InterACTIONS

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Le BULLETIN CANADIEN de PHYSIQUE MÉDICALE

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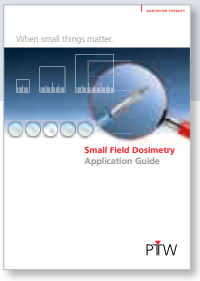

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InterACTIONS

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The Canadian Medical Physics Newsletter, which is a publication of the Canadian Organization of Medical Physicists (COMP) and the Canadian College of Physicists in Medicine (CCPM) is published four times per year on 1 Jan., 1 April, 1 July, and 1 Oct. The deadline for submissions is one month before the publication date. Enquiries, story ideas, images, and article submissions can be made to:

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Message from the COMP President

Many years ago, I was sitting in a hospital waiting room. I found an IT magazine in the waiting area, and decided that this looked more interesting than the rest of the usual waiting room literature. I don't remember the exact date, but I do know that it was after January 1, 2000 because the article that I read in it specifically referred to this date. The article was the editorial in the magazine, which argued that the run up in both availability of work and the value associated for work in the IT area had clearly increased in the time preceding January 1, 2000 due to the "year 2000 bug" that many of you will remember. Rather than discussing some of the technical issues relevant to this computer problem (as I was hoping for), the editor instead reflected on the positive benefits this issue had to the IT industry in terms of demand for work, and the large financial resources available to reimburse the people providing these services. My impression was that the opinion of this particular magazine was that the "year 2000 bug" (I do not know if there is a more appropriate way to reference it) was indeed a great growth story for his industry. He then went on to make the argument that the IT industry needed to create more such problems for itself since in the intervening time, not only had the work dried up, but the influence of the IT industry was declining since there were no pressing issues of public importance that the industry could lobby on behalf.

Unfortunately, I cannot reference this article specifically since I didn't take the time to write down any particulars. Instead, I remember being rather annoyed that this magazine would have the opinion that creating, what I would call, a self-serving public relations issue would be of benefit to IT professionals. I seem to recall throwing the magazine down in a huff and going to my appointment. However, the memory of the message in the editorial has stayed with me, since, to me, it represents issues around the public's perception of professions. I find these issues very interesting, and have given them much thought. I would argue that one of the most valuable assets or liability of any profession is that of public perception.

In the case of medical physicists, the issue of public perception is very different. In our case, the public is largely unaware of the term "medical physicist." That is not to say that the public is not aware of the work that we do, but I would suggest that the public may not appreciate that technical people, like ourselves, have a role in healthcare. When I meet people, either professionally or personally, and they ask me what it is that I do, I have become quite interested in the response I get after I say that I am a medical physicist. I suspect that the responses that I get are pretty common for many of you. Most of the time I get a puzzled look with a few broken sentences that amount to saying: "I had no idea that physics and medicine had anything to do with one another, so what kinds of things is it that a medical physicist would actually do?"

What I have found is that explaining what medical physicists do is becoming easier than it used to be. This may be due to my own improved ability to better explain medical physics concisely, but I suspect it has more to do with the state of medicine in our society, and the recognition that the role of technology in medicine is now much more important than it was even 10 years ago, let alone 20 or 30 years. As I write this message to you, I am preparing to go to Ottawa next week to meet with representatives from NSERC and CIHR to hopefully discuss some issues around support for research in medical physics. In preparing for this meeting, I am concerned that it will be difficult to get the attention

Marco Carlone

of these agencies and explain why the work and research that COMP members do is important. What I find helpful is that the idea that the use of technology in medicine, whether it be old technology like a linear accelerator, something very novel such as a PET-MRI, or even something very ordinary such as an ECG, are clearly important to the public. I believe the public wants these technologies to be more useful in healthcare and medical physicists are the best people to determine the optimal way to integrate technology into healthcare delivery.

About a year ago, I was having a discussion with a colleague in the IT industry, and so I took the opportunity to recall the story about the year 2000 bug that I discussed above. Before I could even finish, my friend interrupted me and lamented (in an animated manner) the decline in values within his industry. This was particularly important to him, since the work he did as an academic researcher in software design was diminished by the perception that IT was a self-serving industry. Despite my interpretation of one particular editorial, I have a very high regard for the IT profession, and the need for improvements

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Message from the CCPM President

The timing of this report follows closely after the board's mid-year meeting which took place in Ottawa on November 28. In the past, the mid-year meeting of the board has usually been held in conjunction with a COMP board meeting, but this year, the CCPM board met on their own, which afforded us more time to deal with a very full agenda.

Over the past few months, the business of the College has focused on recertification. The recertification cycle for this year has now been completed, with just over 50 members recertifying. The board is engaged in a process of continuous improvement, and we expect that there will be some changes made to the recertifying process prior to the next cycle. To some extent, the changes will be facilitated by our new website, which we hope to have online within a few months.

Now that recertification is done, applications for the membership exam for next year have begun to roll in. One last reminder that next year's membership exam will be the last chance for persons who have not completed a CAMPEP-accredited graduate program or residency to obtain certification by the CCPM.

Aside from dealing with the usual business of recertification, budgets, etc., the board had a number of other important topics on its agenda, as outlined below.

Last year, the board decided that it will be important to establish a process by which foreign medical physicists, who meet the requirements for an established link to Canada, can become eligible for certification by the College. We have examined a number of options, and have now decided that the pathway for these people to become eligible for certification will be via a bridging program. At this point in time, this is really only a concept, but we have now begun working on the details of how such a program would work. Suffice it to say that this program would involve completing a structured program at an institution approved by the board for this purpose. I hope to have a more concrete proposal ready for detailed consideration by next summer.

My previous column was dedicated almost entirely to a discussion centered on Fellowship in the College, and the board spent a good deal of time on this issue. I view this as a very important item of College business, so I want to communicate what has taken place thus far. The first steps in this process were information gathering, and to that end, a survey of the residency program directors and department directors in Canada was carried out.

One of the objectives of the survey was to establish the role of Fellowship in the salary and career progression of medical physicists in Canada. The survey results show a wide variation across the country, but in many places, obtaining Fellowship in the CCPM is necessary for promotion to a senior level or for advancement within the senior salary structure. It's hard to make an accurate statement about the actual percentage of physicists this affects, but it appears that obtaining Fellowship in the CCPM directly affects the career progression of at least half of the medical physicists in Canada. Bearing this in mind, it seems self evident that the Fellowship program is useful to the community of physicists in Canada and that we would need compelling reasons to consider abolishing it.

Although it is not directly related to Fellowship, the survey also collected data on the preferred timing of the membership exams. It had been suggested that perhaps we could find an alternate time to hold the membership exams that would be more suitably aligned with the graduation dates from residency programs. Although some of the residency directors preferred different dates, the amalgamated results of the survey, which included responses from residency directors and department directors, showed a clear preference to leave the timing of the exams as it is now. One large consideration for the timing of the membership oral exams is the weather. Since these exams are held at a single location at a predetermined date, they must be held at a time when there is a high likelihood that everyone involved can actually get there, even if they're coming from the other side of the country. In Canada, that realistically means that they must be held between May and September.

Matthew G. Schmid

The Fellowship review that is underway will be influenced by the opinions of our members. I have previously encouraged any interested parties to make a submission to the review panel outlining their thoughts about Fellowship. The opportunity still exists to let your voice be heard. By the time you read this, you will have been contacted by email, asking for your input on this important matter. If you have ideas or comments about the

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Executive Director Report

In my work with a variety of national professional associations, I am very much aware that many professional associations today are struggling to engage the next generation of young professionals. There are now so many ways to network and acquire knowledge that unless membership is mandatory, young professionals are not automatically joining their professional association when they begin their careers. This trend has caught many associations off-guard and as a result, many associations are playing "catch up" to connect with the younger demographic and to develop programs and services to meet their specific needs.

In this regard, COMP is and has always been ahead of the curve. Support for students is a core value that has always existed within COMP. This core value was put into action in 2008 when COMP formally established the Student Council. Support for students grows each year through special programs and financial support. However, what COMP does is about more than specific programs or money – it is about respect and collaboration. Very senior members of the medical physics community make themselves available to students and welcome opportunities to connect with them, whether it is at a formal session or by joining them for a beer at the student night out at the Annual Scientific Meeting.

Since 2008, the Student Council has been led by dynamic and engaged young professionals and the group has been mentored by the Chair of the Science and Education Committee. The current Student Council is Co-Chaired by Sarah Cuddy-Walsh and Olga Dona Lemus, who are continuing to build on the work done by their predecessors. So if you are a graduate student, I encourage you to become a member of COMP. Or, if you are working with graduate students, please encourage your students to join. Here are some key reasons to participate:

1. To network with fellow physics students.
2. To meet future employers.
3. To know more about what is happening in medical physics in Canada.
4. Statistics show that students who join COMP have a better pass rate for the CCPM (Canadian College of Physicists in Medicine) exam.
5. Your fees to the COMP Annual Scientific Meeting will be subsidized.
6. To have access to the student exchange program.
7. To be eligible to participate in the prestigious Young Investigators Symposium competition.
8. To participate in the COMP Student Council: the student voice within COMP.
9. To learn more about what the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission is really doing.
10. It's free! The first year membership fees are waived for students. After the first year, the annual membership fee is only $30.00

More information about the activities of the Student Council are on the website. Please feel free to contact Sarah, Olga, or myself if you have any questions or would like more information.

As you read this issue, the Winter School Planning Committee, under the very capable leadership of John Kildea, is preparing to head to Kelowna for the 2015 Winter School that will be taking place from February 1st to 5th. The planning committee is comprised of physicists, radiation oncologists, and therapists, and the program is being built on past successes and will also include new content including the unique and important perspective of a patient.

The second annual International Medical Physics Day took place on November 7th. This day was launched by the IOMP in 2013 and is an opportunity to raise the profile of the medical physics profession around the world. COMP celebrated it by hosting a video contest and some very creative submissions were received - thank you to those who took the time to help celebrate this important day!

Ms Nancy Barrett

In addition to International Medical Physics Day, the 2015 World Congress is another opportunity to connect with your colleagues from around the world. The World Congress will be taking place from June 7th to 12th in Toronto and is an important opportunity to showcase the contribution and success of the Canadian medical physics community. If you visit the World Congress site (www.wc2015.org) you will find more information about this significant event and you will see the calibre of those directly involved in the planning of this event. Please mark your calendars and spread the word!

There will be openings on the Board for two Directors-at-Large as of the 2015 ASM. As part of their role, the new Directors-at-Large will be asked to serve as Chair of either the Professional Affairs Committee or the Communications Committee. Serving on the Board is a unique leadership opportunity and a way to learn more about and give back to your profession. Details about the nomination process are available in this issue, and please feel free to contact me if you would like more information or if you have any questions.

As always, thank you for your feedback, support and participation!

CNSC Feedback Forum

Nuclear Substances in Canada: A Safety Performance Report for 2013

Kavita Murthy

Accelerators and Class II facilities Division, CNSC

On November 5th, 2014, at a public meeting of the Commission, CNSC staff presented the report on the safety performance of licensees holding CNSC licences for activities under the regulatory oversight of the Directorate of Nuclear Substance Regulation. This was the fifth annual report presented to the commission by us and provided a detailed snapshot of the performance of our licensees in 2013. The presentation and the questions and answer period that followed are available as an archived webcast at: http://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/the-commission/webcasts/archived/november/index.cfm

Here are some highlights of the information presented in the report:

- Data on 2,480 licences and 22,430 nuclear energy workers from four CNSC-regulated sectors (medical, industrial, academic and research, and commercial) were reviewed and analysed by CNSC staff to produce the report.
- Safety performance was measured by examining the following metrics:
  - Licensees' compliance with regulatory requirements in two safety and control areas (SCAs): Operating performance and radiation protection. Results were based on findings from 1,568 inspections conducted in 2013. Over 89.2% of inspected licensees were found to demonstrate satisfactory regulatory compliance with the operating performance SCA. Over 86.9% of inspected licensees were found to demonstrate satisfactory regulatory compliance with radiation protection SCA.
  - Occupational doses to workers: In total, there were 76,221 workers in the nuclear industry whose doses were monitored in 2013. Of these, 22,430 were designated as nuclear energy workers (NEWs). Over 99.9% of workers received doses below their respective regulatory dose limits. No NEW exceeded the five-year dose limit of 100 mSv.
  - Reported events: There were 150 reported events in 2013, a small increase compared with 2012. Two of these events, one from the industrial sector, and one from the medical sector, resulted in a radiation dose to a worker or a member of the public which was in excess of regulatory limits. There were no releases of dispersible nuclear substances to the environment that resulted in an adverse radiological impact on the environment.

In 2013, twenty four (24) enforcement actions were issued, including 22 orders and two Administrative Monetary Penalties (AMPs). The majority of the orders issued were to licensees in the industrial subsectors. There were 14 orders issued to portable gauge licensees, five issued to industrial radiography licensees, and one each issued to a fixed gauge licensee: an X-ray fluorescence analysis licensee, and a company that was in possession of fixed gauges without a CNSC licence.

Overall, the safety performance across sectors improved in 2013 compared to previous years. This article is just a snapshot –the complete report will be finalised, translated and published in the coming months. The report is full of interesting information, including a detailed breakdown of the highlights above by subsector and is well worth a read.

This year for the first time, representatives from Canadian Radiation Protection Association (CRPA) participated in the meeting. The president of CRPA, Jeff Dovyak (Winnipeg), and Ali Shoushtarian (Ottawa) did an admirable job representing licensees who hold nuclear substance licences. The Commission welcomes participation by stakeholders and is interested in hearing your points of view. I strongly encourage the radiation therapy sector to participate through COMP in this meeting next year and beyond.

If you have comments, you can email them to me at Kavita.Murthy@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca

Announcing a new annual feature in InterACTIONS!

We'd like to highlight the efforts of Medical Physics graduate students across the country. They work hard and are the future of our profession, and so deserve some recognition. To that end, please submit to me, the editor, lists of your 2014 Medical Physics graduates, along with degree obtained, supervisor(s), and title of theses. We will be publishing the list in the spring 2015 issue of InterACTIONS, so the deadline is **March 1st, 2015.** Please send information to Chris.Thomas@cdha.nshealth.ca

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CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The COMP Awards and Nominations Committee is responsible for presenting a slate of nominations for the COMP Board of Directors to ensure that the organization is governed with excellence and vision. There will be two openings on the Board of Directors for Directors-at-Large as of the 2015 Annual General Meeting.

Directors-at-large serve for a term of three years and have the following responsibilities:

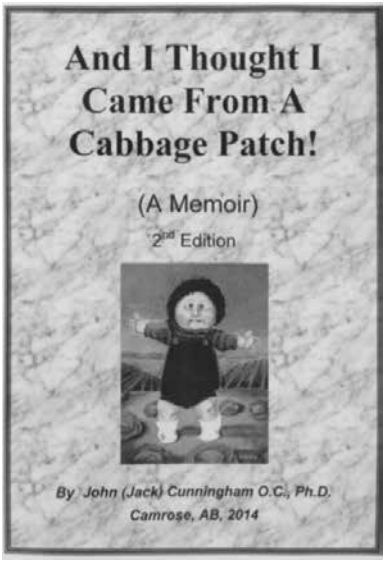
1. To work in conjunction with other Board members in the best interest of the organization.
2. To prepare for, attend, and actively participate in all Board meetings and relevant committee meetings. In-person meetings take place in November and at the Annual Scientific Meeting and there may be up to four teleconferences.
3. To be prepared and willing to Chair a committee or lead special projects as required.

On the last point, at present Chairs are being sought for the Professional Affairs Committee (PAC) and the Communications Committee.

The nomination must be accompanied by a duly signed Expression of Interest and Nomination Form endorsed by no fewer than two (2) voting members of COMP. To access the nomination form, please visit www.medphys.ca or contact the COMP office at admin@medphys.ca.

And I thought I Came From A Cabbage Patch! (A Memoir)

By John (Jack) Cunningham O.C., Ph.D.
2nd Edition
Camrose, AB, 2014



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To place an order:

- Visit the COMP website at http://www.medphys.ca/ and use the order form link under Announcements.

or

- Email the COMP office for an order form (admin@medphys.ca).

Payment may be made by: Cheque, MasterCard, or Visa.

A book review, prepared by Crystal Plume Angers, was published in the October 2014 edition of Interactions.

Thank you to Our Outgoing Board Members

Jean-Pierre Bissonnette, MCCPM, FCOMP is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Radiation Oncology at the University of Toronto where he is also the Director of Physics Education.

Jean-Pierre agreed to step back into the role of Chair of the Quality Assurance and Radiation Safety Advisory Committee (QARSAC), a role he had held previously, until a new Chair could be found. In this capacity, Jean-Pierre represented COMP on the Canadian Partnership for Quality Radiotherapy (CPQR) and ensured continuity for this important initiative. The Board was very fortunate that Jean-Pierre agreed to help out given all of his other commitments, including his involvement in the planning of the 2015 World Congress on Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering that will be taking place in June 2015.

Peter McGhee, FCCPM is the Head of Medical Physics at the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre.

Peter served on the COMP Board for the past six years: two years as President-Elect, two years as President, and two years as Past-President. In his role as Past-President, Peter served as Chair of the Awards and Nominations Committee. All of these roles required a considerable commitment.

Peter represented COMP both nationally and internationally, most recently at the 2013 International Conference on Medical Physics and the 50th anniversary of the International Organization of Medical Physics (IOMP).

The COMP Board and the organization as a whole were well-served by Peter's leadership and humility.

Welcome New Board Members

Michelle Hilts, MCCPM received her MSc in medical physics from UBC and took up her first medical physics position in 1999 at BCCA – Vancouver. After obtaining her MCCPM certification in 2002, she returned to UBC and completed her PhD in 2005 in x-ray CT polymer gel dosimetry. Michelle then moved to Victoria and BCCA – Vancouver Island, where she was active in the brachytherapy and IMRT programs and academically through the graduate program at the University of Victoria. Michelle has been deputy director of the CAMPEP-approved BCCA Medical Physics residency program since 2006 and evaluates residency programs in Canada and the US as a member of CAMPEP's residency accreditation committee. In 2012, Michelle moved to BCCA – Southern Interior in Kelowna, where she joined a dynamic brachytherapy program, continues to co-direct the BCCA residency program, and pursues research and teaching through UVic and UBC-Okanagan.

Michelle will be serving on the Board as Vice-President.

Kyle Malkoske, FCCPM received his MSc in medical physics from the University of Manitoba in 2001. He then served as a resident and staff physicist at CancerCare Manitoba in Winnipeg until 2011, where he participated in the implementation of several radiation therapy technologies such as IGRT, IMRT, and VMAT. He moved to Barrie, Ontario in 2011 to help startup the radiation oncology program at the Simcoe Muskoka Regional Cancer Centre (SMRCC). He is currently the Head of Medical Physics at the SMRCC. Kyle received his membership in the Canadian College of Physicists in Medicine in 2004 and fellowship in 2011. His current interests surround standardization and streamlining of radiation therapy processes.

Kyle will be serving on the Board as a Director-at-Large and will also be Chairing the Quality Assurance and Radiation Safety Advisory Committee (QARSAC).

Daniel Rickey, MCCPM received his PhD from the University of Western Ontario in 1995 for work on quantifying Doppler ultrasound instrumentation. Since then he has worked as a medical physicist at CancerCare Manitoba specializing in diagnostic ultrasound and magnetic resonance. Dr. Rickey is board-certified in diagnostic radiology by the Canadian College of Physicists in Medicine (CCPM). He holds appointments at the University of Manitoba as an assistant professor of radiology and adjunct professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy. He teaches graduate-level courses in medical imaging. He also delivers lectures on imaging physics to radiology residents. He has developed various test objects for evaluating image quality on ultrasound systems. He currently has a strong interest in the hardware aspects of magnetic resonance and x-ray imaging systems.

Daniel will be serving on the Board as a Director-at-Large and is also Chair of the Imaging Committee.

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CANADIAN WINTER SCHOOL

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COMP Communication Committee Updates

Parminder S. Basran

Chair- Communications Committee
BC Cancer Agency-Vancouver Island Centre

Here are some updates on our initiatives undertaken by the Communications Committee.

Website update

This has been a slow-going process, and I'm sure that some members are anxious to see what the new website will look like. A sense of anticipation and anxiousness certainly rings true for our website committee. We are optimistic that we will have something in place by the end of the year.

International Day of Medical Physics

For those unfamiliar with the IDMP, it is an initiative sponsored by the IOMP celebrating the birthday of Mary Curie (November 7). Most hospitals and cancer centres celebrate medical radiation technology week at the same time. Thus IDMP provides a convenient opportunity for medical physicists to join the fun with all vocations that specialize in the safe delivery of radiation health care environment.

Our organization celebrated IDMP by having another video contest. The rules were roughly the same as last time with the exception that we opened the contest for non-COMP members. We chose to do this in order to help reach out to our non-COMP affiliates in a fun way. I'm pleased to say that we received some great entries and will be awarding prizes shortly (hopefully before the January publication). If you haven't had a chance to check out some of the great videos I encourage you to do so. You can do this by visiting the COMP Facebook site. Once we get our website up and running, will be sure to add a page on it to share these videos as well.

Publication opportunities for COMP

Based on our strategic planning review almost three years ago, our community identified a need for the availability and possible creation of a platform for research publications. One need identified was for abstracts from regional conferences across Canada to find a place in a formal journal. This could be achieved by creating a medical physics journal, or perhaps some other means of publishing medical physics research by COMP members. There are shared concerns about the number of medical physics publications that currently exists and ensuring that the quality of any venture COMP initiates has high standards. Today's research publication environment is slowly migrating to exclusively digital content and open access, which can bring a significant number of cost savings and efficiencies while expand the research footprint and accessibility. The challenge here is to find the right balance of research quality, fiscal responsibility, and accessibility to our members.

A Task group was struck to delve into this problem, consisting mostly of the COMP communication committee members. If you are interested in participating in this conversation please let me know.

Interested in Hosting the 2016 COMP Annual Scientific Meeting?

The COMP Science and Education Committee is looking for a location and Local Arrangements Committee (LAC) for the 2016 Annual Scientific Meeting.

The LAC works with the Science and Education Committee and the COMP office and provides the local "flavour" and hospitality for the meeting. This involves organizing the social events, the fun run and any other special activities, providing volunteer support for registration, audiovisual, exhibitor set-up, photography etc.

Hosting the ASM is a great opportunity to showcase your centre and its geographic location, team building within your centre, and provide experience and networking opportunities for both staff and students. In exchange for the time and energy required, LAC's are provided with 10 free registrations to the meeting as well as a cheque for $2000 for the hosting centre,

If you are interested or would like more information about this opportunity, please contact Nancy Barrett at nancy@medphys.ca or 613-599-1948.

In Memoriam – Chris Hedley Newcomb (1960-2014)

Craig Beckett

Saskatoon Cancer Centre, SK

It is with sadness that we share the news of Chris Newcomb's passing on November 19, 2014. Chris spent most of his career in Canada and made a significant impact to our medical physics community. Beyond his scientific and professional contributions, Chris was very personable and has touched many in our community in friendship.

Chris was born on September 29, 1960 in Gisborne, New Zealand, grew up in Napier, NZ, and had completed a Bachelor's of Science and Masters of Electrical Engineering at the University of Canterbury, by 1983. Following a brief tenure in the Medical Physics Department of the Auckland Hospital Board, Chris arrived in Toronto on August 6, 1985 and joined the University of Toronto, Department of Medical Biophysics as a PhD student. He stayed for six months at Jack Cunningham's home in Don Mills, Ontario before taking up an apartment on Toronto's south side.

Having expressed an interest both in radiation therapy and diagnostic radiology research, his first experiments involved the use of rats and an evaluation of various imaging modalities to study the effects of radiation damage on lung tissue. These experiments were non-trivial in view of the status of the imaging modalities in the 1980s, which were nowhere near as developed as they are now, and given the small animals that were being assessed. He proceeded to develop very comprehensive animal experiments to assess various isoeffect formulae in the context of radiation-induced lung damage. These experiments involved over 600 rats with fractionation schemes ranging from single fractions to 38 fractions given over 49 days ... you can imagine the complex logistics involved in doing these irradiations! This research demonstrated Chris' abilities to thoroughly organize and implement very comprehensive and detailed animal experiments. One of Chris' real strengths was his ability to use computers for data analysis. This type of research was especially complicated because of the interdisciplinary nature, since it involved an overlap with radiobiology, physics, and statistical analysis.

Following the completion of his PhD, Chris joined the Clinical Physics group at the Princess Margaret Hospital. He was quite involved in the education program for the radiation therapists. He was considered an excellent teacher and had great rapport with the students. Using his computer skills in his clinical physics activities, he developed a comprehensive automated QA process for the multiple treatment planning stations that existed in the department. After a few years on staff, Chris decided to expand his horizons and, on a part-time basis, enrolled in the 20 month Executive MBA program at the University of Toronto, which he completed successfully.

In 1997 Chris decided to pursue other options, left PMH and went to work for Morningstar, a mutual fund evaluation firm in Toronto. He was Vice-President of Research and Education, Morningstar Canada. In 2000, he moved within the company to Chicago where he became the Chief Technology Officer for Morningstar. He used his numerical skills and computer expertise to great advantage there, where they routinely analyzed the performance of over 14,000 mutual funds.

In January 2004, Chris left Morningstar and returned to the field of Medical Physics at the Tom Baker Cancer Centre in Calgary. He contributed to a number of programs. At various times he was the Manager of the Alberta Radiosurgery Centre and the Physics Leader of Treatment Planning/Computer Applications. He was instrumental in implementing Eclipse, he lead several Varis/Aria upgrades, and he taught graduate students, physics residents, and radiation oncology residents. He also hosted a lot of parties. He did all these things with his customary enthusiasm. One of the more exciting, but less helpful, things he did there was to zoom off outside the city on his motorcycle, hit some gravel, go off the road and meet a post head-on. Literally. Fortunately, he had invested, wisely, in some very good protective equipment and he survived, albeit with some broken bones. Being Chris, he then showed up at work in his wheelchair, zipping around, checking plans, and generally being noticeable. In 2011, he left the TBCC for an opportunity in Saskatchewan.

Chris arrived in Saskatoon in 2011 to take up the roll of Provincial Leader of Medical Physics with the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency. Chris brought his characteristic energy and creativity to the task of building cohesion between the medical physics groups in Regina and

continued on page 21

Feedback on the Prostate Cancer Forum

Maryse Mondat

Hôpital Charles-LeMoyne, Greenfield Park, QC

On October 31st and November 1st, the Prostate Cancer Forum took place in Club St-James, Montreal, Quebec. This forum was organized by GROUQ (Groupe de recherche en urologie du Québec) and Curietherapies. Curietherapies is an initiative designed to promote standards of practice in brachytherapy, to stimulate exchange of scientific knowledge, and to discuss the literature and to compare individual expertise. It was founded by Marjory Jolicoeur MD, radio-oncologist at Hôpital Charles-Lemoyne, Greenfield Park, QC. The forum allowed 106 professionals to discuss on prostate brachytherapy. The professionals were composed of doctors, medical physicist, therapists and nurses. Also industry representatives were present.

The event lasted two full days. The first four4 hours were mainly associated with the GROUQ activities. Medical presentations on the most recent developments in hormonotherapy and chemotherapy for the prostate cancer were seen. Curietherapies began its part with a review of the prostate anatomy, imaging and surgery. Then the afternoon and the second day were dedicated to brachytherapy prostate low dose rate and high dose rate. The presentations covered the patient medical management, the nurse's responsibility the day of the implant and during the follow-up, the challenges coming from the application of the technology on the treatment day, LDR and HDR dosimetries as well as the quality control needed. Many radio-oncologists explained the different treatment indications. Interesting debates took place between HDR and LDR brachytherapy. The highlight of the second day was the session chaired by Marjory Jolicoeur MD, where Alvaro Martinez MD, Peter Hoskin MD, Gerard Morton MD, André-Guy Martin MD, and Maroie Barkati MD discussed and explained their respective implant technique with video of a live implant as visual support.

The prostate cancer forum permitted a lot of exchange among professionals involved in prostate brachytherapy. There were also several learning opportunities. It was a successful meeting

Retour au sujet du Forum sur le cancer de la prostate

Le 31 octobre et 1 novembre 2014 s'est déroulé le Forum sur le Cancer de la Prostate au Club St-James, Montréal, Québec. Ce forum était organisé par le GROUQ (Groupe de recherche en urologie du Québec) et Curietherapies. Curietherapies est une initiative qui permet de faciliter l'échange d'information en curiethérapie, commenter la littérature et partager l'expertise de chacun dans le but maintenir des standards de qualité pour les patients traités par curiethérapie. Curietherapies a été fondé par Marjory Jolicoeur MD, radio-oncologue à l'Hôpital Charles-LeMoyne de Greenfield Park, QC. Le forum a permis à 106 professionnels d'échanger sur la curiethérapie de la prostate. Les professionnels comprenaient des médecins, des physiciens médicaux, des technologues et des infirmières ainsi que des représentants de l'industrie.

L'évènement a duré 2 jours bien remplis. Les 4 premières heures de la première journée était principalement associé aux activités du GROUQ. Nous y avons vu des présentations médicales sur les derniers développements des traitements d'hormonothérapie et de chimiothérapie pour le cancer de la prostate. Curietherapies a débuté sa partie en révisant l'anatomie, l'imagerie et la chirurgie pour la prostate. Le reste de l'après-midi et la deuxième journée étaient concentrés sur les traitements de la prostate en curiethérapie bas débit et haut débit. Les présentations couvraient l'encadrement médical du patient, la gestion de celui-ci par les infirmières la journée de l'implant et lors du suivi, les défis présents lors de l'application des différentes technologies la journée de l'implant, la

Fig1: Renée Larouche, medical physicist/ physicienne médicale

Fig2: Session on implant techniques/ Session sur les techniques d'implantation: Gerard Morton MD, André-Guy Martin MD, Maroie Barkati MD, Fabio Cury MD, Peter Hoskin MD, Alvaro Martinez MD.

dosimétrie d'implant haut débit et bas débit ainsi que le contrôle de qualité nécessaire. Plusieurs radio-oncologues sont venus expliquer les différentes indications de traitement. Des débats intéressants ont eu lieu entre la curiethérapie haut débit et bas débit. Le clou de la deuxième journée fût la session animée par Marjory Jolicoeur MD où Alvaro Martinez MD, Peter Hoskin MD, Gerard Morton MD, André-Guy Martin MD et Maroie Barkati MD ont discuté de leur technique d'implantation respective accompagné de vidéo démontrant la procédure.

Le Forum sur le cancer de la prostate a permis des échanges intéressants entre les différentes professions impliquées en curiethérapie de la prostate. Les présentations scientifiques étaient autant d'occasions d'apprentissage, ce fut un succès.

COMP Canadian Organization of Medical Physicists OCPM Organisation canadienne des physiciens médicaux

Fellow Of COMP Award

Nomination Process

Nominations are being accepted for the Fellow of COMP Award. This honour recognizes an active member who has made a significant contribution to the field of medical physics and to COMP. This contribution is to be in *one or more* of the following:

- Service to the COMP.
- A demonstrated body of work showing an outstanding contribution to research and development in the medical physics profession.
- A demonstrated body of work showing an outstanding contribution to professional practice.
- Through educational activities or mentorship, particularly regarding the education and training of medical physicists, medical residents, and allied health personnel.

OTHER CRITERIA THAT MUST BE MET:

- Nominees must have a minimum of 10 years experience in the field of Medical Physics.
- Nominees must have a minimum of 5 years as a member of COMP and be a full member in good standing.
- The nomination must be made by two COMP members who have previously been awarded the FCOMP distinction.

PROCESS FOR NOMINATION AND AWARDING OF THE HONOUR:

- A letter of support for the candidate by each of the nominating members must be submitted to the Awards Committee.
- Should the Awards Committee deem the candidate to be eligible, he/she will be asked to complete an application and submit a *curriculum* vitae prior to a final recommendation to the COMP Board.
- Nominations may be submitted at any time.
- Nominees who are eligible and who submit the completed application by **March 27th, 2015** will be informed prior to the AGM of the outcome of the application and successful applicants will be announced at the AGM.

Message from the COMP President

continued from page 5

in computing, for both my personal and professional needs. However, if I worked in this industry, I suspect that I too would be concerned (thankfully I am also not a politician nor a lawyer). For medical physics, what I believe to be important is that our profession be conscious that the public is becoming more aware of the work that we do. I think we should see this both as an enabler to become involved in more areas of technology within healthcare, but also with the knowledge that the work we do will ultimately be judged by the public and that we want this to be an asset, not a liability.

THE CANADIAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICISTS IN MEDICINE

LE COLLÈGE CANADIEN DES PHYSICIENS EN MÉDECINE

Harold Johns Travel Award Announcement

Deadline for Application: 10th April 2015

The Board of the Canadian College of Physicists in Medicine is pleased to honour the Founding President of the College by means of the Harold Johns Travel Award for Young Investigators.

H.E. Johns – Officer of the Order of Canada, Ph.D., LL.D., D.Sc., Emeritus University Professor and Professor Emeritus in the Department of Medical Biophysics and Radiology, University of Toronto.

Dr. Johns was born of missionary parents while in West China. During his scientific career, he published over 200 peer-reviewed papers, and trained over 100 graduate students, many of whom hold key positions in the field of Medical Physics across Canada and around the world. He has won many prestigious awards and has published four editions of "The Physics of Radiology", the premiere textbook in the field.

His developments in the late 1940s of the Cobalt "bomb" led to a career in the pioneering field of Medical Biophysics. This in turn led to international reputation among scientists. His many awards and accolades reflect the respect and admiration in which he was held by academics and scientists around the world. He was inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame in 1998. Dr. Johns passed away on August 23, 1998.

The award is given annually by the Canadian College of Physicists in Medicine to an outstanding CCPM Member proposing to visit one or more medical physics centres or to attend specialized training courses, such as an AAPM summer school. It is intended to assist the CCPM Member in extending his or her knowledge by travelling to another centre or institution with the intent of gaining further experience in his or her chosen field, or, alternately, to embark on a new field of endeavour in medical physics. Its ultimate goal of the award is to enhance medical physics practice in Canada.

Applicants may travel either inside Canada or elsewhere. Applicants must have passed the CCPM membership exam within the previous three years, be less than 35 years of age and should not have previously taken a similar course or have spent a significant amount of time at the proposed institutions. The award is for $2,250 and will be paid upon receipt of a satisfactory expense claim. Recipients need not be Canadian citizens but must be working in Canada.

The deadline for application this year is FridayApril 10, 2015.

Applicants must submit a one-page proposal indicating the course they wish to attend or the name(s) of the institutions they would visit and the reasons for their choice. They should also submit an estimate of the costs involved and letters from their present employer indicating that they are in agreement with the proposal. If their proposed expenses exceed the value of the award, then they should also indicate the source for the additional funds required. For a visit to an institution the candidate must have that institution write to the Registrar in support of the visit. The candidate should also provide their curriculum vitae and the names and phone numbers of two references that the selection committee can contact. No reference letters are required. The selection committee reserves the right to contact additional individuals or institutions.

A panel appointed by the Board of the College will choose the award recipient. Their choice will be based upon 1) the written proposal submitted by the candidate, 2) references obtained by the committee and 3) membership exam results. The award will be announced at the Annual General Meeting of the College. Recipients will have two years after their application deadline to complete their travel and will be required to submit a short report to the InterACTIONS newsletter.

Applicants who are unsuccessful in any one year and still eligible in subsequent years may have their applications considered again by writing to the Registrar and providing any necessary updated information.

Applications should be sent to the Registrar of the Canadian College of Physicists in Medicine at:

Mr. Horacio Patrocinio
McGill University Health Centre,
Medical Physics Department,
1650 Ave Cedar
Montreal, QC H3G1A4
horacio.patrocinio@mcgill.ca

2014 SYLVIA FEDORUK PRIZE IN MEDICAL PHYSICS

The Saskatchewan Cancer Agency is pleased to sponsor a competition for the 2015 Sylvia Fedoruk Prize in Medical Physics. This award is offered annually to honour the distinguished career of Sylvia Fedoruk, former Lieutenant-Governor of Saskatchewan and previously physicist at the Saskatoon Cancer Centre.

The prize will comprise a cash award of five hundred dollars ($500), an engraved plaque, and travel expenses to enable the winner to attend the annual meeting of the Canadian Organization of Medical Physicists (COMP), which will be held from June 7th to 12th, 2015, in Toronto, Ontario.

The 2015 Prize will be awarded for the best paper (i) on a subject falling within the field of medical physics,(ii) relating to work carried out wholly or mainly within a Canadian institution and (iii) published during the 2014 calendar year. The selection of the award-winning paper will be made by a panel of judges appointed by COMP.

Papers published in Physics in Medicine and Biology and Medical Physics, which conform to the conditions of the preceding paragraph, will automatically be entered in the competition and no further action by the author(s) is required. All other papers should be submitted electronically to:

Nancy Barrett
Executive Director
Canadian Organization of Medical Physicists
E-mail: nancy@medphys.ca

Each paper must be clearly marked: “Entry for 2015 Sylvia Fedoruk Prize” and must reach the above address no later than **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH, 2015.**

The award winners from the last five years were:

Renaud J, Marchington D, Seuntjens J, and Sarfehnia A, “Development of a graphite probe calorimeter for absolute clinical dosimetry”, *Medical Physics, **40**, Vol. 2, February 2013; 020701*

Goulet M, Archambault L, Beaulieu L and Gingras L, “High resolution 2D dose measurement device based on a few long scintillating fibers and tomographic reconstruction”, *Medical Physics, **39**, Vol. 8, August 2012; 4840-4849*

Andreyev A. and Celler A., “Dual-isotope PET using positron-gamma emitters”, *Physics in Medicine and Biology, **56**, Vol. 14, 4539-4556 (2011).*

Frédéric Tessier and Iwan Kawrakow, “Effective point of measurement of thimble ion chambers in megavoltage photon beams”, *Medical Physics, **37**(1), 96-107 (2010).*

B. Gino Fallone, “First MR images obtained during megavoltage photon irradiation from a prototype integrated linac-MR system”, *Medical Physics **36**(6), 2084-2088 (2009).*

THE CANADIAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICISTS IN MEDICINE

LE COLLÈGE CANADIEN DES PHYSICIENS EN MÉDECINE

Contributions to the Harold E. Johns 2014

CCPM wishes to recognize and thank the following members of their 2014 donations to the Harold Johns Travel Award. The list below has been updated to reflect all contributors this year. For many years the HE Johns Travel Fund has been awarded to young medical physicists to support their travel to another centre so that they may gain further experience in their specialty. With the economic downturn, investment return is minimal. Donations to the fund have to sustain the annual expenditure in the current economic environment. Please consider donating to the fund this year so that we may continue this legacy of education. Further details on the award can be found on the CCPM website.

The 2014 HEJ winner was Lesley Buckley, with a proposal to visit UC Davis to further her knowledge of SRS and SBRT.

John Aldrich
John Andrew
William Ansbacher
Clement Arsenault
Alistair Baillie
Robin Barnett
Parminder Basran
Jerry Battista
Craig Beckett
Wayne Beckham
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Cheryl Duzenli
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Tony Falco
Isabelle Gagne
John Grant
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Renee Larouche
Darcy Mason
George Mawko
Boyd McCurdy
Tyler Meyer
Randall Miller
Maryse Mondat
Michel Moreau
Ian Nygren
Peter O'Brien
Daron Owen
Horacio Patrocinio
M. Peter Petric
Nicolas Ploquin
Ervin Podgorsak
Ioan Popescu
Terry Riauka
David W. Rogers
Sanjiv Samant
Jason Schella
Matthew Schmid
John Schreiner
Peter Shragge
Narinder Sidhu
Emilie Soisson
David Spencer
Alasdair Syme
Christopher Thomas
Christopher Thompson
Jacob Van Dyk
Eric Vandervoort
Shuying Wan
Heather Warkentin
R. Glenn Wells
Ellen Wilcox
David Wilkins
Tong Xu
Conrad Yuen

New COMP Members

Please welcome the following new members who have joined COMP since our last issue:

Last Name	First Name	Institute/Employer	Membership Type
Abdellatif	Ady	Trillium Health Partners	Full
Côté	Nicolas	CHUM Hôpital Notre Dame	Student
Cruje	Charmainne	Ryerson University	Student
Cyr	Shaun	Centre d'oncologie Dr. Léon-Richard	Full
D'Amours	Michel	CSSS Champlain Charles LeMoyne	Full
Leclerc	Ghyslain	CHU de Québec	Full
Meyers	Sandra	University of British Columbia	Student
Owen	Jennifer	Tom Baker Cancer Centre	Student

Congratulations to our past student COMP members who are now full members:

Last Name	First Name	Institute/Employer
Chugh	Brige	BC Cancer Agency - Fraser Valley
Kosztyla	Robert	Tom Baker Cancer Centre

Message from the CCPM President

continued from page 6

Fellowship process, please email your opinion to FellowshipReview@ccpm.ca. As of right now, the response has been minimal, which in my mind, seems to support the status quo. At the very least, there does not seem to be much of a mandate to make substantial changes to any aspect of the Fellowship program.

We are, however, moving forward with a critical review of the process by which the Fellowship distinction is granted. At present, obtaining the Fellowship distinction is a two part process. The first part is referred to as the credentialing process, whereby a candidate's credentials are scrutinized to determine if the candidate meets the criteria for eligibility. The second part is, of course, the oral exam. One aspect of the process that is under scrutiny is the balance between the credentialing process and the oral exam. There is some support for the idea that the credentialing process should be more comprehensive. This might lead to a higher success rate on the oral exam.

Finally, I want to remind you all of the upcoming World Congress on Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering that will be taking place in June. Our Fellowship exams will be scheduled to coincide with this meeting, but since the meeting starts on a Sunday this year, and there are many other events to consider, choosing exact dates has been a little more complicated than usual. The final dates will be posted on our website as soon as they are available. Of course, our Annual General Meeting will also be taking place sometime during the week of the congress. I hope to see you all there.

In Memoriam – Chris Hedley Newcomb (1960-2014)

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Saskatoon. In the process, Chris touched the hearts and minds of many Saskatchewan Cancer Agency employees. The Saskatchewan Cancer Agency will establish a trust fund in Chris Newcomb's name to enable an annual lecture on a cutting edge scientific topic; we feel this is in keeping with Chris's spirit in professional, scientific, and personal life.

Chris is survived by his sister Raewyn, father George, nephew Jason, nieces Jessica and Sarah, and great nephew Carson, all of Napier, New Zealand. It is with great sadness that his friends and coworkers process this untimely loss. A service was held in Saskatoon on November 22 at Chris's favourite lunch spot, Boffins, at which many wonderful stories were related and a life well lived was celebrated.

Message from the Editor

Christopher Thomas
Nova Scotia Cancer Centre

Hello again! By the time you read this, the holidays will be over and we all should be in depth of winter. Hopefully it's not too bad in your part of the country.

We've got an exciting year ahead of us here in COMP, not the least of which is our new improved website which will be with us soon. We're still looking for photos for content, so please send some to Gisele or myself.

You may have also noticed the latest issue of InterACTIONS (October 2014) is presented on the COMP website as a "virtual" newsletter. If you haven't had a chance to explore it yet, please do. Embedded emails and weblinks allow readers to branch off to other sites and interact with the newsletter. Please let us know what you think about the "virtual" newsletter (email me or Gisele with comments). We'll also be changing the format of the newsletter some over the next few months. It's time for an updating to keep with the 25th anniversary of COMP and the new website. Next issue will also feature a new annual column in which we'll list the graduate students who have completed theses from the previous calendar year (see the announcement in this issue with details). I see this as a way to showcase the hard work grad students do as part of the medical physics community in Canada. Also, this idea is the result of a suggestion from John Schreiner (thank, John!).

Also, as was pointed out to me, we made a bit of a booboo in last issue. The first photo on page 125 is obviously not Dave Rogers, but rather Rock Mackie. My apologies for the mistake.

This is a bit of a slim issue this time around, so I will encourage you all, our readers, to please submit something for the next issue. We depend on you for content after all.

Dates to Remember

InterACTIONS Spring issue deadline
March 1st, 2015

Gold Medal Nominations
January 9th, 2015

6th Annual Canadian Winter School
February 1st – 5th, 2015

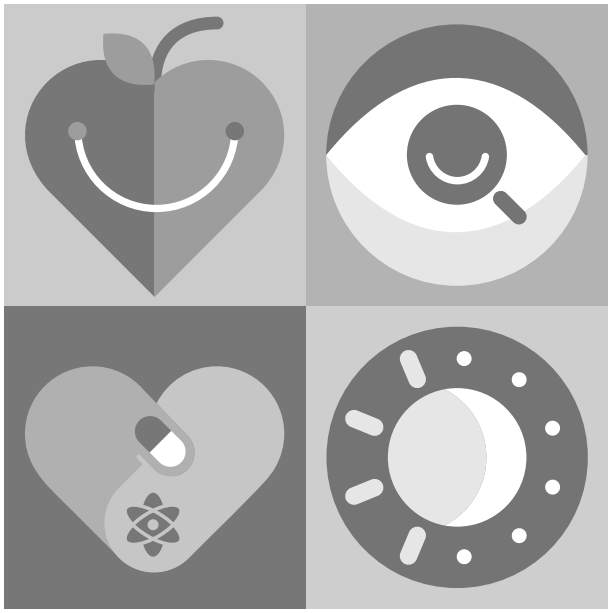
World Cancer Day: February 4th, 2015

Sylvia Fedoruk Prize in Medical Physics submissions due
February 6th, 2015

FCOMP nominations due
March 27th, 2015

Harold Johns Travel Award application deadline April 10th, 2015

World Congress
June 7th – 12th, 2015



World Cancer Day 2015

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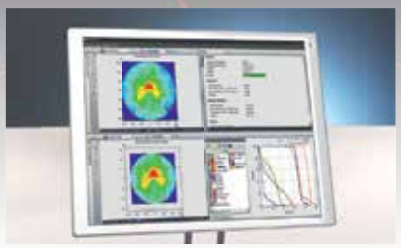
- More detectors
- Better resolution
- Best field coverage



- Modular – various detector arrays to choose from
- True 3D – measurements inside the entire phantom volume
- Truly isotropic – detector always perpendicular to the beam
- Highest detector density, largest field coverage – better error detection
- TPS-independent, patient-based DVH analysis
- Optional machine QA with FFF analysis

PTW

Knowing what responsibility means

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