



EFOMP News

European Federation of Organisations for Medical Physics

The improvement of Radiation Protection in the Medical Sector in Europe

In January 2006 EFOMP participated at an informal meeting organised by the European ALARA ("As Low As Reasonably Achievable") Network (EAN) in Paris on the radiation protection in the medical sector. A draft document was created together with the representatives of the Swedish Society (SSI) and the European Committee of Radiographers and Radiological Technologists (ECRRT) to compile the most important requirements needed to build a European network with the aim of improving the radiation protection in the medical sector. It was agreed in Paris that future meetings should include representatives of the European Society of Radiology (ESR).

EFOMP participated at the 10th EAN Workshop held in Prague on September 12th-15th 2006. Prof. Hernández-Armas (Chairman of the EFOMP EU Matters Committee) presented a proposal regarding Radiation Protection with the emphasis that the medical physicist must be the sole responsible for the radiation protection of patients, staff and the general public in hospital environments.

On October 11th, a brainstorming type of reunion took place at the EU in representing the ESR (European Society of Radiology) met with delegates of the EAN, SSI, ECRRT and EFOMP. All present organisations agreed to form the future European Medical ALARA Network (EMAN). In summary, EMAN should be coordinated by a steering group composed of one or two representatives from ECRRT, EFOMP, ESR and EAN, together with a representative of the European Commission.

EMAN is aimed at improving the Radiation Protection practice in hospital and other medical areas. The following topics have been highlighted as a starting working point:

- Radiological safety for personnel involved in interventional procedure using X-Ray equipment outside X-Ray departments

- Radiological safety for personnel installing and maintaining radiological equipment in hospitals
- Management of radiological protection in important medical facilities
- Optimisation of patients exposure in CT and intervention

On EFOMP's initiative the following is stated in the EMAN's working document of this meeting:

"Medical Physicists have an important responsibility for the calibration, safety, quality assurance and quality control of radiation equipments used on patients. They, also, have the responsibility for the optimisation of equipments and methods that imply the use of radiation in hospitals. Furthermore, they have the main responsibility for the radiation protection of patients, workers and the general public in many European countries."

José Hernández-Armas
(Chairman of the EFOMP European Union Matters Committee)

Xth EFOMP Congress - First European Conference on Medical Physics 2007

In 2007 the Xth EFOMP congress will be organized in conjunction with the Italian Association of Medical Physics (AIFM) in the beautiful international resort "Il Ciocco" in the vicinity of Pisa, Italy. The event is scheduled for mid-September, when the Tuscany climate is at its best for enjoying the landscape and the countryside of the Garfagnana hills and mountains.

The special goal for this congress is to present a state-of-the-art of Medical Physics in its various subspecialties: from Radiotherapy to Diagnostic Radiology, from Nuclear Medicine to Medical Imaging, from Radioprotection to Physiological Measurement Techniques. As one of the main tasks of EFOMP is to promote and to harmonize the best practice of Medical Physics in Europe, special sessions will be dedicated to training and education in Medical Physics.