

InterACTIONS

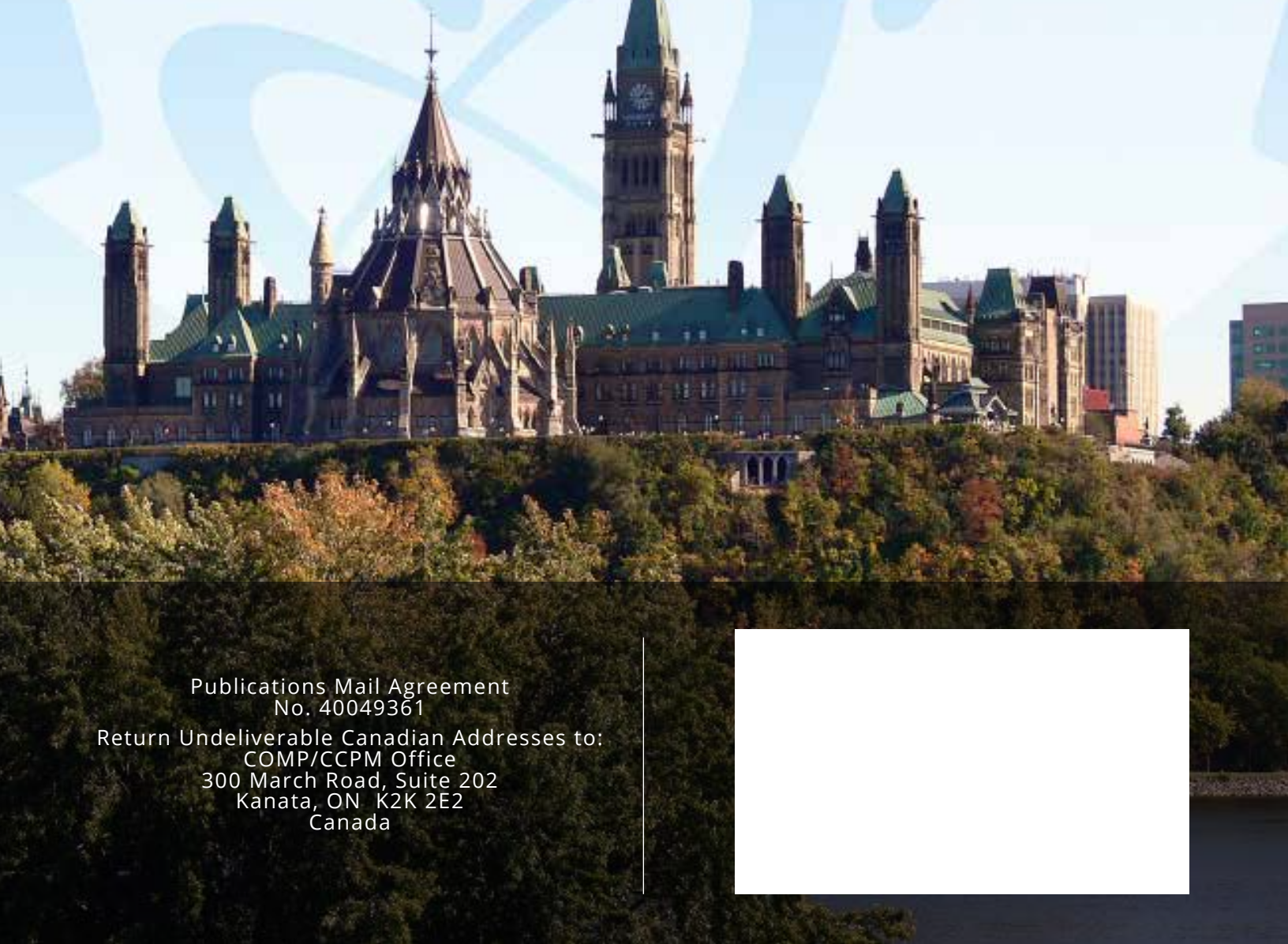
63(3) July/juillet 2017



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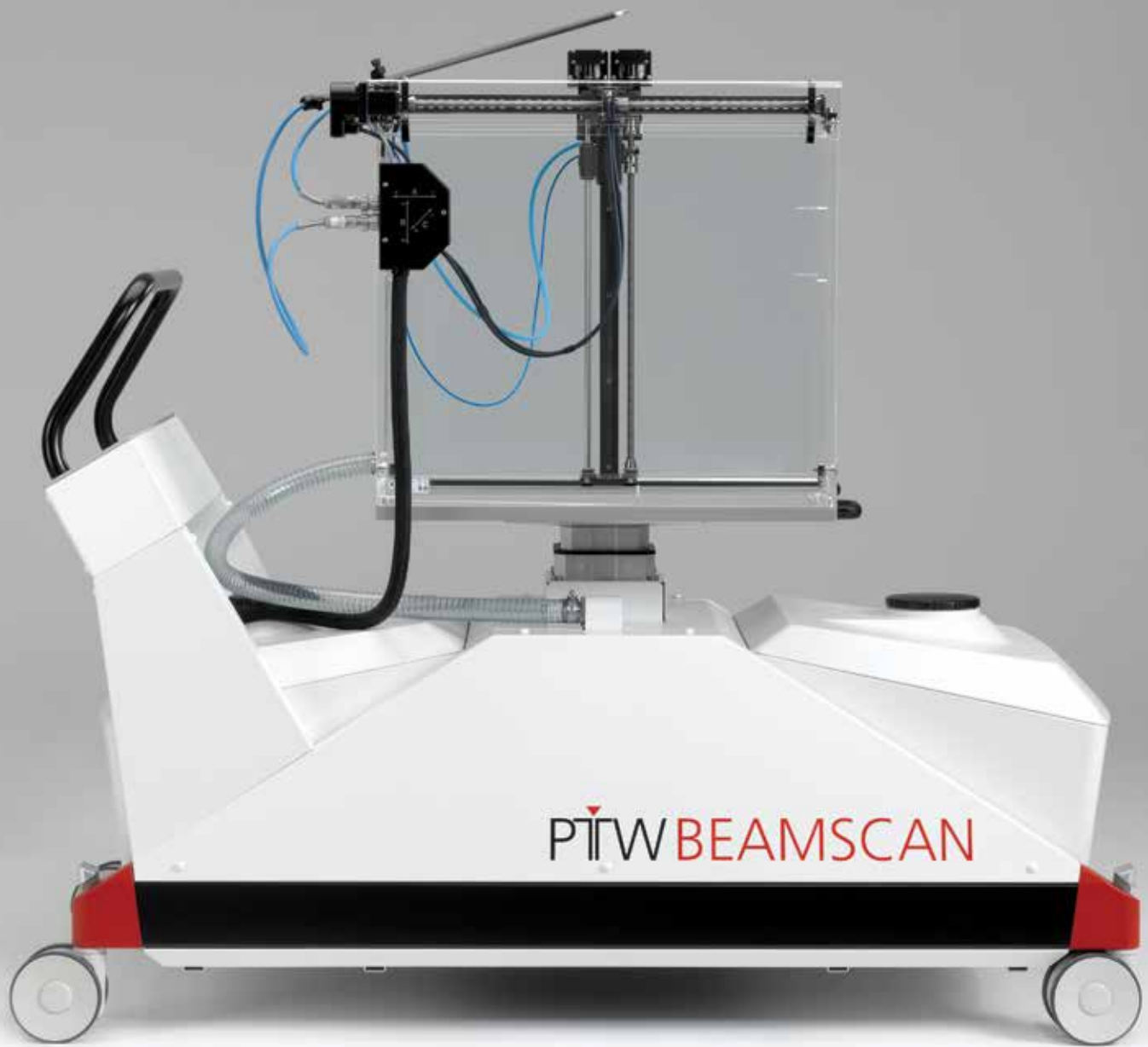
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Please submit stories MS Word or ASCII text format. Images in Tiff format at 300 dpi resolution are preferred.

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MESSAGE FROM THE COMP PRESIDENT

Summer activities often bring renewed opportunity for connections with family and friends. It is also a time for connection within our COMP community. We are excited, as always, to bring our community together at our Annual Scientific Meeting, and I hope that you share my excitement in taking part in our ASM this year in Ottawa.

While our ASM provides an excellent opportunity for networking, building relationships and strengthening our community, its heart is the scientific content, and this year's meeting will include the top quality scientific sessions we have come to expect from the COMP meeting. As always the Young Investigator's symposium will give us a glimpse of our profession's bright future. We will continue this year to include an oral highlights session, where the top scoring general abstracts will compete for the best oral presentation prize. In addition to the oral contributions, there are 74 poster presentations this year. Covering a wide range of topics, there is sure to be something of interest for everyone at this year's meeting.

Outlined in Nancy's Executive Director Report are many of the special events, some new this year, that will be a part of our ASM in Ottawa. For the first time the scientific program will include parallel sessions in imaging and radiation therapy. We have also introduced a new keynote address into the program. This year we are very pleased to welcome Dr. David Jaffray to give this keynote

lecture, and it's sure to be an inspiring talk. This year's program also includes a broad range of continuing education sessions covering various facets of our profession, including medical physicists as radiation safety officers, lung cancer CT screening, and tips for NSERC and CIHR grant success.

I wrote in my last column about the importance of volunteerism to an organization like COMP. It takes a tremendous amount of volunteer effort to put on our ASM. So please take a moment at the ASM to thank any volunteer you see! Particularly, a hearty THANK YOU to our ASM committee and all our program chairs: ASM chair – Young Lee; Science chair – Boyd McCurdy; Continuing Education chair – Marija Popovic; Young Investigator's chair – Nathan Becker; Communications chair – Chandra Joshi; LAC chair – Claudiu Cojocaru; and Young Professional Workshop chair – Harry Ingelby. And let's not forget those behind the scenes who reviewed the record number of abstracts received this year; no easy task! The ASM would simply not happen without the significant time and effort given by all our colleagues.

The day prior to the ASM, most COMP committees hold face-to-face meetings. This year, a new committee will be meeting for the first time: the COMP Science Committee. The specific terms of reference for this committee will be discussed at this meeting, however general goals will be to enhance COMP's scientific scope



Michelle Hilts

and academic opportunities for COMP members. I anticipate some great ideas and future endeavors to stem from this new group and I am delighted to be able to introduce the establishment of this new committee. I'm sure we will be hearing from them in the near future.

Each year I very much look forward to our ASM, our annual opportunity to showcase the great science going on in our community. So here's to science! I look forward to celebrating our quality science with you at our ASM.

See you in Ottawa!

MESSAGE FROM THE CCPM PRESIDENT

As usual, the oral exams for the membership to the CCPM were held in May in Montreal. Eighteen candidates were eligible to sit the oral exam for radiation oncology physics, while one candidate was eligible in each of the imaging sub-specialties (diagnostic radiology physics, nuclear medicine physics, and magnetic resonance imaging). For the RO exam, 72% of the candidates were successful. Congratulations to all the successful candidates. They will be officially welcomed as members of the college at this year's Annual General Meeting of the CCPM in Ottawa. Again this year, our chief examiner and deputy chief examiner, Renée Larouche and Alasdair, did a great job coordinating the exam activities. Thanks, Renée and Alasdair! I would also like to recognize the examiners that participated in the oral exams. This important work performed by the college cannot take place without the participation of our members. Thank you all sincerely! Un gros merci à tous!

As I mentioned in my previous message, the college introduced in the spring a new feedback mechanism for individuals participating in the exam process (i.e. candidates and examiners). I would encourage all those who received their invitation to fill out the survey so that the college can improve its examination process.

The CCPM has received a few requests for certification exam data, such as pass rates as a function of applicant training, geographical location, etc. In searching for this information, we realized that the data was not as easily available as it should be. I suspect more requests for data like this will be coming in the future. This is a good opportunity for us to create a robust database structure that could easily be queried for any result. Initial discussions on this will take place at the board meeting in July in Ottawa.

Discussions have started with the COMP board on a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that could define how both organisations work together to ensure the medical physics profession is well represented in Canada. Currently, the financial relationship between COMP and the CCPM is defined through the contract between the organisations that was signed in February 2016. This contract states the financial support COMP provides the college, as well as the conditions the CCPM must meet to receive this support. However, there is no formal statement or agreement on how the two organisations collaborate on common issues. Although the role of the college is quite clear (i.e. certifying competency of medical physicists in Canada), there are opportunities for COMP



Clément Arsenault

to contribute, like reviewing and defining of scopes of practice, and identifying new areas where certification would be required. At this year's ASM in Ottawa, COMP and the CCPM will continue their discussions on a potential MOU.

On a final note, I would like to congratulate our chief examiner, Renée, for becoming a mother for the second time! Félicitations, Renée! Even though she is quite busy with her young family, Renée hasn't shied away from her duties as chief examiner. Thank you, Renée, for continuing to contribute to the college during this busy time, and we wish you and your family all the best.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

As always, it is a busy and exciting time for COMP. We are looking forward to welcoming you to Canada's capital for the 2017 Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) from July 12th to 15th. The ASM has been a key focus of the COMP office for the past few months and represents a significant volunteer effort.

The meeting is an excellent opportunity to bring the whole medical physics community together and the various elements of it are in line with our four strategic priorities.

The meeting provides us with an opportunity to showcase **medical physicists as leaders and innovators in healthcare** through the scientific and continuing education sessions, and also through the Gold Medal, Sylvia Fedoruk Prize, Michael S. Patterson Prize, and J.R. Cunningham Young Investigator awards.

Participants will have **access to relevant scientific and professional content**. A record number of abstracts were received this year. All continuing education sessions will be recorded and made available online to all COMP members.

The meeting will be an opportunity to **connect the entire community**:

- For this first time this year, we will be offering a concurrent session for imaging physicists. A scientific session focused on imaging is long overdue.
- As well, we will once again host a special session for our young professionals and early-career physicists. This session was introduced last year and was very well-received, and we will be building on this success.

- We will be hosting the inaugural meeting of the Science Committee. This committee has been formed to engage those members who are involved in non-clinical activities, such as research and academia.
- The Women's Committee will be hosting a session on "Work/Life Balance" and all delegates (regardless of gender) are welcome to attend.
- We are continuing to engage student members by providing financial support for a student night out on Thursday, offering a draw for eight \$500 travel grants to those students who are first author on an accepted abstract, and supporting the participation of the Student Council members.
- A community meeting of users and developers of QATrack+ will be taking place during the ASM.
- We will once again be using a mobile app to provide all conference attendees with the information they need about the program and provide more opportunities for engagement throughout the meeting.

In order to support our priority to **engage in strategically aligned international initiatives**, we invited the AAPM Executive Committee to attend the meeting, and they enthusiastically accepted! In addition to a scheduled meeting with the COMP Executive, we will be ensuring that they are fully engaged in the meeting.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the planning committee which has been working hard under the most capable leadership of Dr. Young Lee. This meeting would not be possible without the generous support of our partners,



Ms Nancy Barrett

including Varian Medical Systems, Elekta, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, and Accuray.

Of course, there are other things happening with COMP in addition to the ASM! To learn more, attend the AGM on Friday, July 14th, check out the weekly Sosido digest, the monthly e-broadcast, the website, and this newsletter!

Please feel free to contact Gisele Kite or myself at any time if we can be of assistance or if you have feedback or questions.

See you in Ottawa!

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
A. Enger	Shirin	McGill University	Full
Blais	Adam	Juravinski Cancer Centre	Full
Chatterjee	Avishek	McGill University	Postdoctoral Fellow
Chitsazzadeh	Shadi	BC Cancer Agency - Vancouver Island	Resident
Christiansen	Eric	Carleton University	Student
DeCunha	Joseph	McGill University	Student
Deering	Stephen	Carleton University	Student
Dodd	Adam	Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission	Associate
Eashour	Fatimah	Cancer Care Manitoba	Student
Famulari	Gabriel	McGill University	Student
Farncombe	Troy	McMaster University	Full
Fortin	Dominique	Allan Blair Cancer Centre	Full
Gagnon, Phys Ing	Ir Martin Benoit	Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux du Québec	Full
Gevaert	Julia	McMaster University	Student
Harrington	Greg	Baylor Scott and White Health	Full
Henry	Eric Courtney	Dalhousie University	Student
Ho	Hubert	McMaster University	Student
Hsu	Annie	Stanford University	Full
Hupman	Michael	Dalhousie University	Student
Ionele	Paul	University of British Columbia - Okanagan Campus	Student
Jay	Louis	CHU de Québec	Resident
Kendall	Ed	Memorial University	Full
Klein	Ran	The Ottawa Hospital	Full
Kuznetsova	Svetlana	University of Calgary	Student
Majtenyi	Nicholas	Carleton University	Student
Mansour	Iymad	Carleton University	Student
Manwell	Spencer	Carleton University	Student
Markel	Daniel	University of Toronto	Resident
Montégiani	Jean-François	CISSEO - Hôpital de Gatineau	Full
Mullins	Joel	McGill University	Student
Musgrave	William	Dalhousie University	Student
Orton	Elizabeth	The Ottawa Hospital	Resident
Parsons	Zachary	Carleton University	Student
Picard	Yani	Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission	Associate
Renaud	Marc-Andre	McGill University	Student
Sinclair	Kevin	Western University	Student
Tchistiakova	Ekaterina	Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre	Resident
Therriault-Proulx	François	CHU de Québec et CHUM	Postdoctoral Fellow
Timmins	Rachel	Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission	Associate
Van Elburg	Devin	University of Manitoba	Student
Yaghoobpour Tari	Shima	Credit Valley Hospital	Resident

Welcome to our new Corporate Members since our last issue:

Best Medical Canada	Shan Chen
IBA Dosimetry	Bill Tom
Oncology Systems Limited	Dean Willems
Radcal Corporation	John Gilmour
The Phantom Laboratory	Megan Stalter
Vision RT	Thomas Carter

Congratulations to our past student members who are now Full/Resident members:

Balderson	Michael	Princess Margaret Hospital	Resident
Chighvinadze	Tamar	Jack Ady Cancer Centre	Full
Peca	Stefano	Cancer Centre of Southeastern Ontario	Resident
Fillion	Olivier	CHU de Québec	Full
St-Amant	Patricia	CHU de Québec	Resident

CNSC FORUM:

BEST PRACTICES FOR MANAGING UNUSED MANUAL BRACHYTHERAPY SEEDS INVENTORY

Luc Jobin

Project Officer

Accelerators and Class II Facilities Division (ACFD) / Division des installations de catégorie II et des accélérateurs (DICA), Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission / Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

As you may be aware, licensees are required to track the number of manual brachytherapy seeds in their possession from acquisition to disposal (cradle to grave). This is imperative in order to maintain control of their inventory.

The inventory of brachytherapy seeds can be easily managed. A good practice is to create an Excel spreadsheet which includes the number of seeds received, implanted, the calibration date, the storage location, and the initials of the responsible person (see example below). This document should be retained, and may be reviewed by a CNSC inspector during an inspection.

Normally, the disposal of nuclear substances into the regular biomedical waste stream can take place after 10 half-lives, which is approximately 602 days for Iodine-125 (T_{1/2}: 60.14 days).

In order to apply the ALARA principle, a good practice is to seal the vial or tube containing the unused Iodine-125 seeds and record the lot number and quantity of seeds on the vial. If sealing each vial or tube individually will cause storage issues due to quantity or size, using a waste pot and sealing it at a regular frequency (i.e. monthly) is also an option. When using this approach, the waste pot number should be indicated on the inventory as well. The goal of these practices is to help to ensure that the inventory is adequately maintained and prevent the risk of losing a seed during handling. The suggested approach allows for quick verification of the vial rather than counting individual seeds, which minimizes exposure.

Example:

Lot no.	Calibration date	No. seeds ordered	No. seeds received	No. seeds implanted	Difference	Waste pot # (optional)	Disposal date	Room #	initials	Disposed
323456	2015-01-31	110	110	96	14	1	2016-09-24	B-204	L.J.	X
343522	2016-03-24	110	110	92	18	1	2017-11-16	B-204	L.J.	
456658	2016-05-16	110	110	97	13	2	2018-01-08	B-204	L.J.	
457788	2016-06-30	110	110	88	22	2	2018-02-22	B-204	L.J.	
458963	2016-12-04	110	110	92	18	3	2018-07-29	B-204	L.J.	

WORKSHOP OF MEDICAL PHYSICS AND STATISTICAL SCIENCE: EXPLORING INTERFACES AND BUILDING COLLABORATIONS

Jason Loeppky, Associate Professor of Statistics, UBC – Okanagan, Kelowna, BC (representing statistics) and
Joe Hayward, Juravinski Cancer Centre, Hamilton, ON (representing medical physics)

On April 4th and 5th, at the Fields Institute in Toronto, approximately 40 statistical scientists and medical physicists met to explore common scientific ground. The event was jointly sponsored by the Canadian Statistical Sciences Institute (CANSSI) and the Canadian Organization of Medical Physicists (COMP). A total of 12 speakers were invited to showcase their research in an attempt to lay fertile soil for the potential growth of collaborations between the two groups.

The two day workshop, organized by Andrew Jirasek, John Braun, and Parminder Basran, featured 13 talks by medical physicist and statisticians. A key feature of the workshop was time devoted to both formal and informal networking and discussion opportunities meant to encourage collaboration. Parminder Basran and Frank Prato kicked off the speaker portion of the workshop by giving two excellent introductory views of general areas where the statistical sciences are important to the world of medical physics. Of the remainder of the 11 talks, six featured statisticians on subjects that were carefully selected to represent a broad spectrum of research that is applicable to medical physics. The medical physics talks were equally engaging and focused on areas where statistics is currently used or areas where statisticians might make an impact. The full list of speakers and talks is listed below.

After a nice dinner at the Sidecar Restaurant, attendees were eager to explore other interesting research areas and find out about potential collaborative projects, which was the subject of the following day's afternoon activities.

At the end of the second day, after a brainstorming exercise, there were three thematic areas that were highlighted as having potential for statistics/medical physics collaboration. The first area involved the complexities associated with performing complex patient specific QA tests, and whether it can be determined statistically and a priori that certain classes of patients do not warrant rigorous testing. The second area involved applying 'big data' analysis techniques to the general area of medical imaging. The third potential area of collaboration was more fundamental in nature and involved answering whether heterogeneity in a dose distribution would correlate with the observed biological response. Further information on the themes and talks can be found at <http://www.stats.uwo.ca/faculty/braun/CANSSIMED/>. Coming away with such rich questions to answer helped form the consensus opinion that the workshop was a success. So look for the second Workshop of Medical Physics and Statistical Science planned for the near future.

LIST OF TALKS:

Parminder Basran:	Medical Physics and Statistical Sciences: Exploring Interfaces within Radiation Oncology
Frank Prato:	Implementation Hurdles of New Medical Imaging Technologies in Research, Clinical Trials and Patient Care
Tim Ramsay:	A Phase I Time-to-Event Continual Reassessment Methodology (TITE-CRM) Dose Escalation Trial of CyberKnife® Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy (SBRT) Boost for Patients with Pancreatic Cancer
Patrick Brown:	Modelling and Simulating Spatial and Spatio-Temporal processes
Stephen Breen:	Applications of Statistical Process Control in Radiation Medicine
Rowan Thompson:	Application of advanced patient-specific Monte Carlo dose calculations for brachytherapy
Chunfang Lin:	What are computer experiments, and how do we collect and analyze their data?
Peter Kim:	The Gut-Brain Axis and Clostridium difficile Infection
Anne Martel:	Deep learning: a universal tool for medical image analysis?
Tom Purdie:	Automation in Radiotherapy
Joern Diedrichsen:	Analyzing functional activity in the human brain: What is the correct level of description?
Farouk Nathoo:	A Potts Mixture Spatiotemporal Joint Model for Combined MEG and EEG Data
Irene Vrbik:	Topics in Model-based Clustering and Classification



THE 2017 CAP-COMP PETER KIRKBY MEMORIAL MEDAL FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO CANADIAN PHYSICS

IS AWARDED TO JERRY J. BATTISTA

"I am deeply honoured to receive the Kirkby memorial award. It spans the wide range of physics contributions to Canadian society, including radiation medicine. I follow in big footsteps of "Jack" Cunningham, an outstanding role model, and Erv Podgorsak, an educator and scientist with uncompromising attention to physics details. This is truly rewarding and inspiring."



The Canadian Association of Physicists (CAP) and the Canadian Organization of Medical Physicists (COMP) are pleased to announce that the 2017 CAP-COMP Peter Kirkby Memorial Medal for Outstanding Service to

Canadian Physics is awarded to Jerry J. Battista, Western University, for his outstanding and lifelong contributions to medical physics in Canada that have fundamentally altered worldwide practice. In addition to being an outstanding teacher, researcher, and mentor, Dr. Battista has steadfastly advocated for his field through his work on many professional and accreditation committees, his service as an advisor to the Ontario Ministry of Health and Cancer Care Ontario, and his coordination of Canada's largest residency training program in clinical physics.

Dr. Battista is an award winning medical physicist based in London, Ontario, Canada. He serves as the director of Physics Research and Education at the London Regional Cancer Program and the past chairman of the Department of Medical Biophysics at Western University in London, Ontario, Canada. Dr. Battista has supervised a number of graduate students who have become international stars in the world of radiation therapy physics. The resultant new technologies developed by them are now

used worldwide as part of highly precise image-guided radiation therapy – the modern standard of practice. Dr. Battista is known for excellent communication skills that have resulted in multiple teaching awards, including receiving top honours at Western University. He is known for successful use of analogies bringing complex subjects to understandable levels. Furthermore, his research supervision of graduate students has resulted in award winning research papers both in the Canadian and broader international medical physics communities.

For many years, Dr. Battista has also served as the coordinator of the medical physics residency training program for the province of Ontario. This program has long served as the model of medical physics education and training, such that the graduates are highly sought after in both Canada and the U.S. Dr. Battista's very positive and open attitude with his students, his peers, and the general public epitomize what Peter Kirkby stood for – a vision of a strong physics community dedicated to efforts that support open communication, fairness, and honesty.

The Kirkby Memorial Medal was introduced in 1996 and is awarded biennially.

Dr. Battista will be presented with his medal at the recognition reception at Queen's University on Thursday, June 1st, 2017. The awards reception is the closing event of the CAP Congress hosted by Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, from May 29th - June 1st. Please refer to the congress program (<http://www.cap.ca/en/congress/2017>) for the schedule of plenary talks by CAP medal winners.

ABOUT THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICISTS (CAP)

The Canadian Association of Physicists, founded in 1945, is a professional association representing over 1600 individual physicists and physics students in Canada, the U.S., and overseas, as well as a number of corporate, institutional, and departmental members. In addition to its learned activities, the CAP, through its charitable arm – the CAP Foundation, also undertakes a number of activities intended to encourage students to pursue a career in physics.

ABOUT THE CANADIAN ORGANIZATION OF MEDICAL PHYSICISTS (COMP)

The Canadian Organization of Medical Physicists is a scientific and professional organization composed of over 700 medical physicists and graduate students working in the areas of medical imaging, cancer therapy, and medical biophysics, plus corporate members who are involved in these areas. The COMP also has a close relationship with the Canadian College of Physicists in Medicine (CCPM), which is the national certification body in Canada for clinical competence in physics applied to medicine.

For more information, please contact:

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Editor's note: This announcement is reprinted with permission from CAP. http://www.cap.ca/medal/publicity/press.php?year=2017&medal_id=8

NRC IONIZING RADIATION WORKSHOP

To many medical physicists in Canada “the NRC” is simply the place where they send their ion chamber for calibration every two years. However, there is much more to Measurement Science and Standards (MSS) at the National Research Council (NRC) and we would like to invite you to a Half-Day Workshop on “Primary Standards, Calibration Services and Research Capabilities” to tell you about it. We will hold this workshop at the NRC Ottawa Campus on Tuesday, July 11th, 2017, from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. MSS staff will describe the activities carried out at the NRC and guide tours of the facilities. In order to register for the workshop, please send an e-mail to: Reid.Townson@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca. Space is limited so register early free of charge to avoid disappointment.

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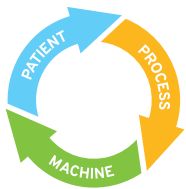
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MEDICAL PHYSICS GOING PUBLIC: SOAPBOX SCIENCE TORONTO 2017

Nadia Octave, Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Québec – Université Laval, Quebec City, QC
and
Young Lee, Odette Cancer Centre, Toronto, ON



Imagine engaging people passionately about your work as a scientist in one of the busiest Canadian public areas, and doing it on top of a small pedestal! That is exactly what I did by participating in Soapbox Science Toronto at Yonge and Dundas Square, in May, and it truly was a rich and colourful experience. To be more accurate, Soapbox Science is

an outreach platform aiming to showcase and promote women scientists in public areas by proposing diverse role models while deconstructing gender stereotypes. Inspired by the London Hyde Park's Speaker's Corner, which is a traditional public debating area, Soapbox Science was founded in the UK in 2011, but has expanded internationally from various European countries to Australia. Toronto hosted Soapbox Science's first North American edition! The event, which was organized by Ryerson University, saw twelve different presenters coming from three provinces and from diverse career paths, speak about their field of work. Speech titles covered a wide range, from *"How do I know if that plant is poisonous?"* to *"Reaping the Unsown Benefits of BioChar"* to *"Together – let's make the Great Lakes great again!"* to *"Using Jello to regenerate the injured spinal cord."* For the complete list of the talks and presenters' bios, I invite you to go to the event website to learn more (1). I was presenting *"High energy photons to treat cancer"* and specifically spoke about prostate brachytherapy, my area of expertise. After a short introduction on what electromagnetic radiation is, I took my attendees on a journey into a brachytherapy suite while focusing on the procedure with a very interesting dummy for a prostate: an apple! According to the

Soapbox website (2): *"No middle man, no power point slide, no amphitheater – just remarkable women in science who are there to amaze you with their latest discoveries, and to answer the science questions you have been burning to ask."* The organizing committee from Ryerson University provided us with training and great tips about what they were expecting and with what we could expect from the public. It still felt like being a flying trapeze artist without a net. But I did have a safety net in the form of a collaboration of another COMP member, Young Lee, who actively took part in the event. By the questions from the audience, we could tell that the impact of the work of medical physicists was well understood and acknowledged by the public. What was most important was the palpable interest and sparkle of younger generations in our role as medical physicists in cancer patient care.

Besides being out of my comfort zone, this event offered me the chance to meet and network with other women who were passionate about science, and also to exchange personal experiences on diverse topics, such as leadership or our role in mentorship, for instance. On the Soapbox website, one can read: *"Our aim remains to inspire new generations of women scientists, challenge perception of what a scientist does and looks like, and engage with the public and the wider community."* I can say that this activity fulfilled its mandate of promoting women in science, and in medical physics for my case, and is in total resonance with what we are pursuing at the CWC. Besides, we are also aligned with the IOMP, which in remembrance of the 150th birthday of Marie Curie, has dedicated the year to women in medical physics.

I would like to finish here by thanking the Ryerson University organizing team for their tremendous work in importing Soapbox Science to North America and for inviting me to the event, and also by thanking Young Lee for her constant energy and active support throughout the project.



Images copyright Dr. Dawn Bazely (@dawnbazely).

- (1) <http://www.ryerson.ca/sciencerendezvous/soapboxscience/>
- (2) <http://soapboxscience.org/>

CANADIAN NUCLEAR SAFETY COMMISSION

INNOVATION FUND UPDATE

Earlier this year, COMP announced an exciting funding opportunity that has been made available to COMP members by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC). The aim is to support the development of the innovative tools that address radiation safety and security issues.

We received 13 applications from across the country and two common themes emerged in a number of submissions:

- Measuring workload accurately for annual compliance reporting.
- Consistent machine service data logging and tracking.

Two submissions were awarded funding on these important topics:

1. Workload Measurement (Robert Corns, Charles Schroeder)

Development of a direct measurement technique for clinical, QA, and research workload using readily available technology. Detectors with different energy and detection sensitivity will be combined to discriminate the beams of a multi-energy linac. The detectors utilized in this study include OSL photon and CR-39 neutron, which are widely available in convenient packets. An initial award was issued, with further funding contingent on proof-of-concept and development of a multi-institutional plan for validation.

2. QATrack+SL (Crystal Angers)

Development of a service log (SL) upgrade for the QATrack+ open source QC data management software.

The SL upgrade will allow users to easily review previous service records and generate reports on the complete service history of equipment or measurement devices. Consolidation of service events with machine QC data will allow overlay on common timeline charts (for compliance reporting, or evaluation of sudden changes in performance). QATrack+ is freely available to the Medical Physics community at <http://qatrackplus.com>

One of COMP's strategic priorities is to connect the entire medical physics community to each other and to resources. In conjunction with this, COMP will be hosting a session at the ASM to discuss machine service logging and the QATrack+SL upgrade. Members that submitted funding applications in this theme have already received a special invitation, but the meeting will also be open to all COMP members interested in this topic. **The QATrack+ Community meeting will be held at the COMP ASM on Friday July 14th from 2-3pm in the Provinces I room at the Westin Ottawa.** Members of the Ottawa Hospital Cancer Center QATrack+ team will demonstrate the recently developed service log functionality, and they will seek feedback from the community in terms of facilitating implementation and use in other centers. It will be great opportunity to share experiences and help guide the development of this upgrade.

Congratulations to those who received funding, and we hope that these projects will yield impactful solutions that will be readily available to our members. Thank you to all of those who submitted applications for funding and to the volunteers who reviewed the submissions. Special thanks to the CNSC for providing COMP with this funding.

ETHICAL AND MORAL FACES OF PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

Lynette Reid, Department of Bioethics, Dalhousie University (lynette.Reid@dal.ca)

Patient expectations of confidentiality have been legally formalized in the last two decades. At the same time, electronic health records have increased the ease with which many people can access health records. This ready availability of patient information, including imaging studies, is surely useful for quality assurance, research, and teaching — raising questions of its ethical and legal use in these contexts. At the same time, norms about privacy have been revolutionized by social media, leaving many wondering whether it is still a value.

When a legal framework is strengthened, focusing on compliance can, paradoxically, distract us from what is important to people in the value that the law seeks to protect. In this column, I'll reflect on the kinds of reasons people have for valuing privacy and confidentiality, with examples from health care in general and medical imaging.

The focus of health law and policy is typically on **confidentiality**, or the obligation of health professionals to guard the health information with which they have been entrusted by patients. Trust and trustworthiness are important values here.¹ Trust is defined as belief in, and reliance on, those to whom we are vulnerable — that they will practice competently and with our best interests as their goal. Patients are rarely able to judge directly the competency of professional decision-making, but they can identify violations of trust when, for example, they overhear patient information shared in a hallway conversation. There is some evidence that health care professionals under-perform patient expectations of confidentiality, both in professional and in social contexts.²

Obligation and trust pertain to deontological or duty-based ethics, as described in my first column. Deontologists think of violations of duty as intrinsic harms, whether these violations ever come to light and whatever their consequences. Consequentialists worry about confidentiality too. Good medical diagnosis and management depends on patients' willingness to reveal private information. Loss of trust may undermine that willingness.

The importance of confidentiality rests on the importance to patients of their **privacy**. Philosophers distinguish different aspects of privacy.^{3,4} Those relevant to health care include the idea of a **private sphere** (e.g. family and household), freedom from

bodily intrusion, ownership and **control of personal information**, and **decisional privacy**. Although decisional privacy is important in law, in professional ethics, its issues are treated as issues of autonomy.

The ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle argued for a **private domain** of family and household life, separate from the public sphere — an idea we understand both spatially and metaphorically. This conception was consistent with the Hippocratic oath, which stated the physician's obligation to safeguard the secrets of the household to which he or she was granted entry — whatever these secrets might be.

Aristotle's view has been influential, but not always beneficial. For centuries, the idea of a private sphere gave male householders a great deal of freedom in how they treated women, children, and people held in slavery. Feminists have successfully eroded this spatial idea of privacy. Governments claim the right to intrude in the household when evidence warrants it to prosecute crimes and even to protect the vulnerable, such as children and (sometimes) dependent adults. The law creates duties of health professionals to report abuse and neglect, or protects health professionals from discipline for violating confidentiality. The details of ethics and policy around such confidentiality violations deserves their own discussion: different considerations come into play with children, with dependent and vulnerable adults, with elder abuse, and with intimate partner violence.

One difficult aspect of the illness experience is the way it robs us as patients of the **bodily privacy** we normally enjoy. Disrobing for examination or treatment can raise worries about bodily integrity, particularly for those who have experienced its forceful violation. Cultural norms around sex and gender, as well as aesthetic norms, raise concerns about modesty or feelings of shame. For some patients, medical imaging is more intrusive than disrobing. Others have much less sense of a sense of privacy about an image of the heart than about an image of the face — after all, no one can identify you from an MRI. New technology may sometimes make imaging less anonymous in this sense.⁵

Insofar as professional practice involves gaining the trust of patients and intruding on the private sphere, professional responsibilities include limiting, minimizing, and mitigating harms and potential harms. We minimize harm, for example, by appropriate

draping to reveal no more of the body than is necessary for examination, by imaging only necessary features, and by providing private spaces for patients in partial undress. In research or QA, we may minimize harms by de-identification or anonymization of imaging data.⁶

Insofar as people control the presentation of their bodies to avoid being sexualized or to avoid judgment, shame, or stigmatization, health care professionals can mitigate harm by cultivating and communicating a neutral and professional approach to the body and nonjudgmental attitudes towards physical appearance. Portrayal in popular culture of health care providers as judging, sexualizing, and body-shaming may worry patients and normalize derogatory and judgmental attitudes.

Whatever differences there are in how patients feel about imaging, a common concern is their confidentiality in relation to health information that medical imaging entails. The concept of privacy as a right to control information about ourselves strongly informs legal frameworks. Health information belongs to the person whose health it describes; their health care providers are trustees of that information, sharing it only as far as is necessary for the goal for which it was provided.

The right to control information about ourselves and the consequences of that information being shared, even if that sharing is necessary to the delivery of care, are shaped by the interests we have in that information. For most of us, health information affects our close relationships, employment, or standing in the community. For people who are under threat from others (in the case of domestic violence, for example), exposure of health information may risk their safety. Given the commercialization of personal data in the new digital economy, people are becoming aware that their personal data is of financial interest to others. This concern has scarcely been addressed in legal and regulatory frameworks.

In an era where the right to privacy is under threat from constant surveillance and eroded by new habits of social media use, the prominent British philosopher Onora O'Neill recommends that we turn our attention directly to the interests that people seek to protect by protecting their privacy, and strengthen protection of those interests.⁷ Until we have changed society so much that no one suffers loss of face, status, safety, or opportunity on the revelation of their personal health information, we will carry on protecting its confidentiality.

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ANNOUNCEMENT FOR NEW INTERACTIONS FEATURE: NOTEWORTHY

If you have anything noteworthy to share with the medical physics community, please submit a short note on it to the editor for inclusion in InterACTIONS.

Examples of items for submission:

- Promotion of COMP and Canadian medical physics.
- Retirement of medical physicists.
- New patents.
- New licensing agreements.
- Large grants.
- CAMPEP-accreditation/reaccreditation.

Please include a small photo if you wish.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL

Dear COMP Students,

As chair of the Student Council (SC) over the past year, it has been my pleasure to lead the SC, to represent the interests of the student body to the COMP organization and the Science and Education Committee, and to help plan student events at the annual scientific meeting (ASM). During my time as chair (and co-chair) of the SC, the SC has maintained the funding allocated to student activities at the ASM, and has increased the number of travel grants for students to attend the ASM from six to eight (a funding opportunity that was created by the SC in 2014). In 2016, I was part of the Young Professionals Workshop (YPW) organizing committee and co-moderated the panel discussion with physicists from different professional areas within medical physics. Recently, the SC interviewed four students who participated in the Medical Physics Match program. We also conducted a survey to collect information from the student body to better understand our student group and to receive feedback on how we the SC, as well as the COMP organization, are doing. By presenting the information from these activities, we hope to learn from our student group, as well as present information of interest to both students and other COMP members.

As this year's ASM approaches, the SC has been busy planning the Student Night Out, helping with the YPW, and planning our presentation to the student body. Each year at the ASM, the current SC Chair steps down while the co-chair becomes the chair, and a new co-chair is appointed. I am happy to be passing the torch to Patricia Oliver and Humza Nusrat, while I will continue to serve the SC as a member-at-large. I have no doubt they will lead the SC and continue to represent the students to the COMP organization very well. I'm looking forward to meeting many of the student members (currently almost 60 registered!) at the ASM and hope you will all attend the SC presentation right before the YPW and the Student Night Out at the Loft Board Game Lounge! As usual, should you have any feedback, questions, concerns, or are interested in joining or learning more about the SC, please feel free to contact me (hamorris@ualberta.ca). See you in Ottawa!

Sincerely,
Hali Morrison

COMP Student Night Out

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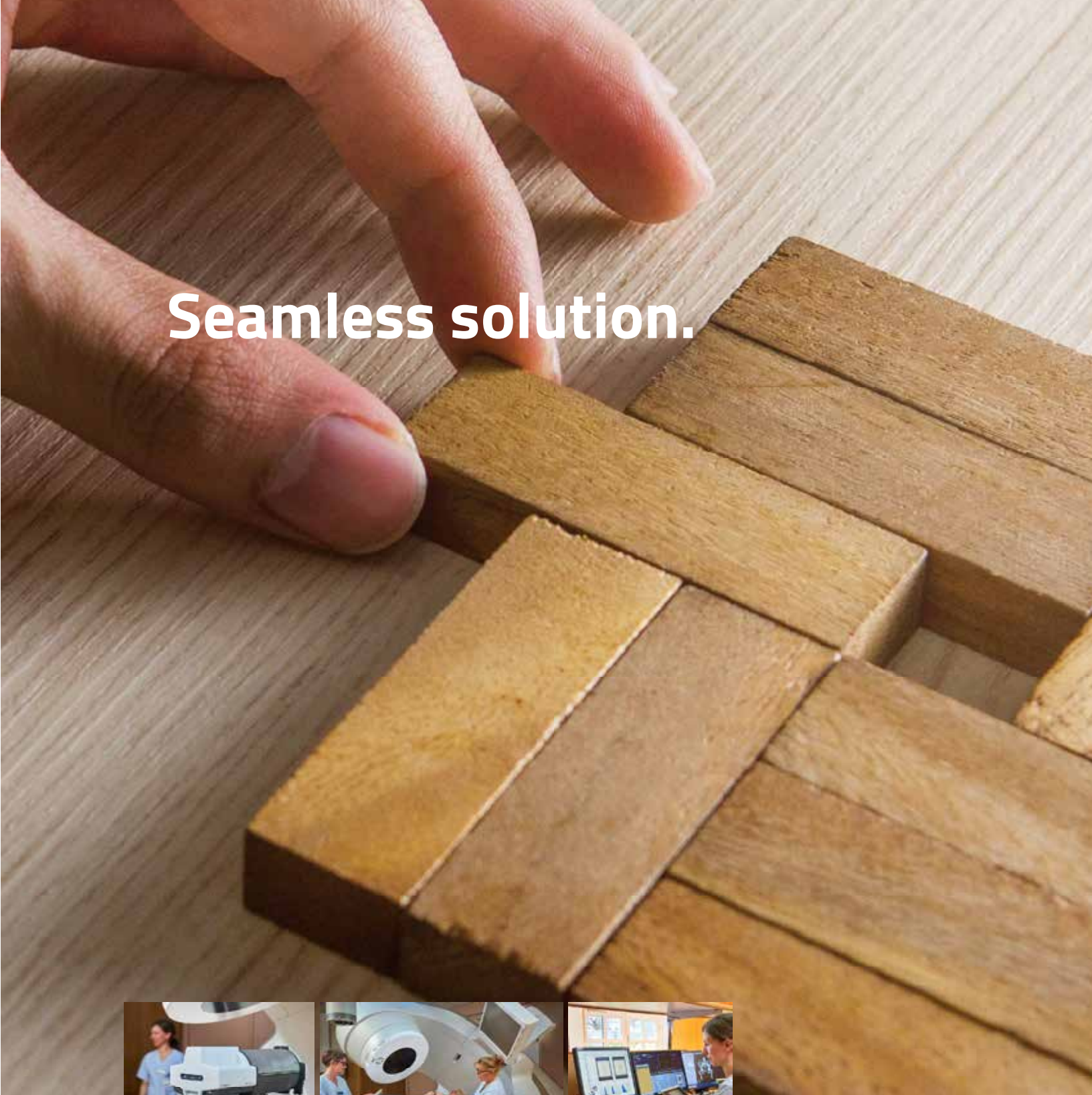
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NOTICE OF THE 2017 COMP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
FRIDAY, JULY 14TH, 2017
5:30 PM TO 6:30 PM EDT
WESTIN OTTAWA, CONFEDERATION I

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Adoption of Agenda.
2. Minutes of 2016 AGM held in St. John's, Newfoundland.
3. Report of the President.
4. Report of the CCPM President.
5. Financial Report.
6. Proposed Bylaw Change.
7. Nominations Report.
8. Presentations to outgoing Board members.
9. Upcoming Events.
10. Other Business.
11. Adjournment.

**ANNOUNCEMENT FOR MEDICAL PHYSICS
GRADUATES LIST**

Please submit the names and theses titles of your newly minted Medical Physics graduate students (January 2016 - August 2017) by September 1st for inclusion in the October issue of InterACTIONS!

This is an excellent opportunity to showcase your graduate students' hard work to the national medical physics community!

DOUG SALHANI

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Douglas Salhani, PhD, FCCPM, on 29 March 2017 at the age of 63. Doug was born in London Ontario and was educated at the University of Western Ontario where he received his PhD in Applied Mathematics in 1984. He was a clinical medical physicist at the Ottawa Regional Cancer Center from 1987 to 1999, before seeking opportunities in Ogdensburg NY.

Doug was a dedicated radiotherapy physicist with a keen intellect who made many clinical and scientific contributions over his distinguished career. He is remembered with fondness and affection in Ottawa for his easy and gregarious nature, and for his generosity and willingness to assist and mentor students and residents of all disciplines. Patients and co-workers alike were graced by his warmth, compassion and sense of humour.



On behalf of all in the medical physics community who knew Doug, COMP offers condolences to Doug's wife Elda and his daughter Kathryn.

NOTEWORTHY ITEMS

1. Congratulations COMP Members Ingvar Fife (CancerCare Manitoba) and Ruth Wilkins (Health Canada) for being part of the team awarded a 2017 Assistant Deputy Ministers' (ADM) Awards for Excellence in 'Excellence in Service Delivery'!

This award is in recognition of their work with Health Canada consortium to produce the training course Medical Emergency Treatment for Exposures to Radiation (METER). The objective of the METER course is to enhance the preparedness of the medical community to provide a medical response during a radiological/nuclear event.

They will be presented with the award at the HECSB and CLRB ADM Awards for Excellence ceremony on June 2nd, 2017, at the Library and Archives Canada Auditorium in Ottawa.

2. Congratulations to three COMP members who are invited faculty at the AAPM summer school (<https://www.aapm.org/meetings/2017SS/FacultyInfo.asp>): Luc Beaulieu, Deidre Batchelar, and Ron Sloboda.

DATES TO REMEMBER

July 12th – 15th, 2017

COMP Annual Scientific Meeting,
Ottawa, ON

July 30th – August 3rd, 2017

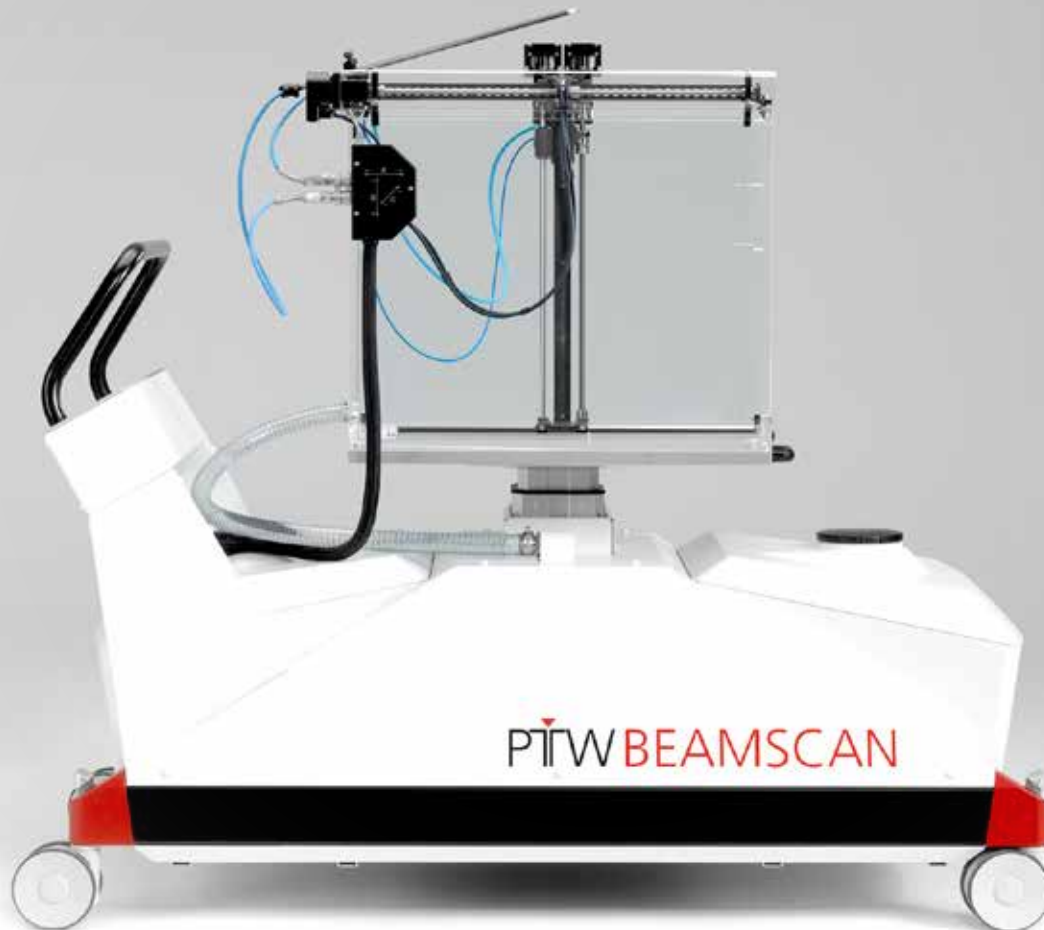
AAPM Annual Scientific Meeting,
Denver, USA

July 26th – 28th, 2017

Women in Physics Canada
Conference, Waterloo, ON

Sept 13th – 16th, 2017

CARO Annual Scientific Meeting,
Toronto, ON



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