President’s update

Spring is with us and with it comes the announcement that IPEM, in collaboration with UKAS and the office of the Chief Scientific Officer, have negotiated an agreement for establishing the iCEPSS quality assurance framework. This is an important step in creating a service accreditation framework for our activities that aligns with that of our colleagues who are already subject to similar accreditation frameworks such as IQIPS. Another area of activity, that I am aware is of concern for many members, is the introduction of the Basic Safety Standard and the accreditation of Medical Physics Experts. IPEM is active in influencing this process in collaboration with other professional bodies and Public Health England. IPEM is committed to ensuring patient safety is maintained and there are a few issues to be ironed out before we can be fully satisfied of this.

On a final note I’d like to give all Fellows a nudge to consider applying for the role of President Elect. I know there are those of you who think the role is too hard, too much work, you won’t be allowed by your employer, you are not the right stuff. I thought all of these things before I applied but the role is much more manageable now. The work is hard but not too hard for anyone who has reached Fellow level. With respect to employers - just ask them! Many organisations understand the local benefit of a national role such as this and I was surprised and pleased with the positive support I had from my managers at Leeds. As to whether you are ‘the right stuff’, the person specification outlines the requirements for the role, if you meet them you can apply and you will be able to do the role! I’d like to clarify this is a transparent process, open to all Fellows, no deals are done behind closed doors, there is no ‘anointed one’, and I’d like to ask you to think hard about whether this is the time for you to take up the baton and lead IPEM from 2019.
Members sweep the board at CSO Awards!

Huge congratulations go to IPEM members who swept the board at the annual Chief Scientific Officer’s Healthcare Science Awards earlier this month.

Dr Christopher Gibson, a former IPEM President, was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Professor Paul White, an IPEM Fellow and Vice President Industry, won the Healthcare Scientist of the Year. The team at the Southbank University Technical College won the Science and Engineering Engagement Award, which was collected by IPEM Fellow Joanne Young. Trainee clinical scientist Glafkos Havariyoun, from King’s College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, won in the Healthcare Science Rising Stars category.

A number of other members were shortlisted in a number of categories. Professor Azzam Taktak, an IPEM Fellow, and member Dr Antonio Eleuter, of the Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust, were finalists in the Science Driving Innovation in Healthcare Delivery category. David Keane, a clinical scientist at Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, was a finalist in the Science in Health Research category. Sarah Allen, Head of Nuclear Medicine Physics at Guy’s and St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust, and Richard Fernande, a clinical scientist at Guy’s, were finalists in the Science and Engineering Engagement category.

Well done to all of you!

How IPEM is working for you

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; 73 per cent were personally interested in associate membership of the RCR. Negotiations have now been finalised and, by way of a mutual agreement between RCR and IPEM, the offer is now open. more here.

Career break policy

Are you thinking of taking a career break but want to retain your IPEM membership? If so, you need to read the new IPEM career break policy. This sets out IPEM’s approach to helping members maintain their membership and professional development. Members on a career break will retain their original IPEM membership grade at a reduced rate whilst taking a period of unpaid time away from work. To be considered, members must have at least five years’ continuous paid membership and the career break must be for at least one year. An application form must be completed and this is available on the website.

Grants, awards and prizes

A variety of grants and awards are available to members to help them with their professional development. Congratulations go to the following members who have received grants:

Conference and course grants: Ian Armstrong, of the Christie Hospital, Manchester, £250 to attend the International Nuclear Cardiology and Cardiac CT Conference in Vienna; Laurence Vass, of St George’s Healthcare NHS Trust, London, £500 to attend the PET kinetic modelling course at Copenhagen University Hospital.

External events & activities

WISE awards 2017

Special ‘Women in Science’ edition of Medical Physics World

IHEEM Hospital Innovations Conference

Accelerating Development in Biomedical Engineering

SRP Young RP Professionals Award

CSO’s Knowledge Transfer Partnership Programme for Leaders in Healthcare Science

BNMS spring meeting

UK science after the referendum

IPEM Journals

Pick of the Month

Physics in Medicine and Biology

Proton therapy of prostate cancer by anterior-oblique beams: implications of setup and anatomy variations

Physiological Measurement

A medical thermal imaging device for the prevention of diabetic foot ulceration

Medical Engineering and Physics

Simulation of fetal heart rate variability with a mathematical model

Science Council registration

As an IPEM member, you can apply to become registered with the Science Council,
Student and trainee grants: Natalia Campos Rivera, of the School of Physics & Astronomy, University of Glasgow, £300 to attend ESTRO in Vienna; Michael Nix, of St James’ University Hospital Leeds, £300 to attend ESTRO; Kevin Ray, Department of Oncology at the University of Oxford, £300 to attend the ISMRM annual meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii; Conor MacDonald, of the University of Dundee, £300 to attend the Vascular Access Society in Ljubljana, Slovenia. See the prizes and awards section for details on how to apply. The deadline for Gold Medal awards, Early Career prizes, the Spiers’ Prize for Outreach and the Roy Ellis Patient Benefit award is 30 April.

Guidance notes for STP trainees
IPEM's Special Interest Groups have produced guidance notes for those on the Scientist Training Programme.

Standing up for Science EU workshop
IPEM supports Sense About Science, a charity which aims to challenge the misrepresentation of science and evidence in public life. A free workshop for early career research members who are based in Europe is taking place in Brussels 9 June. More here.

ROC Honorary Finance Officer
The Radiology and Oncology Congresses (ROC) is looking for a new Honorary Finance Officer. The role provides financial and governance support to ROC and to ROC Events Ltd. The post is home-based and reasonable travel expenses will be reimbursed for attendance at ROC and ROCE meetings. To be considered for the role you need to be a fully qualified accountant and have current or recent experience of charity accounting. Further information can be found here and the closing date for applications is Friday 21 April.

President Elect other vacancies
There are currently a number of vacancies for a variety of roles within IPEM, including for a new President Elect. Other vacancies include: Professional Development Panel Secretary, IPEM representative on the EFOMP Council, and roles on the Professional Conduct Committee - more here.

Workforce Intelligence Unit

Brexit meeting
Dr Jemimah Eve, the Workforce Intelligence Unit Manager, recently attended a round table discussion on the potential implications of Brexit on the science and engineering community – more here.

Lead Healthcare Scientist role
The Chief Scientific Officer wants to identify Lead Scientists for provider organisations in England – more here.

And finally...
Congratulations to Professor Panayiotis Kyriacou, IPEM's Vice President Academic, who was this month elected as the new President of the European Alliance for Medical and Biological Engineering & Science (EAMBES).
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