

Letter from the President

Karl Arne Jessen, President of EFOMP

Writing this letter a few days before we celebrate the centenary of the discovery of X-rays by Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen on November 8th 1895 in Würzburg leads me to reflect for a moment on the involvement of radiation physics in health care. At a stroke, Röntgen's discovery, together with Becquerel's discovery of radioactivity the following year, made the direct involvement of physicists in health care a necessity.

For many years it was as individuals and very often as consultants; nearly fifty years passed after the discovery before the first organisation in Medical Physics was formed in Europe. IPSM/HPA in the UK celebrated its 50th years anniversary two years ago. The hazards associated with ionising radiation, painfully realised during these first decades, required the involvement of experts in radiation physics in protection of staff and patients in hospitals. The discovery initiated a technical development which nobody could imagine 100 years ago. Today there is an extreme necessity for co-operation between different professions in respect and understanding of the capability of the professional skills. In this modern health care orchestra the physical scientist has an important, and in the future even stronger, role to play.

In September EFOMP joined with the German National Society for Medical Physics (DGMP), IOMP and IUPESM to celebrate the discovery at the Röntgen Centenary Congress in Würzburg at a place only few metres from the historical location. The Congress was a great success for Medical Physics in Europe, well organised by the local organising committee headed by the Congress President Professor Jürgen Richter, with scientific sessions of high quality, an interesting exhibition and social events. The Congress also provided the platform for the annual EFOMP meetings which attracted a higher representation than usual from national organisations, especially from eastern Europe, which is very much welcomed by EFOMP. Their presence is important at a time when there is a pressing need to harmonise the differences between countries in Europe particularly within the European Union, where freedom of movement and employment has been in effect since 1992.

Another important event was the meeting on Quality Assurance in Radiotherapy organised by ISRO/IAEA and held in Vienna in May. Because up to 80% of the medical physicists in some of our member organisations are working in areas related to radiotherapy, QA in this field is of course of great concern to EFOMP. The ability of the medical physicist to quantify physical and technical parameters may persuade our clinical colleagues to strengthen their approach to the subject in their area of responsibility, which is in no way an easy task. A joint working group with ESTRO has been acting during 95 in order to reach a general agreement on staffing levels for the physics support to radiotherapy and a consensus based on total staff was presented at the ESTRO meeting in Gardone. It is very important that medical physicists speak with one voice in Europe and have a common understanding also on professional matters.

A second Summer School in radiophysics related to Diagnostic Radiology has just successfully been run at the European Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste with nearly 50 participants. EFOMP is very grateful for the support given by the centre and by IOMP by which made it possible to keep the registration fee at a reasonable level.

It now seems likely that the profession of Medical Physicist will be defined in the revised version of the Patient Directive and the degree of involvement in radiotherapy, nuclear medicine and diagnostic radiology will be described. This will hopefully form the basis for a full recognition of our profession which still is a decision to be made by our national health authorities. EFOMP strongly recommends member organisations to establish national registration schemes and to submit such schemes for approval by EFOMP. Dr. Philip Dendy has recently been officially appointed as EFOMP registrar.

This is my last letter as EFOMP President and I will like to express my thanks for all the support I have had in my three year period of service, especially from the group of Officers. I wish my successor, Professor Fridtjof Nüsslin, every success in the never-ending struggle for our profession and for our Federation. We must all unite in support of our common goals through our daily work.

EFOMP Celebrates Röntgen:

Centenary Conference and EFOMP meetings in Würzburg, 20-24 September 1995

Wolf W. Seelentag, Secretary General of EFOMP

Würzburg seemed to be the obvious place to celebrate Röntgen's discovery of X-rays 100 years ago - not only the medical physicists felt that: more than 30 large events connected with Röntgen and all sorts of applications of X-rays were organised in Würzburg this year. In this way all could benefit from visiting the interesting exhibition on the subject in the "Residenz". The annual meeting of the German Society for Medical Physics (DGMP) was one of these events, perfectly organised by Prof. Richter (EFOMP's previous Secretary General) and his team - and EFOMP had been invited to join.

The meeting took place in the Conference Centre, close to the town centre: several lecture theatres and meeting rooms, plus a spacious industrial and poster exhibition, providing the opportunity for many fruitful discussions. The special nature of the meeting was emphasised by a large number of invited presentations on history and future of X-rays, not limited to just the medical field. Let me mention just two - the first talk and the last. The opening lecture was also directed towards the interested public (and therefore the only lecture held in German): Prof. Spindler (Innsbruck) reported not only on the x-ray examinations of "Ötzi", the Neolithic mummy found in the Ötztal Alps in 1991, but told us the whole history in a manner which was both scientifically sound and interesting. A fascinating ending to the conference was Prof. Van de Wetering's (Amsterdam) description of X-ray investigations of Rembrandt's work. X-ray examinations of paintings are helped by the fact that the white pigment used for light and dark shading contains lead. He described several surprising findings, including one example showing a common problem for Rembrandt and most medical physicists of today - coping with the economic situation. Rembrandt had painted Salome, having just cut off the head of John the Baptist. It seemed that he had probably been unable sell this painting - so he changed the sword into a walking stick, the bleeding head into a flower basket, and sold the painting, now of Flora. Fortunately he did not have to change the happy smile on Salome's face - it suited Flora quite nicely.

Another nice feature of the congress was the historical poster exhibition. Each national society had been invited to describe the development of X-ray applications, or an outstanding individual contributing to it, in its country. Posters from 19 European and 4 overseas countries formed a most interesting overview. This large figure is a first indication of the Europe-wide attendance at the conference. The special occasion and generous travel grants from several sources also resulted in the most numerous attendance at EFOMP Committee and Council Meetings ever observed! The Committee Meetings were quite crowded (I had to organise additional chairs again and again), and Council Meeting was attended by delegates from 18 member societies, plus observers from 5 other countries.

A major activity during the last year had been Quality Assurance in Radiation Therapy. In October 1994 ESTRO had also invited delegates from many national medical physics societies to a meeting on this subject in Brussels. The resulting consensus statement has since been published in *Radiotherapy and Oncology* 35 61-73 (1995). ISRO and IAEA had organised another meeting on QA in Vienna during May 1995 at which EFOMP was represented by the President and several other individuals. It has to be admitted, however, that EFOMP had not been very active on

this issue previously. Could this be due to the perception that QA of the physics aspects is "too easy" to do (as compared to the problems of quality assurance in the medical decision processes), and that therefore national member societies have already dealt with it sufficiently? It was decided that information on national efforts should be compiled and harmonised, if necessary. A close co-operation with our medical colleagues is of the utmost importance in this issue. Related to QA are also the questions of staffing levels, education and training, and the registration of medical physicists. Following an EORTC consensus statement on minimum requirements for QA, an EFOMP/ESTRO combined working group on staffing levels had been formed. A first meeting of this group was held during the Vienna conference. The EFOMP members of the group met again in Würzburg to prepare for the combined meeting during the ESTRO Physics Meeting in Gardone in early October 1995. The basic points of a planned consensus paper were also discussed in the ETP Committee; the final draft will be distributed to ETP Committee members (and to the ESTRO Physics Committee) for approval.

A new initiative led to the European Conference on Post-Graduate Education in Medical

Radiation Physics in Budapest during November 1994, in close co-operation with EFOMP. This meeting was a good opportunity to make contacts with colleagues from several new states of the former Soviet Union, and the starting point for several working groups on harmonising education, training and accreditation of medical physicists within Europe. This initiative should complement EFOMP activities on registration schemes. Our guidelines had been distributed to all member societies, and were well received by the EU (DG XI). The ETP Committee had appointed Dr Philip Dendy, its former Chairman, to act as registrar - so now it is up to member societies to make use of the scheme! The European Physical Society (EPS) has also set up a registration scheme, with some input from medical physicists: Dr Inger-Lena Lamm, the current ETP Chairman is representing EFOMP at EPS. By the time you read this the next summer school will be over. In October 1995, a repeat of the Nancy summer school on diagnostic radiology was organised in Trieste. Future plans consist of summer schools on radiotherapy physics (June 1996 in Bratislava), interventional radiology (in combination with AAPM on the occasion of the IOMP Congress 1997 in Nice), and nuclear medicine (in 1998).

Scientific Committee is progressing with the preparations of "Medical Physics '96", EFOMP's triennial scientific meeting, organised by our Italian colleagues in Trieste. There are also contributions to several other events, like physics sessions during the ESTRO annual conference (September 1996 in Vienna) and

the European Congress of Radiology (March 1997 in Vienna). But EFOMP should still make further efforts to emphasise that it is not just a professional but also a scientific platform for medical physics. National member societies should define specific projects for which EU funding could be sought - get in touch with Prof. Nüsslin, chairman of the Scientific Committee. The Treasurer's report portrayed another sound financial year: the capitation fee can remain unchanged for 1996. Despite this the fee could be a problem in several countries of Central and Eastern Europe, due to the dramatic economic changes there. Officers will have to look into this, and although the final solution cannot be predicted now, one point is clear: no Medical Physics Society in Europe will be excluded from EFOMP for financial reasons! One new member society was accepted during the Würzburg meeting: Ukraine. There have been contacts with several other societies - so it is to be expected that in Trieste there will be a few more admissions. Dr. Karl Jessen (Århus) had served as President for the last three years: Council thanked him for his calm but efficient work, and elected Prof. Fridtjof Nüsslin (Tübingen, Germany) as the new President. In order to assure continuity of actions Council agreed to the proposal that the writer of these lines would serve another

year as Secretary General. Dr. Pieter Inia (Leeuwarden) was thanked for his nine years of service (Secretary, President and Past-President) - and he will continue still longer to finish the task of revising the Constitution. The major points of this were discussed. A new definition of Europe will allow special relationships with all the countries around the Mediterranean. Only one society from each country will be admitted, as has always been the practice. The number of votes of a society will depend on the number of individual members (similar to IOMP). Committee Chairmen and Secretaries will be Officers and elected by Council - this will both emphasise the importance of the work of the Committees in EFOMP and strengthen Council's influence on this work. After some editorial work, Officers are expected to recommend a new Constitution in February 1996, which will then and put to a postal ballot. After looking back over the previous year let me conclude with a look into the future - a difficult task, but at least one event may be predicted easily! The next EFOMP meeting will take place in Trieste on 2-7 September 1996. I hope many of you will accept the invitation of our Italian colleagues and attend "Medical Physics '96". See you there !

Nice '97

14-19 September 1997

A Major International Event for All National Members of EFOMP

Pierre Aletti, Co-President of the Congress, and Jean-Claude Rosenwald, Co-Chair, Scientific Committee

After an interval of twelve years, the International Conference on Medical Physics returns to Europe, on the French Riviera. These twelve years have seen significant changes in both the scientific and the professional aspects of Medical Physics. We therefore expect to provide a forum for stimulating discussions and confrontation at the international level.

As usual, this conference will be held jointly with the International Conference on Medical and Biological Engineering. It will also include the fourth biennial ESTRO meeting on Physics in Clinical Radiotherapy, and the annual meeting of the French Society of Hospital Physicists, SFPH. It represents a unique opportunity for sharing experiences and exchanging ideas with colleagues working on similar or complementary subjects all over the world.

EFOMP, which was only one year old when the meeting was last held in Europe, in Helsinki in 1981, has now acquired full maturity with over 25 member societies. EFOMP has been asked to play a major rôle in the preparation and promotion of this Conference. Scientific as well as professional matters, the relationship to research and to industry - all will be dealt with in a number of sessions, round-tables and mini-symposia. We would also welcome proposals from other groups or organisations for supplementary events alongside the Conference.

If you have proposals or suggestions, or if you require further information on any aspect of the Conference, please contact

Nice '97
SEE
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Attention: J C Rosenwald

We look forward to seeing you in Nice.

A bientôt!

The Tenth Congress of the Polish Society of Medical Physics

Krakow, Poland, September 15-18, 1995

*Marta Wasilewska-Radwanska, President of the Local Organizing Committee
President, Krakow Division, Polish Society of Medical Physics
Head, Medical Physics Department, Faculty of Physics and Nuclear Techniques
University of Mining and Metallurgy*

The Faculty of Physics and Nuclear Techniques of the University of Mining and Metallurgy in Krakow was host the 10th Congress of the Polish Society of Medical Physics, dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the discovery of X-rays by Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen. The conference attracted over 200 participants - medical physicists, physicians and engineers working at universities, in scientific research institutes, hospitals, government institutions and international organisations. They represented 18 countries: Belarus, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Estonia, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Sweden, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and Poland.

Over 140 papers were submitted, of which 49 were selected for oral presentations at plenary sessions and about 100 for presentation at poster sessions. The topics of the submitted papers were divided into the following sessions:

- Röntgen Memorial Session (4 papers)
- Organisation, Management and Education in Medical Physics in Europe (5 papers, 5 posters)
- Biomaterials and Biosensors (4 papers, 2 posters)
- Imaging and Mathematical Modelling in Medicine IM (8 papers, 10 posters)
- Radiotherapy (9 papers, 3 posters)
- Experimental Techniques in Medicine and Biology (5 papers, 41 posters)
- Radiation Protection and Quality Assurance (10 papers, 18 posters)
- Environmental Radiation (8 papers, 18 posters).

The Röntgen Memorial Session was opened by Prof Manfred Tautz (Klinikum Berlin-Buch, Germany) who presented W C Röntgen as a Personage of his time. Then Mr Oskar A Chomicki (General Secretary, the Maria Sklodowska-Curie Memorial Foundation) spoke about the early years of Röntgen's discovery. Next Prof Jozef Kusmiderski (Head, Department of Radiology, Collegium Medicum Jagiellonian University, Krakow) et al presented the development of radiology in Krakow. This had been started in January 1896 by Karol Olszewski, a professor of chemistry at the Jagiellonian University and the first scientist to liquefy air. Alfred Obalinski, a professor of surgery at the Jagiellonian University, decided to use X-rays in practice in early February 1896. A paper on Dr Sabat, the pioneer of Röntgen kymography was presented by Dr Wojciech Bulski.

Prof Keith Boddy (Northern and Yorkshire Regional Health Authority, UK) opened the session on medical physics education in Europe with a presentation on the regional organisation and management of medical physics services in the North of England.

Polish carbon-based biomaterials (presented by Prof S. Blazewicz *et al*, University of Mining and Metallurgy, Krakow), radiation curing of dental materials (from Prof J.F. Rabek *et al*, Karolinska Institute, Royal Academy of Medicine, Huddinge, Sweden) as

well as chemical sensors and biosensors for medical applications (from Prof W. Torbicz *et al*, Institute of Biocybernetics and Biomedical Engineering, PAS, Warsaw) were submitted to the Biomaterials and Biosensors session.

All the remaining sessions, on Imaging, Radiotherapy, Experimental Techniques, Radiation Protection and Environmental Radiation, were very interesting and showed that we should meet often.

Abstracts of the papers presented in the above mentioned subject groups are available from:

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On September 17th, King's College School of Medicine & Dentistry, London, UK organised a Satellite Workshop on the European Education and Training in Medical Radiation Physics and Engineering for the participants of our Congress who had taken part in the CEC-funded European Conference on Post-Graduate Education in Medical Radiation Physics held in Budapest, Hungary in November 1994. The Workshop was open to participants of the 10th Congress of the PSMP.

We hope that the congress has become a meeting ground for the exchange of Western and Eastern research experience and expertise in medical physics and bioengineering.

We would like to thank our sponsors: the Scientific Research Committee (KBN), the Ministry of National Education, the National Atomic Energy Agency, the Maria Sklodowska-Curie Foundation and the Stefan Batory Foundation for their financial support, which enabled us to organise the conference and to invite over 30 participants from Central and Eastern Europe.

Röntgen Centenary Congress

26th Annual Scientific Meeting of DGMP, 20-23 September 1995

This meeting was sponsored by EFOMP and IOMP.

John Haywood

Although 1995 was a year of many Röntgen centenary meetings (Birmingham, Boston, Warsaw, Moscow and more) this one was uniquely authentic. Röntgen's discovery was made in Würzburg where he was Professor of Physics. Then how is it that only the medical physicists of Europe held their centenary celebrations in the right place? Of the professions engaged in the clinical application of X-rays only the physicists are small enough in number to fit their meeting into this historic but rather small town in Franconia. It is a measure of Röntgen's achievement that Radiologists and Radiographers would have been far too numerous. However, the Medical Physicists fitted comfortably into Congress Center Würzburg, a pleasant facility linked to Hotel Maritim.

The programme began on Wednesday 20 September with three German-language tutorial sessions on Non-Ionising Radiation Effects, Dose calculation in Diagnostic Radiology and Dose Effect Relationships in Radiation Therapy. A lecture in the evening on New Research on the Man in the Ice was open to the public and therefore also in German. I have to admit that, owing to unfavourable airline schedules I was unable to attend any of the foregoing sessions. However, I did attend the really important event of the evening - the Lord Mayor's Reception. Here the delegates were first introduced to the excellent Franconian wines which proved to be a major theme of the Congress. Traditional leather-bound waiters circulated rapidly through the throng assembled in an interior chamber of the stone City Hall, replenishing glasses at the least provocation. Delegates nibbled on crisply salted loaves washed down with wine to such effect that tongues were rapidly loosened and a considerable hubbub created. The Lord Mayor persevered with his speech of welcome, one paragraph at a time translated into English by his assistant, against a growing background of conversation. At last, he accepted defeat but, ever the diplomat, declared himself satisfied that the wine had served its purpose. Those close enough to hear the speech would have learned that only about 10% of Würzburg's traditional buildings survived the second world war intact and that consequently, the charming city which now stands there is a faithful reconstruction. A visit to the Council Chamber with its historical wall panels underlined this point.

On Thursday morning the Congress was officially opened in a ceremony bounded by the first and fourth movements of Schubert's Opus 125, No 1 in E flat major, played by the Würzburg University Orchestra's String Quartet. Unfortunately, I was hanging the eight UK historical posters at the time and therefore cannot offer a musical appreciation. The remainder of the morning was taken up by a plenary session which was mainly historical in character.

After lunch and a session of poster presentations the scientific programme accelerated to 15 presentations per hour in three parallel sessions: Nuclear Magnetic Resonance, Dosimetry and one session designed to stimulate debate between advocates of high-energy particle therapy and of conformal therapy. Communication between these research communities is needed but I am not sure whether there was a meeting of minds on this occasion. Further efforts in this direction may be worthwhile.

Friday opened with a plenary session on the development of Radiation Dosimetry, Ion Chambers, Radiation Research and

Protection and a review of the 28 national historical posters. After coffee, the programme resumed its rapid parallel pace with sessions on Physical and Biological Treatment Planning in Radiation Therapy, Radiation Therapy Techniques/Brachytherapy and New Techniques in Diagnostic Radiology. After lunch, poster sessions gave way to parallel sessions on Quality Assurance in Radiation Therapy, Quality Assurance in Diagnostic Radiology/Radiation Protection and Methods and Techniques in Nuclear Medicine. This last included a miscellaneous segment containing presentations on photoacoustic spectroscopy in dermatology, microwave hyperthermia, laser doppler flowmetry, scanning acoustic microscopy and high speed glottography.

In the evening delegates walked from their hotels to the Congress Dinner at the Bürgerspital, technically still a hostel for the care of the poor, sick and lame. However, the extensive vineyards owned by the Bürgerspital make wine production and sale a more attractive way of raising money for the same purpose. Thus, delegates were greeted with wine in the cellars of the Bürgerspital after which we were seated in the banqueting hall to hear the director address a eulogy to Franconia and to its wines. This was repeated for every course of the meal, all of which were accompanied by a different wine and sometimes two. After the soup it was clear that nobody was listening but the speaker was not deterred. The diners strove desperately to keep afloat in this oenological flood and, at length, became sufficiently mellow to appreciate the entertainment: a fine mezzo, a splendid deep bass and a tenor of great acting talent but original intonation entertained with the obligatory songs from the shows. Despite the general level of good humour, the Röntgen Special Wine offer enjoyed only a meagre trade among departing delegates.

Saturday morning dawned cool and clear for a plenary session devoted to reviews of the last 100 years in diagnostic and therapeutic use of X-rays. After coffee, this was extrapolated into the future as presentations on modern trends. Finally the fine arts made a contribution on the use of X-rays to uncover the stages of creation and history of great works of art.

By Saturday afternoon when the EFOMP committees met, the congress had delivered a total of seven invited lectures and 176 proffered papers in an environment which was optimally balanced between order and spontaneity for speakers both of English and German and delegates had been given ample opportunity for discussions with manufacturers in the well planned exhibition.

Report from the Scientific Committee

Fridtjof Nüsslin, Chairman of Scientific Committee

It must be a long time since so many delegates attended the EFOMP Scientific Committee Meeting. In September, representatives and observers from 14 member organisations - over half the countries affiliated to EFOMP - participated in the meeting held on Saturday 23rd September. This must be due in part to the location of the meeting in Würzburg, birth-place of X-rays. In common with the other EFOMP committees, the Scientific Committee held its meeting during the Röntgen Centenary Congress, organised by DGMP and sponsored by EFOMP, IOMP and IUPESM. Würzburg and the events surrounding the centenary of Röntgen's discovery provided a splendid setting for our meeting.

The Scientific Committee has two prime considerations amongst other issues. These are liaison with other organisations, and the involvement of EFOMP in congresses with at least some relation to Medical Physics. Accordingly, the meeting started with a discussion of matters relating to the relationship of the Federation with other organisations.

- **ESTRO.** It is important to keep in mind that, whilst EFOMP has a different structure and organisation from ESTRO, the two bodies share a common field of scientific interest. Whereas EFOMP is a federation representing all medical physicists via their national organisations, the ESTRO's membership comprises individuals drawn from a range of disciplines with an interest in radiation therapy.

This common interest means that EFOMP and ESTRO are both concerned with the rôle and status of medical physics in this particular area. At present, a co-operative initiative is under way on medical physics staffing levels in radiotherapy. The ETP Committee is EFOMP's prime mover in this.

- **EAR.** The European Association for Radiology, EAR, is at present mainly concerned with bringing together national radiological associations, and with influencing some rather divergent trends in radiology. EAR's links with EFOMP are, therefore, rather weak.
- **ESI.** The European Scientific Institute, ESI, was established in 1994. It is based both geographically and intellectually around CERN in Geneva. ESI has set up a programme of courses which can be viewed as advanced schools, rather than elementary training courses in Medical Physics. The courses will be of particular relevance to those with an interest in the new technologies available in proton and light and heavy ion therapies.
- **EC.** EFOMP's contact with the European Commission (EC) has, in the past, been dominated by professional matters principally covered by the ETP Committee. Scientific Committee delegates agreed, however, that they should look into possible EC funding for specific research programmes, and disseminate any information relevant to medical physicists.

Another major aspect of the Scientific Committee's business is EFOMP's involvement in the organisation and sponsorship of scientific meetings. The two important events in the immediate future are:

The XI AIFB Congress, combined with Medical Physics '96, Eutech and the 1996 Giorgio Albeij Congress, organised by our Italian colleagues and sponsored by EFOMP. Two sessions have been allocated to EFOMP, as follows.

- **Training and Education.** The keynote speaker will be Dr P P Dendy (Cambridge, UK), and Prof F Nüsslin (Tübingen, Germany) will speak on The Development of Medical Physics in Europe.
- **A session covering two topics other than ionising radiation.** After discussion, the topics selected were ELF Electromagnetic Fields and Medical Applications of Near-Infrared Radiation.

The Congress will be held in Trieste, Italy from 2nd to 6th September, 1996. For further information, see the Meeting Announcement elsewhere in this issue.

The IOMP/IFMBE Congress, to be held in Nice, France in from 14th to 19th September, 1997. The Congress President, J-C Rosenwald summarised the programme, which covers a wide spectrum and makes this congress an event not to be missed. For further information, see the Meeting Announcement elsewhere in this issue.

Having dealt with these issues, only limited time was available at the meeting to cover a range of other nonetheless important matters.

J Haywood reported on work with IAEA concerned with establishing a database of incidents, RADEV, similar to the INIS scheme for the nuclear power industry. The related rôle of the EC Medical Devices Directive's Vigilance System was also discussed.

In order to improve the Committee's information on the current state of affairs in the scientific base of medical physics in Europe - for example, how Medical Physics is organised in universities, what research activities were going on, etc. - it was agreed that a questionnaire should be circulated to all member countries in the near future. At the same time, it would be possible to collect data on how to make contact with experts and specialist institutions.

Finally, the meeting was deeply impressed by a report from the Ukrainian delegate, representing EFOMP's newest member. He described the situation in the Chernobyl fall-out areas, surely the most tragic example of the risks from ionising radiation in the 100 year history of its use.

At the close of the meeting, it was announced that a new committee chairman would take over from the current chairman before the next Council meeting.

Report from the ETP Committee, 1995

Inger-Lena Lamm, Chairman, ETP Committee

The 1995 ETP Committee Meeting was held in Würzburg, on Saturday 23 September, directly after the closing of the Röntgen Centenary Congress. I think it is safe to say that this year we had the highest number of representatives attending an EFOMP ETP Committee Meeting so far!

The **Staffing Level Review** has been one of the main tasks this year. A Working Group was established at the 1994 ETP Committee Meeting with Karl Arne Jessen as Chairman. This group should also represent EFOMP in a joint ESTRO/EFOMP Working Group, specifically looking at the medical physics support to radiotherapy. Based on the German report *Recommendations on Staffing Levels in Medical Physics*, an English version of the *Catalogue of Duties in Medical Physics* was prepared and sent out to all national ETP Committee members at the beginning of June 1995. This catalogue and the comments received were discussed in Würzburg. It was agreed to use the duty list of core tasks for radiotherapy staffing level recommendations, together with the specific figures from the German survey based on this list, and the EFOMP Working Group was given full support to go ahead with the radiotherapy discussions in the joint ESTRO/EFOMP Group.

At the ESTRO Physics Meeting in Gardone, Italy, in October, an ESTRO/EFOMP consensus was reached, and a joint EFOMP/ESTRO staffing level document *Quality assurance in Radiotherapy: The Importance of Medical Physics staffing levels* is now being prepared. It is the intention of the joint Working Group to publish this document in a scientific journal. Before publication, at the end of the year, it will be sent out to ETP Committee members for comment. It was also decided that the EFOMP Group should continue with the staffing level review for diagnostic radiology and nuclear medicine. At a later stage, a condensed version of the radiotherapy paper will be part of a revised EFOMP Policy Statement on Staffing Levels in Medical Physics covering radiotherapy, nuclear medicine and diagnostic radiology.

A new **EFOMP Policy Statement, No 6, Recommended Guidelines on National Registration Schemes for Medical Physics** is under publication in *Physica Medica*. The guidelines had been sent out to the Presidents of all EFOMP member organisations in April. One of the long term aims of EFOMP is to achieve uniformly high standards of training and performance of medical physicists in the countries of all member organisations. Furthermore, EFOMP wishes to see some form of recognition when these standards are achieved. This latest policy statement provides the necessary guidelines to enable EFOMP to take the lead in establishing a mechanism for the proper recognition of medical physics by means of approved National Registration Schemes. The procedure for EFOMP approval of National Registration Schemes requires a Registrar. Philip Dendy had done all the work on drafting these guidelines during his time as Chairman of the ETP Committee, and the ETP Committee was therefore very happy to learn that he was willing to accept the nomination as Registrar for the National Registration Schemes. He was unanimously elected Registrar at the Würzburg meeting. National Organisations are strongly encouraged to set up Registration Schemes according to the EFOMP guidelines and to submit them for EFOMP registration.

In parallel with the EFOMP registration scheme, the European Physical Society (EPS) has introduced a new professional qualification for physicists in general, the European Physicist, *Eur Phys*. As also pointed out in the EFOMP guidelines, the European Commission has been active for some time in promoting the mutual recognition of academic degrees, and it is now welcoming initiatives regarding professional qualifications. There are already several European Registers for qualified professionals, for example European Engineers, Biologists and Geologists, and EPS has this year set up a European Register of Physicists and the necessary procedures for handling applications for entry on the register. Requirements for admission to the register could be roughly described as first an academic qualification in physics of at least three years, followed by at least two years of appropriate professional experience, and another two years of academic education or experience as well as a period of training; in total minimum seven years. Applications are sent to Regional Monitoring Committees, which then submit summaries and recommendations to the Register Commission. EPS regarded it as essential that medical physics should be represented, and as the new Chairman of the EFOMP ETP Committee, I was invited to be nominated (and was later also elected) as a member of the Register Commission. It can be said in short, that a "Qualified Expert in Radiophysics" should in general be qualified for admission to the register of European Physicists, but not the other way around, as it were.

The EFOMP Travel Award for 1996 has been announced in the *EMP News*, and a fair number of requests for application forms have been made. Note, that completed applications should be received by 1 February 1996.

The *EFOMP Survey on Trained Medical Radiation Physicists (1993-1994)* as well as the discussion paper on *The Need for Continuing Education for the Medical Physicist* have been finished and will be published in *Physica Medica*. From now on, EFOMP policy statements and other EFOMP documents of professional interest will be published in *Physica Medica*, an important step in promoting medical physics in Europe.

The work on continuing education will carry on, and the next logical step for EFOMP will be to develop guidelines to support the introduction of national programmes for continuing education to guarantee the maintaining and upgrading of knowledge and competence following completion of training. The Institution of Physics & Engineering in Medicine & Biology in the United Kingdom, are working on a pilot scheme for Continuing Professional Development, the European Association of Radiology has prepared a Draft on Guidelines for Continuing Medical Education, and other organisations are also working in the same direction. A first draft of EFOMP Guidelines for Continuing Professional Development will be prepared for the 1996 ETP Committee

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Medical Physics '96

Trieste, Italy, 2nd - 6th September, 1996

The V International Conference on Application of Physics in Medicine and Biology will be held from September 2nd to 6th, 1996, at the International Centre for Theoretical Physics, Strada Costiera 11, Miramare, Trieste, Italy.

This conference will bring together several connected events, namely:

IX Congress of the Italian Association of Medical Physics
EFOMP Medical Physics '96
EUTECH'96
Giorgio Alberi Memorial '96.

This will be a unique occasion to combine so many scientific events in Medical Physics with the main purpose of creating a wide-ranging and very exciting meeting from a scientific point of view, but also of establishing stronger links between the various communities working in the field of Medical Physics in Universities, Research Centres, Hospitals and Industry throughout Europe. Furthermore the ICTP has a long outstanding tradition of hosting meetings which will also act as a scientific bridge towards developing countries.

The major topics covered by the conference will be:

- Synchrotron Radiation for Medical Physics
- Advanced Imaging and new techniques in radiotherapy
- Physics of the biological systems
- Study and measurement of physiological parameters
- Dosimetry and clinical dosimetry
- Biomedical instrumentation and quality assurance
- Optics and laser applications in biology and medicine
- Physics methodologies in environmental sciences
- Training and education in medical physics.

Invited talks, contributed papers and poster sessions are planned.

For further information please contact:

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ETP Committee Report

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meeting by a small working group; Susan Sherriff (UK), Noirin Sheahan (Ireland, ETP Committee Secretary) and Inger-Lena Lamm (Sweden, ETP Committee Chairman).

The 1995 Summer School on diagnostic radiology in Trieste was well accepted and well attended. The Summer School for 1996 will cover topics in radiotherapy. Subject to satisfactory funding arrangements, this will be held in Bratislava, Slovak Republic, June 16-22. Younger physicists are encouraged to attend this school and should write for further details to

Inger-Lena Lamm,
Radiofysik,
Universitetssjukhuset i Lund,
S-221 85 LUND, SWEDEN.

In 1997 a joint AAPM/EFOMP Summer School is being planned in connection with the World Congress on Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering in Nice. The topic of the school will probably be in the area of interventional radiology.

Items for Publication in EMP News

Members of EFOMP Affiliated Organisations are encouraged to submit items for publication in EMP News. Material should be sent to the Editor,

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