campaign, which we hope you will get involved in, has the backing of both the Chief Scientific Officer for NHS England, Professor Sue Hill, and the President of the Academy for Healthcare Science, Dr Brendan Cooper. Professor Hill said: ‘The Science for Patient Benefit campaign highlights the amazing contribution scientists, medical physicists, engineers and technologists make to patient care daily through the diagnostic, therapeutic, rehabilitative and innovative services they provide.’

And Dr Cooper added: ‘I am delighted to support this excellent initiative from IPEM, which highlights the essential role of the healthcare scientist as a vital part of the healthcare team.’

Rosemary Cook, Chief Executive of IPEM, said: ‘We want as many of you as possible to get involved in this campaign so we can reach patients all over the UK, to let them know what a crucial role our members play in...’
How IPEM is working for you

IPEM Annual Review 2015
The IPEM Annual Review of 2015 has been published on the IPEM website and you can find a copy here. In last year’s member survey, we asked you whether you still wanted to receive the Annual Review in hard copy. Of those who responded, only 8% said members should automatically receive a hard copy of the Annual Review. Some 53% said they should receive it electronically, and 39% said members should have a choice. So this year, for the first time, we are giving you that choice about receiving a hard copy of the Annual Review. By only printing and posting the Review to members who request it, we can reduce costs to the Institute. If you would like to receive a hard copy of the Annual Review, you need to click here to log-in to the website and select “I would like to receive a copy of the 2015 Annual Review”, scroll down to the end of the list and press “Save”. You can also take the opportunity to check that your postal address is correct in your member record. We will then post a copy of the Review to you. If you would like a hard copy of the Annual Review then please respond, using the method described, by Monday 4 July.

Parliamentary Links Day
IPEM members Neil Davis, Jamie Harle, Graham Hart and Jessica Johnson attended the annual Parliamentary Links Day, an event organised to strengthen the dialogue between the scientific community, MPs and Peers. This is the largest science event on the Parliamentary calendar and it was held at Portcullis House, which provides offices for MPs opposite the Houses of Parliament. The theme of this year’s event was ‘Science After the Referendum: What Next?’ and included keynote addresses by Jo Johnson MP, Minister for Universities & Science, and Nicola Blackwood MP, chair of the House of Commons Science & Technology Select Committee. To read more, please click here.

IPEM at international conferences
IPEM will be represented at two major conferences later this year to increase the Institute’s international presence.
Firstly, IPEM is attending the first European Congress of Medical Physics conference, which is taking place in Athens in September. This conference has been organised by the European Federation of Organisations for Medical Physics. For more about this conference, please click here. Secondly, IPEM is being represented at the 22nd International Conference on Medical Physics, which is being held in Bangkok in December. For more information on this conference, please click here.

MPEC Manchester 2016
Special edition newsletters all about MPEC 2016 are being sent to members, packed with information about what you can expect at this year’s conference, which is entitled ‘Science for Patient Benefit’ and which ties in with our campaign. You do need to be registered for the free Members’ day on Monday 12 September in Manchester.
Workforce Intelligence Unit (WIU)
Has your department contributed to the Ultrasound Workforce survey yet? A Position Statement on the Radiotherapy Physics Workforce should be published imminently.

Our amazing members
Amateur climber Shahed Khan is preparing to scale the highest peak in Europe later this year to raise money for charity. Shahed will be heading off on an expedition to climb Mount Elbrus, which forms part of the Caucasus mountain range in southern Russia in September. At 18,510 feet, Elbrus is the highest mountain in Europe and is the 10th most prominent peak in the world. Shahed hopes to raise £1,000 for the Anthony Nolan Leukaemia Trust and this will be his fourth fundraising effort for the charity, having already climbed to the Everest Base Camp and scaled Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa’s highest mountain. Shahed said: ‘I’m supporting the Anthony Nolan Trust because it’s a practical cause that matches and puts people together for a cure that’s available.’

If you would like to support Shahed’s fundraising effort, please click here.

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