

One of the charges of IOMP on professional issues is to promote the standard of practice and professional status of medical physicists. It is a general consensus in the medical physics community that professional certification is one of the most important measures in promoting and ensuring standard of practice of medical physicists. Professional accreditation of medical physicists has been or is being implemented in most developed countries. There is an increasing demand from medical physicists for implementing the certification process to all medical physicists practicing in medical institutions on a global basis. However, successful global implementation of the process requires the satisfactory resolving a number of issues. Some of the key issues required to be addressed include (a) a universally accepted definition on medical physicists and their role and responsibilities and the basic requirements for their education and training, (b) a universally accepted certification or accreditation system that can be implemented in every member country, (c) quality control on the professional standard adopted by the individual certification systems, and (d) the practical problems in implementing the system, particularly in low and middle income countries where the number of medical physicists and their trainers is small. On item (a), IOMP has defined in her first policy statement the role and responsibilities of medical physicists. IOMP is in the process of drafting policy statement No.2, which aims to provide guidance to member organizations on the basic requirements for education and training of the different classifications of medical physicists. IOMP has established a task group on professional certification under the Professional Relations Committee to look at the issues related to items (b) to (d). These are complex and challenging issues which can only be worked out together with national and regional member organizations, expert groups and international organizations. Primarily through the task group on certification, IOMP will collaborate with these organizations and expert groups to explore all possible options for successful global implementation of the professional certification process. Some of these options are discussed in this presentation.