

Benefit Exchange

A newsletter of Medical Physics for World Benefit



Inside This Issue

- 1 **Membership Application Progress**
- 2 **Information Meetings at COMP and AAPM**
- 3 **Collaboration With AAPM/IOMP Equipment Donation Program**
- 4 **Fundraising**
- 5 **Brief Notes**

*... both meetings
provided very positive
feedback ...*

Membership Application Progress

MPWB opened its membership application process on 15 June 2017. As of 6 September 2017, we have 127 members of which 103 are full members (60, 24 and 19 full members from US, Canada, and lower income countries, respectively) and the remainder in the various associate member categories. We are very pleased with this rapid uptake of memberships. The database is evolving nicely. Since the database is intended to aid the matching of individual volunteers to projects, we request that everyone fill in as much of the questionnaire as possible.

Information Meetings at COMP and AAPM

MPWB general information meetings were held at the Canadian Organization of Medical Physicists (COMP) Annual Scientific Meeting in Ottawa, Canada on 13 July 2017 and at the American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM) Annual Scientific meeting in Denver, Colorado, USA on 1 August 2017. The Canadian meeting had an excellent attendance of over 50 people since there were no competing sessions. The AAPM had over 20 attendees; however, the meeting was held during a lunch hour time which was in competition with various vendor presentations, most of whom were providing free lunches. Furthermore, the meeting was held in the hotel adjacent to the convention center and, therefore, a little more difficult to find. All in all, both meetings provided very positive feedback with various questions, comments and suggestions. Follow-up on specifics will be reported in future newsletters.

Collaboration With AAPM/IOMP Equipment Donation Program

For some months now, MPWB has been having discussions with the AAPM/IOMP Equipment Donation Subcommittee (EDSC), especially Derek Brown, the Chair of the committee. Two of MPWB's Board members are also members of this subcommittee (Yakov Pipman and Jake Van Dyk). Stephanie Lampe of UT MD Anderson Cancer Center Accredited Dosimetry Calibration Laboratory (ADCL) has had contact with The US Oncology Network which is willing to donate multiple used calibration dosimetry systems. The EDSC is working in collaboration with all the ADCLs to refurbish these systems, provide updated calibration factors and then to make them

... continued on page 2

Collaboration With AAPM/IOMP Equipment Donation Program

... cont'd

available for donation to some needy lower income environment. MPWB has been asked to provide training support. One such system has been donated to a clinic in Kenya and was delivered by Stephanie Parker. Stephanie hand delivered the system, performed some cross-calibration experiments, and provided local training. This has been followed-up with further communications about treatment planning calculations. We expect that these types of interactions will generate longer term relationships which will be mutually beneficial. Further work is on-going to provide training materials including videos which will help with the training process. The training materials are being developed by iTreatSafely (<https://i.treatsafely.org/>). Our hope is that further systems will be delivered in the future with corresponding hands-on training and that longer-term relationships will provide on-going support.

Our hope is that further systems will be delivered in the future with corresponding hands-on training and that longer-term relationships will provide on-going support.

If any of you are aware of relevant granting agencies, we would be pleased to hear from you.

Please let us know if you know of any course materials for which we can provide a link on our website.

Fundraising

The type collaboration evolving with the AAPM/IOMP Equipment Donation Program and iTreatSafely may involve travel costs for the individuals delivering such systems. MPWB has also been asked to provide education support to several Medical Physics graduate programs in lower income environments. For MPWB to provide such support, we may need to provide some travel funding. Every project is different. In some cases, the universities have offered to provide travel support, in other cases only local accommodation can be afforded. To support these types of projects MPWB needs to do some fundraising. One option that we are looking at is corporate sponsorship. Another option being considered is granting agencies which will support this type of benevolent out reach. If any of you are aware of relevant granting agencies, we would be pleased to hear from you. Please contact us through medphyswb@gmail.com.

Course Materials

MPWB has been made aware of some university Medical Physics course materials (lectures, PowerPoints, notes) being publicly available on the web. We are adding a section to our website which provides such links. Please let us know if you are aware of any such materials, again through medphyswb@gmail.com.

Brief Notes

Yakov Pipman represented MPWB at the 2017 Global Health Catalyst Summit at Harvard Medical School, Boston MA, 28-30 April 2017. Jacob (Jake) Van Dyk and Yakov Pipman represented MPWB at the IAEA, ICARO2 conference in Vienna, Austria, 20-23 June 2017. Travel funding for both Yakov and Jake was independent of MPWB budget.

