

ACMP Annual Meeting, San Antonio, USA, 2010  
International Symposium on Medical Physics

# Certification of Medical Physicist- IOMP Perspective

KY Cheung  
Vice-President, IOMP

Department of Clinical Oncology  
Prince of Wales Hospital, Hong Kong



## Mission

To advance medical physics practice worldwide by disseminating scientific and technical information, fostering the educational and professional development of medical physics and promoting the highest quality medical services for patients.

# IOMP on Professional Issues

---

- To foster international cooperation on continual improvement in the status of the medical physics profession worldwide
- To provide guidance on and promote the standards of practice in medical physics and professional conduct
- ...

# Professional Certification

---

- There is a need for certification of medical physicists on a global basis as this can ensure the standard of practice and promote professional status of the medical physics profession
- IOMP support and collaborate with national and international organizations on this important issue
- IOMP welcome the initiative taken by ACMP in exploring global certification of medical physicists
- Need to resolve a few key issues

Survey conducted during IOMP Symposium on  
Education & Training of MP during 7<sup>th</sup> AOCMP in 2007

## Useful measures in promoting professional development of medical physics.

Official recognition of the medical physics profession	100%
Official definition of medical physicists	95%
Professional certification or accreditation of medical physicists	79%

Survey conducted during IOMP Symposium on  
Education & Training of MP during 7<sup>th</sup> AOCMP in 2007

## Most important factor that can help promoting professional status of medical physicists

Formal professional training	43%
Legislative registration	25%
Academic qualification	18%
Professional certification	14%

2 PRC meetings on certification held during WC2009

General consensus amongst the participants on need for professional certification.

# Key Issues

---

- Need a universally accepted definition of medical physicists (MPs) and their role and responsibilities
- A universally accepted basic standard on education and professional training of MPs
- Who should be certified?
- A certification or accreditation structure that is applicable to all member countries
- State recognition
- Who should run the certification board
- Quality control on certification process and standard
- Practical issues on universal implementation



# IOMP Policy Statement No. 1- The Medical Physicist: Role and Responsibilities

---

## Defines:

- Medical physics
- Sub-fields (specialties)
- Medical physicists
- Role and Responsibilities

# IOMP Policy Statement No. 2- Basic Requirements for Education and Training of Medical Physicists

---

Defines requirements on:

- Education
- Professional competency training
- Professional certification
- CPD- for maintenance of professional competence

# Who should be certified?

---

Medical physicists working as a health professional in clinical environment should be subject to professional certification.

There is no consensus on MPs engaged in certain areas of work, e.g. academic and R&D.

# State Recognition

---

- MPs working as health professionals should be officially recognized and regulated as such.
- The education and training needs and professional competency of MPs as demonstrated by certification should be officially recognized by state authorities.

# Who should run the certification system?

A national body	76%
IOMP	17%
AFOMP	7%

Survey conducted during IOMP Symposium on  
Education & Training of MP in 7<sup>th</sup> AOCMP in 2007

## Finding at two PRC meetings on certification held during WC2009

### Divided views. Options raised:

- Forming an international certification body
- Regional organizations to run their own regional certification systems
- National organizations/health competent authorities to run their own national certification boards
- Forming an international accreditation body to accredit certification bodies
- ...

# Possible Options for IOMP

- Provide guidance for national organizations/health competent authorities to run their own national certification boards
- Support international organizations and expert groups to implement an international certification system
- Quality control- Set up an independent accreditation body for QA of national certification boards
- Set up an independent certification board (not supported by EXCOM)
- In collaboration with national and international organizations, promote state recognition
- ...

# IOMP Task Group on Professional Certification

Task Group lead by PRC Chair, Dr. Raymond Wu to explore the options.



# Practical issues on universal implementation of professional certification:

---

- Impractical in sub-fields that are not yet well established and the number of MPs is small
- Difficult to implement a national system in some countries where the number of MPs and their trainers is small. An international certification system is needed?
- Resources implications in running an international board
- Standard and credibility of the certification bodies, especially national boards

# Summary

---

- IOMP support the certification of MP on a global basis
- Requirements are specified in IOMP policy documents
- Exploring the options & role of IOMP
- Collaborate & support national and international organizations and expert groups on the issue