As we head towards the dog days of summer and thoughts turn to holidays, it’s nice to reflect on some of the great achievements by IPEM people recently. I want to add my personal congratulations to Tony Fisher, Lorna Tasker, Bal Sanghera, Colin Baker, Jo Young and Marie Goodall, whose achievements you can read more about below. I’m also delighted that our collaboration with other organisations and partners continues to grow, with Sarah Allen joining the Institute of Physics working group on Euratom (more below).

IPEM Latest

President’s update

Members are the Institute’s life-blood and we want our activities and services to be accessible to everyone, whatever their background, so that is why I would urge you all to find five minutes from your busy working day to complete IPEM’s first ever comprehensive diversity survey to help us gain a better understanding of the profile of our members and to help us fulfil our commitment to diversity.

I would also urge you to consider applying for the wide range of opportunities which are open to members to contribute to the Institute and which will be of great benefit not only to IPEM but also to you as an individual, giving you the chance to learn new skills and share your valuable experience.

Finally, I am very pleased to report on the great strides that are already being made by the Technical Advisory Committee of the Improving Clinical Engineering and Physical Science Services (iCEPSS) - you can read more on this below.

Congratulations all round!

A whole host of IPEM people are in line for congratulations this month:

- IPEM Fellow Professor Tony Fisher, awarded an MBE in the Queen’s Birthday Honours List, for services to medical physics and clinical engineering.
- Dr Lorna Tasker, who has been named as one of the Top 50 Women in Engineering for 2017.
- Dr Bal Sanghera and Fellow Dr Colin Baker, winners of NHS England’s Chief Scientific Officer’s Knowledge Transfer Partnership.
- Randall Moorman, Editor in Chief of Physiological Measurement, and Richard Black, Editor in Chief of Medical Engineering and Physics, whose publications both increased their Impact Factor.
- IPEM Fellow Jo Young, who has been appointed as Healthcare Science Adviser to Professor Liz Hughes, Regional Dean and Director of Education and Quality at Health Education England.
- Marie Goodall, Executive Assistant at the National Office, on marking 30 years’ of service to the Institute.

Do let us know your news about new roles, achievements and awards so
How IPEM is working for you

Update on iCEPSS
IPEM, NHS England and the UK Accreditation Service (UKAS) recently released a joint statement regarding the Improving Clinical Engineering and Physical Science Services (iCEPSS) initiative and more recently UKAS released a call for potential pilot sites and specialisms. This is a long-awaited step forward for a project that started in 2013. The decision to base the accreditation on BS70000 provides a route to wider standardization of the accreditation of healthcare science services. A more detailed explanation of the development process and rationale for BS70000 has been written by Dr Peter Jarritt, former IPEM President and who is chair of the UKAS iCEPSS Technical Advisory Committee. The distinction between accreditation and certification still instils confusion and concern over the application of yet another standard to these services and Dr Jarritt will be conducting a webinar on Friday 21 July for those who would like to understand more and input further to this discussion. An iCEPSS page has been created on the IPEM website and to read more click here.

Latest on recognition of RPEs and MPEs under BSSD
IPEM’s radiation protection expert/medical physics expert task group has provided a briefing on recognition of RPEs and MPEs under the Basic Safety Standards Directive - more here.

IPEM committee vacancies
Thank you to all those members who have applied for a range of opportunities with IPEM. There are still a number of vacancies to be filled, including serving on the Membership Committee and the Communications Committee. For details of how to apply, click here. The closing date for applications is Friday 21 July.

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.

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.

IPEM Fellow joins IOP Euratom working group
An IPEM Fellow has joined a new working group set up by the Institute of Physics to ensure the best outcomes for physics when the UK leaves the EU and Euratom.
Sarah Allen, Head of Nuclear Medicine at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust in London, has joined the group to share her knowledge and expertise with regards to the issue of medical radioisotopes. The work of the group is expected to span the period of the Brexit negotiations. See also 'External events & activities' for more on this.

IPEM Annual Review 2016
The IPEM Annual Review of 2016 has been published and you can download a copy here. Last year we took the decision, based on the results of the 2015 member survey, to offer you the choice of whether to receive a hard copy of the Review or to just view it online. By only printing and posting the Review to members who request it greatly reduces the costs to the Institute of producing it to use elsewhere. If you would like to receive a hard copy of the Review you can request it here. We will then post a copy of the Review to you and we hope you will enjoy reading about the Institute’s activities in 2016.

Workforce Intelligence Unit
The clinical engineering survey has closed, with over 80 responses. We will be busy analysing this data over the next month and writing a summary for all who have contributed. We will also be contacting those individually who wanted to provide additional input. Thank you very much for contributing to the dataset, we hope to have collated information for you very soon!

We’re now preparing for a nuclear medicine workforce survey, the first stage of which is to establish a list of locations at which nuclear medicine is delivered and who we should be contacting for information at each location. It would be really helpful if all involved in nuclear medicine could check this map. Here we have mapped all locations at which IPEM and SCoR are aware that nuclear medicine is delivered, and stated whether or not we have an IPEM or a SCoR contact. If there are any locations which are missing, or for which we say we have no contact data, we’d be very grateful if you can let us know the missing information by emailing Jemimah@ipem.ac.uk. We hope to launch this survey towards the end of July so information over the next few weeks would be very valuable.

AHCS professional assessors required
The Academy for Healthcare Science is looking to recruit more professional assessors due to the increasing level of interest in, and applications for, its STP equivalence process. The Academy wants to recruit professional scientists who can assess applications and portfolios within the following specialties:

- Device Risk Management and Governance
- Imaging with ionising radiation
- Imaging with non-ionising radiation
- Radiation safety
- Radiotherapy physics
- Rehabilitation and engineering
- Reconstructive science

These roles offer CPD opportunities for healthcare scientists and all assessors receive one-to-one training before carrying out assessments. To find out more about the role and the scope of the work, please contact: beth.dodson@ahcs.ac.uk.