spf SOCIEDADE PORTUGUESA DE FÍSICA
DIVISÃO DE FÍSICA MÉDICA

Contribution from the Medical Physics Division of the Portuguese Physics Society (DFM_SPF – PORTUGAL)

We think that it is important to stay in line with EFOMP Policy Statements and Malaga Declaration.

We also would like to see our Profession to be recognized as a Health Profession and at least at equal footing with the Physicians (i.e. Level 8 in the Lifelong Learning scale) as stated in Stelios Christofides letter dated May 22, 2011. However, concerning this issue, we cannot forget the recent ISCO-08 revision where Medical Physicists are classified under Physicists and Astronomers – 2111. Although MP are referred further under the Health Professionals group, 22, as "considered to be a part of the health work force", the classification in 2111, in terms of academic qualification requirements to enter the profession can constitute a problem in some European countries for the national recognition of the profession. **This difficulty should be addressed through the final recommendations of the MPE project.** Actually if we compare the classifications for medical doctors we see that they are classified under 221 (Medical doctors) and further under 2212 (Specialist medical practitioners). If you inspect the notes concerning this category (2212) you will find the following statement: "Occupations included in this category require completion of a university-level degree in basic medical education plus postgraduate clinical training in a medical specialization (except general practise) or equivalent". As Medical Physics is a highly demanding and specialized profession, it is a kind of this specification that would be required concerning medical physicists in order for our profession to be recognized in an easier way by some national authorities.

We recognize that the MPE definition within the recasting of the Basic Safety Standards European Directive aims at addressing the Radiation Protection component of the roles and responsibilities of a Medical Physicist. So this should be clearly demonstrated in the Qualification Framework proposed by the project, having in mind and following the EFOMP Malaga Declaration. So we propose the following scheme where the MPE recognition appears within the MP qualification framework and where the 2 levels definitions of EFOMP PS 10 and 12 are kept:

[1] "Equivalent" here meaning education at the university with a high level of physics and mathematics content. 3 years minimum or 4 years duration.

[2] "Equivalent" here meaning education at the university in the KSC as specified in these guidelines in all the areas of Medical Physics (Diagnostic Radiology, Nuclear Medicine and Radiotherapy) **and** in Radiation Protection. 1 or 2 years duration.

[3] The PhD. thesis has to be in one area of Medical Physics. The period of PhD. studies can cover part of the Clinical Training if appropriate.

[4] 2 years in full time for one area of Medical Physics, 3 years in full time for two areas and 4 years in full time for three areas

[5] Accredited credentialing clinical training programme for further development of the KSC as specified in these guidelines in one or more areas of Medical Physics for which the candidate would be seeking recognition/certification as QMP (Qualified Medical Physicist). Accredited credentialing clinical training programme for further development of the KSC as specified in these guidelines in the area of Radiation Protection for which the candidate would be seeking

recognition/certification as MPE (Medical Physics Expert) to act. The clinical training has to take the form of a full time Residency (on-job/in-service training at hospital(s)). The clinical training will be under the supervision of a SMP (Specialist Medical Physicist). The requirements of the assessment leading to the certification are specified in the guidelines.

[6] Continuing Professional Development (CPD) cycles of 5 years as recommended in the PS12 of the EFOMP. Achievement of the recognition as SMP in one or more areas of Medical Physics to be demonstrated by expertise portfolio in the respective area(s). Maintenance of the recognition as MPE to act but also to advice to be demonstrated by expertise portfolio in Radiation Protection. SMP has to demonstrate CPD every 5 years. In the clinical environment only the MPE that is a SMP can act and advice in the matters of Radiation Protection.

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