# ACMP INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL PHYSICISTS SYMPOSIUM

## MEDICAL PHYSICS CERTIFICATION PROCESS IN MEXICO: A REPORT OF THE ACTUAL SITUATION

SAN ANTONIO, TX MAY 25TH 2010

# CERTIFICATION OF CLINICAL MEDICAL PHYSICISTS (CMP´S)

On march 29th 2008, the delegates of the Mexican Federation of Organizations Of Medical Physics (FMOFM) met in México City.

Among the issues treated we talked about the Certification of Clinical Medical Physicists (CMP´S).

# CMP´S SITUATION IN MEXICO

In México we have a diversity of CMP´S experienced and unexperienced with all kind of academic degrees.

This suggests to design a mechanism to evaluate a minimum level of Professional Competence in the field, regardless of the academic formation of the candidate.

# A MODEL PROPOSAL

There were several proposals one of them being based on the evaluation of Professional Competences in Clinical Medical Physics.

It is of the highest importance to consider a model based on the evaluation of Professional Competences.

# A DEFINITION OF PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE

By Professional Competence we mean:

The use of knowledge, skills, attitude, aptitude, common sense and good judgement to accomplish a complex task.
From this definition it is clear that the evaluation of a competence must be using several approaches because it has several dimensions.

# CREATION OF THE TASK GROUP 0

To deal with the certification process we created what we called "The Task Group 0" (TG 0), this group being responsible for the design and development of the entire evaluation process.

# STEPS IN THE DESIGN PROCESS

Regarding the design process of the certification we proposed the following:

Step 1: Make a catalog of the Professional Competences we want to certify.

# STEPS IN THE DESIGN PROCESS

Step 2: Design the evaluation tools needed to evaluate the competences listed in the catalog.

From the definition of Competence it is clear that the evaluation process must involve written, oral and practical exams.

# STEPS IN THE DESIGN PROCESS

Step 3: Create the panel of experts that will constitute the first certification council.

Here we can consider several mechanisms like national consults among peers, the use of demonstrable curricular information, etc.

It is suggested to include the regulatory bodies in the field in this national consult.

# TG 0 FIRST MEETING

In june 7 th 2008 TG 0 met in Mexico City.

Were present Gabriel Resendíz, Ernesto Garza, Carlos Martínez, Jazmín Roa, Luis Medina, Maria Esther Brandan y Valdemar González.

# TG 0 FIRST MEETING AGREEMENTS

1. The process of certification for CMP must be kept within medical physicists community. (FMOFM)

2. The certification requires education, clinical experience and an examination.

# TG 0 FIRST MEETING AGREEMENTS

The proposed areas to be certified are:

1. RADIOTHERAPY
2. NUCLEAR MEDICINE
3. DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGY
4. RADIATION PROTECTION ???

# TG 0 FIRST MEETING AGREEMENTS

The concept of the "FORGERS" or "FOUNDERS" is created

A "forger" is a CMP with 15 years experience or more with the last 5 years of continuous clinical practice.

It was proposed that these professionals receive a special treatment during a specified time while they get the certification.

# TG 0 FIRST MEETING AGREEMENTS

For the “FORGERS” to get the certification, these professionals have to present proof of:

1. Having 15 years or more in clinical practice.
2. Last 5 years of continuous clinical practice.
3. Demonstrate continuous participation during the last 5 years in Medical Physics academic and scientific activities, such as:

- Papers presentation in scientific meetings
- Teaching courses
- Teaching other professionals
- Scientific publications
- Continuous education courses attendance
- Graduate studies

# TG 0 FIRST MEETING AGREEMENTS

## Certification Basic Requisites

- B Sc + 5 years clinical experience
- M Sc + 3 years clinical experience
- PhD + 2 years clinical experience

These are the IAEA ARCAL 83 document recommendations

# TG 0 FIRST MEETING AGREEMENTS

We are working now in the design of the written part of the examination:

- We are creating a bank of MCQ in basic Radiological Physics.
- We are creating a bank of “Open Answer” questions.

# TG 0 FIRST MEETING AGREEMENTS

The next TG0 meeting is scheduled to be held in Monterrey, in August 7th 2010.