

# Benefit Exchange

*A newsletter of Medical Physics for World Benefit*



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## Introduction

Welcome to our latest newsletter, our first for 2019, and our ninth since our first Newsletter in September 2015. MPWB was officially registered as a charitable, not-for-profit organization in both Canada and the US as of the end of 2016. Thus, we have formally existed for a little over 2 years. Projects are beginning to take traction and you will note later in this newsletter that we will be looking for assistance on specific activities. *Stay tuned!*

## Annual Membership Renewals

The 2019 membership renewal notice has been sent out. Instructions for membership renewals can be found here:

<https://mpwb.org/resources/Documents/Steps%20to%20renew%20your%20MPWB%20membership%20dues.pdf>.

Membership fees are modest and are intended to demonstrate that members are serious about the vision, mission and objectives of MPWB.

Benefits for being a member include:

- receiving our newsletter which describes the activities of MPWB
- opportunities to become involved in MPWB initiatives, activities, projects and governance
- knowing your dues are going towards 'making a difference'!
- a tax deduction from either Canada or the USA.

## Dosimetry Systems Delivery and Training

MPWB continues to work with the AAPM/IOMP Equipment Donation Program Subcommittee (EDPSC) for delivery of dosimetry systems and associated training for Medical Physicists in lower income environments. Training videos are being developed by Alana Hudson and Kundan Thind of the Tom Baker Cancer Centre in Calgary, Alberta. A training site for evaluating the process is being investigated and serious communications are underway with the Rotary Club of Alberta to develop a Global Grant from the Rotary Foundation for the cost of development of the training materials as well as the cost of the dosimetry system and its delivery and corresponding training. MPWB is working on logistics associated with communications and follow-up questionnaires to assess the success of the training and on-going mentoring. One of the significant aims of this project is to partner with sustainable mentoring after the system has been delivered. *Once the logistics are sorted out and Rotary grant funding has been achieved, we will be seeking the support of Medical Physicists to deliver these systems and to provide training and on-going mentoring. Stay tuned for calls for volunteers for specific locations.*

## Open Syllabus/AMPLE Project

MPWB continues to be in communication with representatives of the IAEA Advanced Medical Physics Learning Environment (AMPLE) project. The intent is to make on-line resources available in a structured manner for Medical Physics residency training. Discussions are underway regarding a memorandum of understanding between IAEA and MPWB to jointly further this project. *Stay tuned for further involvement.*

## Medical Physics Specialty Program in Kenya

Jake Van Dyk was invited by Professor Michael Gatari, Director of the Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology at the University of Nairobi, to participate in discussions on developing a Medical Physics Master's degree program in Kenya. Meetings occurred from 10 to 15 December 2018 at the University of Nairobi as well as nearby cancer centers. The picture below was taken after the stakeholders meeting held on Tuesday 11 December. Discussions are underway at the University *to invite two visiting professors for a period of two years to help get the program started* – one with expertise in radiation therapy physics and the other in diagnostic imaging physics. *Stay tuned for specific announcements regarding these positions.*



*Medical Physics Master's degree program stakeholders from the University of Nairobi, nearby hospitals and cancer centers, the Radiation Protection Board and the Nuclear Electricity Board. Jake Van Dyk is seated in the center and Prof. Michael Gatari is shown to his left.*

## ICEC/CERN/STFC meeting in Botswana

The International Cancer Experts Corps (ICEC) has been collaborating with the European nuclear research agency (CERN) and UK's Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) regarding the technical challenges that need to be overcome for the development of robust and affordable radiotherapy cancer treatment technology for deployment in challenging environments. Previous workshops were held 7-8 November 2016 (CERN, Geneva), 25-27 October 2017 (CERN, Geneva) and 21-23 March 2018 (STFC, UK). See report in Clinical Oncology by M. Dosanjh *et al.*, 2019. Jake Van Dyk and Yakov Pipman have been invited to an upcoming workshop on 20-22 March 2019 to be held in a low-income country in Gaborone, Botswana. Only Jake Van Dyk Will be able to attend.

## Global Health Catalyst Summit, Tanzania

Jake Van Dyk and John Schreiner will be speaking at the Global Health Catalyst Summit in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, a summit organized in collaboration with Stephen Avery at the University of Pennsylvania. Part of the discussions at this meeting will be in support of developing a Medical Physics Master's degree program in Tanzania.