

Benefit Exchange

A newsletter of Medical Physics for World Benefit



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New executive members have been voted in at the AGM in Nashville.

There was very positive feedback at both the Membership meeting in Nashville and the Information meeting in Montreal

Quick Overview

This issue of *Benefit Exchange* addresses: (1) Annual General Membership meeting at the AAPM including Board Member elections, (2) Information Meeting at COMP, (3) dosimetry systems delivery and training in LMICs, (4) membership renewal, (5) Open Syllabus Project, (6) Medical Physics specialty program in Kenya, (7) review of clinic design in Uganda, and (8) request from Rayos Contra Cancer.

MPWB Annual General Membership Meeting

The MPWB Annual General Membership meeting was held at the AAPM Annual Meeting in Nashville, Tennessee on Tuesday 31 July 2018. Since MPWB US and MPWB Canada are legally two separate organizations, officially, there were two membership meetings. Minutes of these meetings will be posted on the MPWB website for review by our members. Briefly ...

- About 50 people attended of the total of ~220 registered members;
- Board structure and members were introduced and the MPWB raison d'être and activities were reviewed;
- Election summary: John Schreiner, Yakov Pipman and Jacob Van Dyk have been elected as President-elect, President and Past-president, respectively, effective 1 January 2019 for MPWB US and MPWB Canada;
- During the discussion period, representatives from Rayos Contra Cancer (RCC) (<https://www.rayoscontracancer.org/>) made a presentation in for information and in consideration of possible collaborations;
- Overall, it was a very positive meeting with significant interest in MPWB's activities;
- As a follow-up to this meeting, in the future, the Board will try to hold on-line elections.

MPWB Information Meeting at COMP

The Canadian Organization of Medical Physicists (COMP) met jointly with the Canadian Association of Radiation Oncologists (CARO) and the Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists (CAMRT) in Montreal, Quebec from 12 to 15 September 2018. An MPWB information meeting was held on the 14 September 2018 and was attended by about 40 to 45 people. Again, there was a lot of enthusiasm and support for MPWB and its activities. As indicated above, the formal membership meetings for both MPWB Canada and MPWB US took place in Nashville. Hence, no formal voting took place at this information meeting.

Dosimetry Systems for Delivery and Training in LMICs

In the last Benefit Exchange, we announced that we are working with the AAPM/IOMP Equipment Donation Program Subcommittee (EDPSC) to raise funds for delivery of dosimetry systems along with training of medical physicists in lower income environments. We reported on the \$5,000 educational grant from Elekta, which will be used for piloting this program. In the meantime, we are also working with members of the Rotary Club in Alberta to generate a Rotary International Vocational Global Grant to support the delivery/training/mentoring associated with these systems. To this end, we are working on developing appropriate training materials, determining the number of systems available, determining the best locations for delivery and training and then identifying individuals to provide the delivery and training. Please contact us if you have an interest in being involved.

MPWB Membership Renewal

Thank you to all who have renewed your memberships. If for any reason, the membership renewal process has slipped your mind, please go to the website and renew asap. Also, if you are having challenges with renewing your membership, please contact us. Here is the link describing how to renew your membership: <https://www.mpwb.org/resources/Documents/Steps%20to%20renew%20your%20MPWB%20membership%20dues.pdf>

MPWB Open Syllabus Project

Recognizing that multiple Medical Physics educational resources are available on-line, we have initiated a project linking the Radiation Oncology Medical Physics residency syllabus with the best appropriate on-line resources. For this we are using the IAEA syllabus found in Appendix IV of their clinical training document. (https://www-pub.iaea.org/MTCD/publications/PDF/TCS-37_web.pdf) At the World Congress of Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering in Prague in June, we heard about the IAEA Advanced Medical Physics Learning Environment (AMPLE) project that is being developed in South-East Asia. It appears that part of their project overlaps with our Open Syllabus project. We are in communication with the leadership of the AMPLE project to see how we can collaborate on these projects

to mutually add value. More details on the Open Syllabus project can be found here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XDu9k2PJMjrjSmDfr3FgGbPyEBV6CHlu/view>.

Communications with Medical Physics Specialty Program in Kenya

MPWB has been asked to advise on the development of a master's degree program specializing in Medical Physics at the University of Nairobi. Jake Van Dyk has been invited (at their expense) to meet with faculty from University of Nairobi to discuss potential collaborations and support by MPWB. MPWB is also in communication with the IAEA regarding their activities related to educational support in Kenya.

Review of Clinic Design for Uganda

The Rotarians in Alberta asked if we would review some planning documents for the design of a clinic in Uganda. Gerry White has played a leadership role on this.

Request from Rayos Contra Cancer

MPWB has had a request from Rayos Contra Cancer (RCC, Spanish for "Rays Against Cancer", www.rayoscontracancer.org/) to solicit members of MPWB to participate in a training series for Medical Physicists in low-to-middle income countries in Latin America on SBRT and SRS. The sessions will be "virtual classrooms", which RCC has arranged through partnership with Project ECHO (<https://echo.unm.edu/>). They would like to explore the feasibility of a course that would consist of 1-1.5 hr sessions spread over 3-4 months. They have outlined a curriculum, which is a total of 15 sessions. They already have 4-5 committed volunteers who can each contribute 1-3 sessions each. They are looking for a few more volunteers. The time commitment would be 1 hr per session. Language does not appear to be a major barrier. For further information, please contact Benjamin Li at bli@post.harvard.edu.

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