



DRAFT

Review and Way Forward

of the

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR

MEDICAL PHYSICS

2006-2012

FOREWORD

The Executive Committee (EXCOM) of IOMP recommended that the IOMP activities be reviewed and approved by the IOMP Council every 3 to 6 years at the World Congresses. As part of this review process, this document entitled “Review and Way Forward” has been prepared, reflecting the consensus views of the membership on the short-term and long-term plans and priorities of the Organization. Such a document will be useful internally by serving as working guidelines to EXCOM, Committee Chairs, and the greater Organization. It will also be valuable externally to a variety of organizations including potential sponsors, grant awarding bodies (e.g. charitable bodies and foundations), Corporate Members, as well as to those organizations with whom we have mutual interests such as IUPESM (International Union of Physical and Engineering Sciences in Medicine), IFMBE (International Federation of Medical and Biological Engineering), IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency), WHO (World Health Organization) and IUPAP (International Union on Pure and Applied Physics).

To understand where we are heading, our first task was to review where we have been and where we are now and then put forth plans for the future. A consultation document “Strategy Planning Document” was circulated to Council members in February for consultation. I would like to thank those who responded and a number of useful ideas emerged from this consultation. Comments received were taken into account in preparing this document. Many of the detailed comments received as part of the consultation are not appropriate to be included in this document but are very valuable and will be further considered in the reviews of specific areas or when implementing agreed objectives, as appropriate.

This “Review and Way Forward” document consists of the following sections:

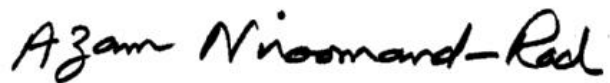
1. **Past, Present and Membership**
This section is a brief overview of the Organization.
2. **Current Activities and Proposed Developments**
This section is a review of current activities and outlines the way forward for each area. It also incorporates new proposals.
3. **External Relations**
This section is a review of the Organization’s current relationships with other organizations and proposed developments.
4. **Administrative and Financial Affairs.**
This section is a review of the Organization’s administrative and financial affairs. The administrative costs as well as financial supports of our programmes, including travel grants, have been increased in the recent past and will continue to increase. Clearly many of the projects and developments will require financing. Therefore our revenue-generating avenues need to be expanded. At present, we are very dependent on the membership dues and profit making conferences.
5. **Strategic Themes and Priorities**
This section identifies key themes and objectives and identifies the main priorities.

6 Specific Proposals with Assigned Priorities for 2006 – 2009

The planning budget in this section is for planning purposes only and the normal process for preparing and approval of the annual budget will be followed. Also Council is asked to authorise EXCOM to adapt and modify the section in the light of the views and comments of the new committees and their chairs.

It should be noted that some of the terminology reflects changes being proposed to Council in the revision of the Statutes and Bylaws, in particular for 'Council' to replace 'Administrative Council' and 'Regional Organization' to replace 'Regional Chapter'.

It is planned that this document should be reviewed by Council at regular intervals and it will evolve as IOMP evolves. I commend it to Council.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Azam Niroomand-Rad". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Azam Niroomand-Rad
President

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1. PAST, PRESENT AND MEMBERSHIP

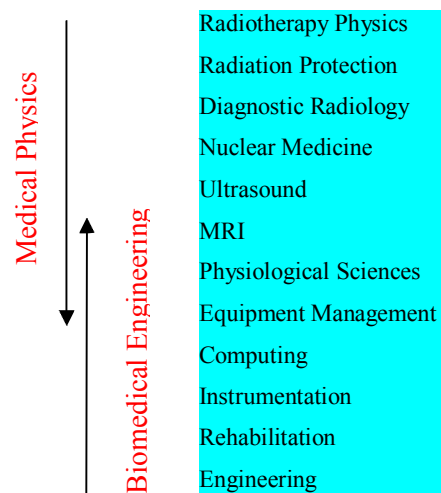
1.1 Introduction

The International Organization for Medical Physics (IOMP) represents over 16,500 medical physicists worldwide and has 76 affiliated national member organizations. The mission of IOMP is to advance medical physics practice worldwide by disseminating scientific and technical information, fostering the educational and professional development of medical physics and promoting the highest quality medical services for patients.

Medical Physics is a branch of applied physics, pursued by medical physicists, which uses scientific principles, methods and techniques in practice and research for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of human diseases with a specific goal of improving human health and well-being.

A medical physicist is a person, qualified with a University degree majoring in physics with specialized education and training in the concepts and techniques of applying physics in medicine and healthcare.

In some countries the term ‘medical physics’ is often used as synonymous with ‘clinical radiation physics’ whilst in others the interpretation is much broader, with considerable overlap with biomedical (or clinical) engineering, as illustrated in the diagram below:



Other terms in common use which are either synonymous with or denote particular aspects of medical physics are ‘clinical physics’, ‘hospital physics’ and ‘bio-medical physics’. Health physics is a more general term used not only in the healthcare field, where it is practiced by medical physicists, but also in the nuclear industry, amongst others. ‘Bio-physics’ is used in both the medical and biological fields.

1.2 History

The International Organization for Medical Physics (IOMP) was formed in 1963 and has the following objectives:

- *To organize international cooperation in medical physics and to promote communication between the various branches of medical physics and allied subjects.*

- *To contribute to the advancement of medical physics in all its aspects.*
- *To advise on the formation of national organizations of medical physics in those countries which lack such organizations, and also the possible formation of national committees in those countries where there is more than one medical physics organization.*

For these purposes it has the power:

- *To set up bodies for specific purposes which will further the objectives of the organization.*
- *To organize and/or sponsor international conferences, regional and other meetings or courses.*
- *To collaborate or affiliate with other scientific organizations.*
- *To develop any activity deemed helpful to the forwarding of its declared objectives.*

In 1980 IOMP, together with the International Federation of Medical and Biological Engineering (IFMBE), formed the International Union of Physical and Engineering Sciences in Medicine (IUPESM) as an umbrella body. The IUPESM became a member of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) in 1999.

In 2005 IOMP formed a relationship with the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP), to strengthen collaboration of medical physicists with other physicists with similar interests. Within the IUPAP organization, IOMP is recognized as an Affiliated Commission and is referred to as the International Commission on Medical Physics (ICoMP). Within IOMP, the International Commission on Medical Physics (ICoMP) Committee facilitates collaboration of the medical physicists with the physicists who have the same academic interests in research and education.

The following diagram illustrates IOMP relationships with these organizations:

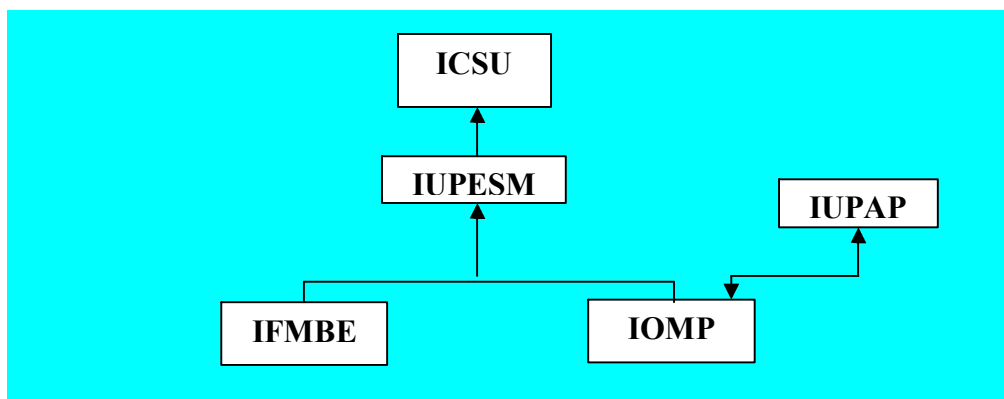


Figure 1.1 External links of IOMP

The following diagram illustrates IOMP internal organization:

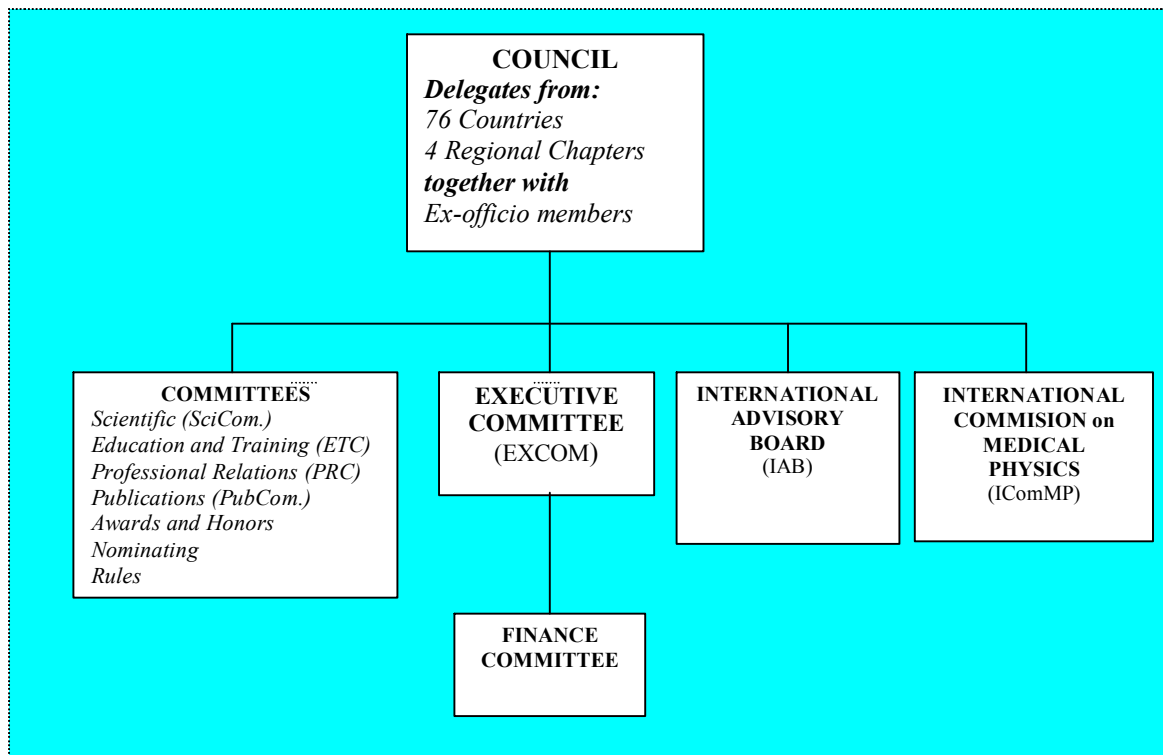


Figure 1.2. Internal organization of IOMP

1.3 Membership

IOMP has three categories of membership:

- Individual members. These are the members of National Organizations associated with adhering national bodies.
- Adhering Bodies. National Medical Physics organizations or societies.
- Affiliated Organizations:
 - Regional Organizations (Chapters) and
 - Corporate members.

1.3.1 Adhering National Bodies

There are currently 76 adhering national bodies, of these about 12 are inactive. There are probably only a very few more countries where there may have sufficient numbers of medical physicists to make a national organization viable. However IOMP does provide special arrangements whereby individuals, or small groups of medical physicists, may become members of IOMP, if deemed necessary.

Way Forward: To continue to encourage national medical physics organizations to join IOMP if they are not members and to encourage and support the formation of new national organizations where none exist. Also to explore further ways of helping, in conjunction with any regional Organization, individuals or small groups of medical physicists where no national Organization exists and those national organizations which are struggling or inactive.

1.3.2 Regional Organizations (Chapters)

There are currently four Regional Organizations (Chapters) with two further ones (Africa and the Middle East) under active consideration. If these are formed the only area not covered will be North America.

Way forward: To continue to encourage and support the formation of Regional Organizations in Africa and the Middle East. Also to work more closely with, and support the activities of, the Regional Organizations to ensure the work and activities of the IOMP and Regional Organizations are synergistic in advancing medical physics.

1.3.3 Corporate Members

There are currently only three Corporate Members but in the past the number has been up to six. There are no structures within IOMP to enable or encourage Corporate Members to participate in the activities of IOMP and the current efforts to attract Corporate Members are not working.

Way Forward: The category of Corporate membership should be reviewed in relation to the role Corporate Members can play in the activities of IOMP, alternatives to membership dues (sponsorship etc.) and privileges. The aim should be to have at least ten Corporate members by 2009.

2. CURRENT ACTIVITIES AND PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS

2.1 World Congresses, International Conferences and Scientific Meetings

2.1.1 World Congresses (WCs)

World Congresses on Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering (WCs) are organised by IUPESM and normally organized by an individual national Organization. They are held every three years. IOMP is represented on the programme committees of WCs and through the IUPESM Congress Coordination Committee.

Way Forward :To continue to fully support the World Congresses through IUPESM while enhancing IOMP presence at WCs by exploring new approaches, including themed courses (scientific and educational) and broadening the scope of the programme to a wider range of physics relevant to health and well-being.. A specific plan is to introduce a named IOMP lecture.

2.1.2 IOMP International Conferences of Medical Physics (ICMP)

At the WC-2003 in Sydney, Australia, IOMP decided to have regionally based international conferences of medical physics every three years, approximately halfway between World Congresses. These will be organised by a national Organization after an open selection procedure.

Way Forward: To support and develop the IOMP ICMPs, including having a named IOMP lecture.

2.1.3 Sponsored and Endorsed Meetings

The scientific, educational, and professional meetings on medical physics are often sponsored or endorsed by IOMP using established criterion. Sponsored meetings receive limited financial grants from IOMP but endorsed meetings receive no financial support. The main criterion for sponsoring meetings is to ensure participation of members from the neighbouring countries/regions.

Way Forward: To continue the current arrangements but to increase both the number of sponsored meetings and the funding available to support these meetings. Also to examine the introduction of CPD (Continuing Professional Development) points (credits), possibly in conjunction with one or more national schemes.

2.1.4 International Scientific Exchange Programmes

At the WC-1991 in Kyoto, Japan, IOMP decided to collaborate with AAPM (American Association of Physicists in Medicine) on annual basis in organizing International Scientific Exchange Programmes (ISEP) for developing countries. In addition to the formation of international libraries and the formation of medical physics associations in countries where one does not exist, the main focus of this programme is education and training of medical physicists. The one-week courses/workshops of the ISEP programmes were initially in

radiation therapy physics but later they were extended to include a separate one-week course/workshop in nuclear medicine and diagnostic physics as well.

Way Forward: To continue to fully support this programme and to explore, in close liaison with AAPM, means of increasing funding available for supporting these ISEPs.

2.1.5 IOMP Sessions at International Meetings

IOMP arranges, sometimes in conjunction with other international bodies, specific sessions or seminars at various international meetings. These, at different times and meetings, cover scientific, professional, educational and training matters.

Way Forward: To enhance IOMP presence at appropriate international meetings by arranging special sessions. These sessions should not only promote IOMP but deal with those issues where IOMP has a specific role, such as the involvement in drafting, disseminating and implementing standards and guidance published by international bodies.

2.2 Publications

2.2.1 Scientific Journals

IOMP does not publish a scientific journal but *Physics in Medicine and Biology* and *Physiological Measurement* are official journals of IOMP. Recently it has been agreed that *Medical Physics* will also be an official journal of IOMP. Also IOMP has agreed to co-sponsor the *Journal of Applied Clinical Medical Physics*.

Way Forward: IOMP should promote the promulgation, through printed and electronic journals, of new scientific knowledge and good practice in the field of medical physics and ensure that relevant publications are available to members, particularly those in developing countries.

2.2.2 Books

IOMP had an agreement, from 1991, with the Institute of Physics Publishing (IOPP) for the publication of the *Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering Science* series of textbooks. The agreement was terminated in July 2005 as IOPP had sold their book publishing business to the Taylor and Francis Group. Agreement has been reached with Taylor and Francis to continue IOMP's involvement with the series.

Way Forward: The IOMP should implement the agreement with Taylor and Francis with respect to the 'Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering Science' series and to negotiate with other publishers to arrange discounts for medical books and other publications for members and where possible free copies or on-line access for members in developing countries.

2.2.3 IOMP Bulletin - Medical Physics World (MPW)

IOMP publishes, twice yearly, a bulletin that is sent to every medical physicist via the National Organizations. The Publications Committee has been asked to review the future of the MPW.

Way Forward: IOMP to undertake a full review, including a questionnaire to national organizations, of the best way forward – in particular moving to an electronic version,

making it more interesting and broadening its scope. The re-branded MPW to be introduced by 2009.

2.3 Websites and On-Line Materials

2.3.1 IOMP Website

The current IOMP website is limited in the facilities it provides and is being managed mostly by the Secretary-General. Our financial resources in enhancing the IOMP website are very limited.

Way Forward: A major initiative to upgrade the IOMP website to provide more services to the members and general public. Also to provide the facilities for the on-line resource centre and databases (see following sections).

2.3.2 Educational and Training On-line Resource Centre

The current IOMP website has limited information on the education and training and hosts very little educational materials.

Way Forward: A priority for IOMP is the establishment of an educational and training resource centre, primarily involving links to other sites or sources of education and training materials but also some materials which can be downloaded:

2.3.3 Global On-Line Medical Physics (GOMP) Textbook

The objective of the Global On-Line Medical Physics (GOMP) textbook is to improve medical physics education worldwide by making educational materials (such as textbook and chapters from books) available at the IOMP website to all medical physicists and students worldwide. At present the IOMP website has very limited online chapters and other reference materials.

Way Forward: To increase the number of textbook chapters and references on-line and integrate it as part of the Education and Training On-Line Resource Centre.

2.3.4 Scientific Database

Work has already started under the auspices of the Scientific Committee in establishing a scientific database of medical physics reference materials, such as calibration protocols, survey and monitoring techniques, technological and scientific leading edge developments and relevant publications of general interest.

Way Forward: In parallel to the establishment of an Education and Training On-Line Resource Centre the IOMP will also, as a high priority, establish a scientific database of international (and selected regional and national) standards, protocols and guidance relevant to the practice of medical physics..

2.4 Research

IOMP is not involved in research in terms of either sponsoring or identifying new areas for research. The only current activity is dissemination of research through congresses and conferences. It does not propose to alter this position but there may be very specific topics, for example, in training or professional matters, where IOMP involvement would be appropriate.

Way Forward: IOMP currently plans no change to the current policy but input is welcome.

2.5 Policy Statements and Medical Physics Standards

IOMP currently does not provide guidance on medical physics standards. However it sometimes nominates experts to help other Organizations to prepare guidance (see Section 3.10).

Way Forward: No change to the current policy.

2.6 Education and Training

2.6.1 List of Medical Physics Graduate Programmes

IOMP maintains, on its website, a list of graduate programmes. The details supplied are entirely the responsibility of the institution providing the programme. The list is currently neither up-to-date, nor comprehensive.

Way Forward: To bring the list of programmes up-to-date and expand the list of medical physics graduate programmes to include short international courses. Where other national lists of programmes are available then these should not be duplicated but a link inserted.

2.6.2 Model Curriculum, Validation and Accreditation of Medical Physics Programmes

The Education and Training Committee (ETC) is currently drafting proposals for a model curriculum for graduate medical physics programmes. This model curriculum will help to harmonize the medical physics programmes worldwide and will facilitate future validation of medical physics programmes.

Way Forward: This programme should continue but a report on accreditation be prepared for Council prior to any implementation.

2.6.3 EMITEL Project

The IOMP is a partner in a project funded by the European Union to prepare a medical physics e-encyclopaedia that will be available on the Internet. The project is lead by Dr. Slavik Tabakov and the other partners are Universities and hospitals in the UK, Sweden, Bulgaria and Italy. The project is due to commence in October 2006.

Way Forward. To actively support the project and ensure that IOMP, as a partner, fully meets its commitments and obligations.

2.7 Professional Matters

2.7.1 Classification of Medical Physics by International Labour Organization

In the past 10 years IOMP has been active in having the International Labour Organization (ILO) classify the medical physics profession in the next revision of the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO). This will be a valuable achievement for the organization and will empower medical physicists worldwide, especially those practicing in developing countries. As of this date the ILO has agreed to include the medical physics profession within the 'Health Professional' category (222). However, since the number of medical physicists is not large it may not be listed in a separate unit by itself.

Way Forward: IOMP will continue to actively pursuing this goal until ILO creates a separate unit in category 222 for the medical physics profession

2.7.2 Professional and Ethical Standards

Guidance is currently being prepared for national organizations on the contents of national Codes of Practice on the professional and ethical standards expected of medical physicists.

Way Forward: IOMP will prepare guidance only where a clear need has been identified.

2.8 Programmes for Developing Countries

Many of the activities of IOMP are of benefit to all medical physics worldwide. However, there is a special focus on helping medical physicists in developing countries. The following specific programmes are to support and assist the development of medical physics in developing countries.

2.8.1 Equipment Donation Programme

The aim of this programme is to encourage the donation of used equipment that is in good working condition to developing countries. This programme also facilitates the transfer of equipment to the recipient. However, IOMP has no funding for shipment and installation of the equipment and does not assume any liability for this transaction.

Way Forward: To continue and expand this programme, within financial constraints, and explore ways of linking it with other equipment donation schemes.

2.8.2 Library Programme

The IOMP, with the support of the AAPM and publishers, provides free journals and textbooks to a list of libraries in developing countries. Also individuals donate their unwanted personal copies of journals and textbooks.

Way Forward: The Library programme to continue but to be reviewed to ensure that there is an optimum balance between printed and on-line material and to explore new ways of increasing support

2.8.3 Travel Assistance

This programme provides a limited number of grants to enable young medical physicists, in particular those presenting, to attend the World Congresses.

Way forward: IOMP to place a high priority on expanding this programme by exploring new ways of funding, for example corporate sponsorship. Also to expand the programme to all ICMPs.

2.8.4 International Centre for Medical Physics

A proposal for the establishment of an International Centre for Medical Physics has been put forward (copy of document available from the Secretary-General) to develop medical physics in developing countries. It is recognised that this would be a very major undertaking that would require substantial funding. Therefore this proposal could only be taken forward in partnership with other international organizations such as the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU), the International Union of Physical and Engineering Sciences in Medicine (IUPESM) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Way Forward: This proposal has not gained significant support and should not be pursued. However opportunities for collaborating with similar proposals from other international bodies should be examined if and when they arise.

2.8.5 Expert Assistance

The IOMP currently does not maintain a database of medical physicists who are willing to provide expert advice to Organizations, hospitals, medical physics departments and individual medical physicists in developing countries.

Way Forward: To establish a data base of "specialists" in various areas of medical physics for the benefit of national and international bodies and organizations, hospitals, medical physics departments and individual medical physicists in developing countries who may request assistance from IOMP to participate in a specific medical physics consultation. Medical physicists willing to volunteer for certain assignments would have to document their "speciality" by providing supporting documentation from the scientific body that gave them such recognition. The documentation would be evaluated by the requesting body or individual, thereby exonerating IOMP of legal responsibility for assessment of the specialist's expertise and of the advice given.

2.9 Awards and Honors

The IOMP currently has two awards, The Marie Sklodowska-Curie Award and the Harold Johns Award. The IOMP has no named lectures, nor honorary membership.

Way Forward: To establish named lectures and honorary membership to raise the profile of IOMP and to recognise the achievements and service by distinguished medical physicists

3. EXTERNAL RELATIONS

3.1 The Biomedical Engineering Community

There is a significant overlap in many countries in the work of medical physicists and medical (bio-) engineers, particularly in the fields of instrumentation, non-ionising radiation and the physiological sciences. A number of national organizations cover both professions and see an integrated approach as the best way to further the development of the application of the physical and engineering sciences to healthcare. In other countries, the two professions are more distinct and operate independently of each other.

At present, IOMP has very limited direct contact with the International Federation of Medical and Biological Engineering (IFMBE). Our links with it are through our union, the International Union of Physical and Engineering Sciences in Medicine (IUPESM) which connects us (IOMP and IFMBE) to the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU). Currently IUPESM has a limited range of activities, mainly focused in arranging the World Congresses and provides links to the ICSU. The following is a summary of the IUPESM objectives:

- *to contribute to the advancement of physical and engineering science in medicine for the benefit and well being of humanity;*
- *to organise international co-operation and promote communication among those engaged in health-care science and technology;*
- *to co-ordinate activities of mutual interest to engineering and physical science within the health care field, including international and regional scientific conferences, seminars, working groups, regional support programmes and scientific and technical publications;*
- *to represent the professional interests and views of engineers and physical scientists in the health-care community.*

Both professions (IOMP and IFMBE) are relatively small on a world scale and increased collaboration should be pursued where it would be beneficial in taking medical physics forward and representing the views of medical physicists at other forums.

Way Forward: To increase collaboration and working together with the medical engineering community, both by direct collaboration with IFMBE and through IUPESM.

3.2 International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU)

The IOMP is a member of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) through IUPESM. Our membership with ICSU offers the potential for grants and collaborative working with other unions. Currently the IUPESM has put forward, in association with other Unions, detailed proposals for an ICSU programme ‘Science for Health and Wellbeing’.

Way Forward: To continue to participate through IUPESM and in particular consider how medical physics can best contribute to the programme ‘Science for Health and Wellbeing’.

3.3 International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP)

The IOMP has formed a formal relationship with the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP), which recognises IOMP as an Affiliated Commission of the IUPAP. IOMP has established an IComMP Committee within IOMP.

Way forward: To broaden and strengthen IOP activities and links with the academic physics community through the IUPAP Organization.

3.4 International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

The IOMP is recognised by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as a collaborating Organization, in particular in relation to the IAEA and WHO (World Health Organization) network of the SSDLs (Standards and Secondary Standards Dosimetry Laboratories). There are two IAEA people on the IAB. The IAEA is a key partner in education and training for developing countries.

Way forward: To further strengthen links with the IAEA.

3.5 World Health Organization (WHO)

The IOMP has no formal links with the World Health Organization (WHO). The biomedical engineering Organization IFMBE is recognised as a non-governmental organization (NGO) by the WHO.

Way Forward: IOMP to establish links, both formal and informal, with WHO.

3.6 International Society of Radiology (ISR)

The IOMP has been organising joint sessions with the International Society of Radiology (ISR) at their conferences but there are no formal links. There is a joint session at the WC-2006.

Way Forward: The IOMP to establish a formal link and continue with joints sessions and undertake other joint activities with ISR which will further medical physics.

3.7 International Commission on Radiation Protection (ICRP)

The IOMP has been organising joint sessions at the World Congresses with the International Commission on Radiation protection (ICRP) but there are no formal links. Also IOMP comments on ICRP draft documents from time to time. In view of the importance of ICRP guidance on the radiation protection legislation of countries and the work of medical physicists, the IOMP should ensure that it fully participates in the work of ICRP that affects the use of radiation in the healthcare by considering draft documents and by other means.

Way Forward: IOMP to establish a formal link with ICRP.

3.8 International Commission on Radiation Units (ICRU)

The International Commission on Radiation Units (ICRU) recognises the IOMP and corresponds with it. The IOMP comments on draft ICRU documents when appropriate but there are no formal links.

Way Forward: IOMP to establish a formal link with ICRU.

3.9 Other International Bodies

The IUPESM will be reviewing its role as a NGO (non-government organization) with a number of United Nations (UN) bodies.

Way Forward: IOMP to review the potential benefits and disadvantages of links with other UN bodies, either alone or through IUPESM/IUPAP.

3.10 Advice and Consultation

IOMP is often consulted by some international Organizations (such as IAEA) on draft documents. Often the time allowed for review and comment is limited. Currently IOMP has no formal procedure for handling such consultations, which are dealt with on an ad-hoc basis. Neither does it have any arrangement for being proactive in commenting on drafts when not specifically requested to do so. Since IOMP represents the worldwide medical physics community many documents have a direct impact on the work of our members.

Way forward: To have expert members of the organization to review and comment on international drafts in a timely manner.

3.11 Public and Media

Currently IOMP does not have any significant input to the media and provides no direct information services to the public. There are two potential roles; one is to develop the website as a source of information for the general public. The other is to provide the names of experts in particular areas of medical physics on the web for the public reference.

Way Forward: The development of a public relations and media service should be a long-term goal. In the meantime the website should be developed to have limited but relevant information and provide links for the public and media.

4. ORGANIZATION AND FINANCE

4.1 Organization and Members

As with any Organization, the activities of the organization including its financial affairs are managed by the Council, elected Officers, appointed Chairs, and members of the committees. IOMP's greatest resource is its members who spend their time voluntarily in the management of the organization. However, the administrative arrangements of the organization should be kept under review to ensure that they are optimised in order to enable the Organization to carry out its activities efficiently.

Way Forward: IOMP to make more use of its main resource, its members, by having a larger number of IOMP members to participate in IOMP activities.

4.1.1 Council

The IOMP Council is a large body, potentially with a membership of 121 (102 delegates and 29 ex-officio), but in practice about 100 individuals are active within the organization by having more than one role. Some members are inactive, especially those residing in national Organizations that are considered "not in good standing" – i.e. do not pay their annual dues on a regular basis.

Way forward: To encourage all members to actively participate in IOMP activities. Also to continue having one virtual Council meeting per year.

4.1.2 Executive Committee (EXCOM)

At the WC-2003, the AC approved an amendment to the Statutes and By Laws that increased the membership of the Executive Committee (EXCOM) to 5 to include the Treasurer and Past President. The new EXCOM with 5 members (President, Past-President, Vice-President, Secretary-General and Treasurer) has been working effectively since September 2003. The EXCOM activities are central to the successful operation of IOMP. It usually holds two virtual meetings per year but business is also conducted between meetings by email and by consultation with the Chairs. Much of the activity of IOMP relates to three main Committees: Scientific, Professional Relations and Education and Training.

Way Forward: EXCOM should continue as constituted.

4.1.3 International Advisory Board (IAB)

The International Advisory Board (IAB) has two components to its membership, two representatives from each Regional Organization (Chapter) and nine other members, including several members from international organizations. To date it has not played a major role in the activities of IOMP.

Way Forward: To review the role and functions of IAB.

4.1.4 The International Commission on Medical Physics (IComMP)

The International Commission on Medical Physics (IComMP) Committee has two components to its membership: one component from IOMP which includes 5 EXCOM members (with President as Chair), three Chairs (Education & Training, Science, Professional Relations), and a maximum of 4 individual members who are interested in the objectives and charges of this committee. The other component is from IUPAP which includes a delegate from the IUPAP Council and a maximum of 4 individual members from other IUPAP commissions with common interests with IOMP. At present the links between IOMP and IUPAP and the membership of IComMP are being developed.

Way Forward: To establish the IComMP Committee and through the IComMP broaden and strengthen IOMP's activities and links to the academic physics community.

4.2 Secretariat

The Secretariat is currently located either where the Secretary-General is located, or, as at present, at the national medical physics headquarters of the country where the Secretary-General is located. There is limited funding available for running the secretariat, approximately one person-day per week. The current level of support is insufficient and the Secretary-General undertakes duties that could be done by a secretariat. This would be assisted if the secretariat had a permanent location. There would be considerable advantages and cost savings if the three Organizations, IOMP, IFMBE and IUPESM had a common secretariat at a permanent location.

Way Forward: To provide a more permanent cost-effective location for the secretariat of IOMP. Also to develop the secretariat as IOMP activities grow and to explore the advantages of a joint secretariat with IFMBE and IUPESM.

4.3 Financial Affairs

The main sources of the organization's income are membership dues and profit share from the World Congresses and ICMPs. The table shows summarised income and expenditure and also the total assets of IOMP over the last four years (excluding the accounts of MPW).

	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
INCOME					
Country Dues	36,170	36,313	36,388	32,423	35,601
Corp. Dues	2,000	2,000	1,500	-	10,000
Conferences	3,000	-	29,614	-	16,098
Other	2,761	1,325	2,211	7,000	-
Total Income	43,931	39,638	69,713	39,423	62,179
EXPENDITURE					
Activities	9,685	12,939	15,804	4,775	22,007
Admin. & Travel	10,956	13,765	9,178	7,627	7,735
IUPESM	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	3,658
Other	-	-	2,424	6,025	-
Total Expenditure	30,641	36,704	37,406	28,427	33,400

BALANCE	13,290	2,934	32,307	10,996	28,779
TOTAL ASSETS	213,045	199,580	196,646*	164,439	153,441

* Change in accounting procedures

It should be pointed that from 2004 the Annual Accounts included the MPW accounts but these have been excluded from the above table for comparison purposes. The total assets, including MPW, were US\$216,471 at the end of 2004 and UDS\$242,480 at the end of 2005. It should also be noted that changes in the exchange rates affect the figures and so the total assets do not exactly reflect the changes in annual balances.

The net current (end of 2005) assets (excluding MPW) of US\$213,045 have risen from US\$124,662 at the end of 2000.

These assets represent about 5 years turnover and are adequate reserves. The IOMP should not plan to further develop its reserves. However, additional regular revenue is required to increase the IOMP's activities.

.Suggested mechanisms for increasing the income of IOMP:

- Increase dues by 15% to US\$3.00 - US\$5,000.
- Increase corporate membership – US\$10,000.
- Investment of 150,000USD at 3% - US\$4,500.
- Income from WC and ICMP – average further US\$10,000.

This gives an annual income of US\$66,500. Other potential sources of income are:

- Overheads from project grants.
- Donations.

These should be used for specific purposes.

Way Forward: To increase IOMP income by 60% over a five-year period and to maintain reserves of 3 years expenditure.

5. STRATEGY

5.1 Strategic Themes

The aims, objectives, activities and priorities of IOMP can be grouped under five linked strategic themes, each with a number of (abbreviated) objectives:

- 1. Supporting the work and professional status of medical physicists by disseminating knowledge and guidance and by promoting research:**
 - *Development of the WCs.*
 - *Successfully implement new series of regional ICMPs.*
 - *Increase funding for Sponsored meetings.*
 - *Develop an on-line scientific database*

- 2. Furthering the educational, training and professional development of medical physicists by supporting the development and dissemination of educational and training materials and by promoting international harmonisation and accreditation:**
 - *Create an on-line education and training resource and further develop GOMP.*
 - *Update list of the post-graduate courses and provide a list of international short courses.*
 - *Develop a model curriculum for post-graduate courses.*
 - *Review requirement for, and role of IOMP, in accreditation of courses.*

- 3. Promoting the advancement of medical physics in developing countries:**
 - *Maintain and develop existing programmes (travel, library and equipment).*
 - *Establish a list of medical physics experts willing to assist developing countries.*
 - *Facilitate on-line access to journals and books and negotiate discounted prices for books.*

- 4. Ensuring that the views of the worldwide medical physics community are represented in the development of relevant international policies, procedures and guidance and that medical physicists contribute, appropriately, to the development of the application of science to healthcare.**
 - *Develop arrangements for commenting on documents.*
 - *Increase collaboration with the medical engineering community.*
 - *Establish and develop links with the IUPAP.*
 - *Establish formal links with the WHO and review and develop links with other external bodies.*

- 5. Developing the infrastructure and resources to fulfil IOMP's mission.**
 - *Enhance IOMP web site.*
 - *Review MPW and implement outcome.*

- *Facilitate formation of new Regional Federations and national organizations.*
- *Increase corporate membership to at least 10 members and review their role in IOMP.*
- *Increase overall funding by 60%.*
- *Develop secretariat and arrange permanent location for secretariat, jointly, if possible, with IUPESM and IFMBE.*

5.2 Priorities

There was considerable unanimity in views expressed by Officers, Committee Chairs and Council members on the way forward and priorities for IOMP during the preparation and consultation on this document.

- *Support for developing countries.*
- *Development of a virtual resource centre on education, training and scientific matters.*
- *Promoting meetings, in particular the new ICMP regional conferences.*

There are three main avenues to achieve these activities:

- *Increased finance.* Whilst increased efforts and other developments may bring about modest increases in direct funding, the main increase may be through corporate sponsorship of particular activities and events. However many activities require very little finance.
- *Enhanced website.* There was universal support for this to facilitate the development of the virtual education, training resource centre and the scientific database as well as improving communication with members.
- *Greater involvement of members.* There is a need to increase the profile of IOMP amongst its members and encourage greater participation by members in IOMP's activities. This requires providing a wider range of opportunities for that involvement.

6. SPECIFIC PROPOSALS WITH ASSIGNED PRIORITIES FOR 2006-2009

6.1 Planning Budget for 2006-2009

The following budget is for planning purposes only and annual budgets will be set following the normal procedure.

Expected income for the three years 2007, 2008, 2009, is based on Section 4.5 and planned expenditure on previous expenditure patterns and priorities for new activities or development of existing ones.

	TOTAL OVER 3 YEARS (US\$)
INCOME:	
Dues from National bodies. 3 X 40,000	120,000
Corporate Dues. Increasing over the 3 years	19,500
ICMPs	30,000
Interest. 3 X 4,500	13,500
Projects (EMITEL et. al)	10,000
Total Expenditure	192,000
EXPENDITURE	
Administration. 3 X 12,000	36,000
Officer travel. 3 X 6,000	18,000
IUPESM Dues. 3 X 10,000	30,000
ETC, SciCom & PRC. 3 X 3 X 8,000	72,000
Other Committees. 5,000	5,000
ICMP 16 & WC 2009	5,000
Website	11,000
On-line education & training resource centre. 3 X 1,000	3,000
Scientific database. 3 X 1,000	3,000
Review MPW	1,000
Establish Reg. Federations	3,000
Establish IComMP	1,000
Develop links with external bodies	2,000
Developments with no specific budget (\$0) in Section 6.2	4,000
Total Expenditure	191,000

6.2 Activities for 2006-2009 by Committee

Committee /Group	Activity	Section	Target and Date	Responsibility	Finance	Comment
Website WG	Establish new website.	2.3	1. Report to Council. Sept. 2007. 2. New Website by WC 2009.	Chair of Group.	1. \$1,000 2. \$20,000, subject to 1.	See Section 6.3. \$10,000 from reserves.
ICMP 16	Organise ICMP in collaboration with local national Organization.	2.1.2	Successful and profitable meeting	Past President	Loan - up to \$25,000. Normal Committee budgets +\$3,000	
ETC	To continue and develop current programme of activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsor/endorse meetings • Arrange sessions/seminars at meetings • Grad. Programmes • ISEP 	2.1 2.6.1	On-going	Chair	Annual budget of \$8,000 plus sponsorship.	
	On-line Education and Training Resource Centre	2.3.2	1. Report/Plan. Sept. 2007 2. 1st. phase by WC 2009	Chair or designated individual	\$1,000 pa	In collaboration with Website WG.
	Model Curriculum & Accreditation	2.6.2	Report to Council. Sept 2007	Chair WG	\$1,000 pa	Special WG
	Requirement for MPs.	3.4	Report to Council & IAEA. 2007	Chair/ designated person	\$0	

SciCom	To continue and develop current programme of activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsor/endorse meetings • Arrange sessions/seminars at meetings 	2.1	On-going	Chair	Annual budget of \$8,000 plus sponsorship	
	Scientific Database	2.3.4	1. Specification. Sept 2007 2. 1 st . phase by WC2009	Chair or designated individual	\$1,000 pa	In collaboration with Website WG.
	Expert Assistance.	2.8.5	Establish database & formulate policy/procedure. By WC 2009	Chair	\$0	
	Advice/Consultation	2.5, 3.10	Review procedures. Report to Council. Sept. 2008	Chair	\$0	In liaison with other Committees.
	CPD Points Scheme	2.1.3	Report to Council. Sept. 2008	Chair	\$0	Implementation & funding subject to report.
PRC	To continue and develop current programme of activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library programme • Travel assistance • Equipment programme • Arrange sessions/seminars • Sponsors/endorse meetings • Standards 	2.8.1 2.8.2 2.8.3 2.1.1 2.1.2 2.1.3 2.1.5 2.5	On-going	Chair	Annual budget of \$8,000 plus sponsorship	
	ILO	2.7.1	On-going	Past Pres.	\$0	

PubCom	MPW review and new format/style.	2.2.3	1. Review September 2007. 2. New arrangements by WC2009	Editor	1. \$1,000 2. Self funding	
	Books and Journals. Availability to members, particularly in developing countries	2.2.1 2.2.2	On-going but review statement to Council Sept. 2007	Chair	\$0	
	Website. Support WG	2.3	Support work of WG	Chair/ Designated individual	\$0	See section 6.3
	GOMP	2.3.3	Develop and integrate with Ed. & Tr. Resource Centre	Chair/ Designated individual	\$0	
IAB	Establish Regional Federations in Africa & Middle East	1.3.2	On-going	Chair	\$3,000 to support initial meeting	
	Review of role.	4.1.4	Report to Council by WC 2009	President/ Chair	\$0	In liaison with EXCOM
IComMP	Establish IComMP	3.3 4.1.4	Report to Council Sept. 2007 on proposed programme.	Chair	\$1,000	
Finance	To continue current programme of activities: • Budget • Monitoring • Co-ordinate and monitor corporate sponsorship	4.3		Chair	\$0	
	Corporate membership	1.3.3 4.3	1. Review membership, role and privileges. Report to Council September 2007. 2. Increase membership to 10 by WC 2009.	Chair	\$0	

Awards & Honours	To continue current programme of activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage IOMP awards • IUPAP Young Sc. Award 	2.9	On-going	Chair	\$1,000 plus Sponsorship	
	Establish named IOMP lectures.	2.1.1 2.1.2	1. ICMP. 1st. lecture for ICMP 16 (2007/08). 2. WC. 1st lecture for WC 2009	Chair	Corporate sponsorship \$0	
	Establish category of Hon. Member.	2.9	Low priority. Report to Council WC 2009	Chair	\$0	Implementation subject to funding.
Rules	Continue carrying out charge of Committee.			Chair	\$0	
Nominating	Continue carrying out charge of Committee			Chair	\$0	
EXCOM	To continue current programme of activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive action. • Act for Council • Appointments • Represent IOMP 	4.1.2		President	Travel: \$2,000 pa for chair \$1,000 pa for other officers	Funding to be increased when resources permit
	HQ. 1. Maintain and develop administrative support. 2. Identify permanent HQ.	4.2	1. On-going 2. Report to Council by Sept 2008.	S-G	1. \$10,000 pa 2. \$0	1. Funding to be increased when resources permit
	Links to external bodies. 1. Strengthen/form links with IAEA/WHO/ ICRP 2... Increase collaboration with biomedical engineering community.	3	On -going	President/ S-G	\$2,000 for meetings	
	Review IAB	4.13	Report to Council Sept. 2008.	President	\$0	
	Regional ICMPs	2.1.2	Successful 2007/08 ICMP.	Past President	\$0	
Project	EMITEL	2.6.3	Objectives of project met. By	S-G/	Self funding	

			WC2009	Dr. S Tabakov		
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Notes.

1. Those developments with expenditure stated as '\$0'. There is sum of \$4,000 in planning budget to cover exceptional requirements.
2. Target dates. Sept. 2007 and 2008. These are with a view to submit reports to Council at the annual virtual meetings, normally in September.

6.3 New Working Group - Website

It is planned to form a new Working Group(WG) in order to facilitate the upgrading of the website and the development of the education and training resource centre and the scientific database.

The WG will report to EXCOM and liaise with the relevant committees. It is planned to have a costed set of proposals for consideration by Council in September 2007. The allocation of US\$20,000 in the planning is indicative of the level of support that might be available from within IOMP. The WG will need to consider other sources of funding - including advertising and sponsorship.

Membership will be determined by EXCOM in liaison with the Chairs of Education and Training (ETC), Publications (PubCom) and Scientific (SciCom) Committees.

6.4 Conclusion

There are a number of activities that IOMP can take forward by with modest funding if members are prepared to give their time, expertise and enthusiasm. The main exceptions to this are items such as travel awards and sponsorship. Also the website - the WG will determine what members can undertake and what external professional input is needed.

This Section sets out a challenging set of objectives and activities for the 2006-2009 period and the plan will need to be kept under review by EXCOM, the Committees and Council and amended as necessary.