

## Message from the IOMP President, Dr. Kin Yin Cheung and the Chairman of the IOMP Education and Training Committee, Prof. John Damilakis on November 7, 2013: “International Day of Medical Physics”

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Message from the IOMP President, Dr. Kin Yin Cheung (Figure 1)



**Figure 1:** Dr. Kin Yin Cheung, IOMP President

Medical physicists play an important role in healthcare services, research and development of healthcare technologies and clinical techniques, and teaching and training of healthcare professionals. Yet, they are in general invisible to members of the public. In order to promote the visibility and professional status of the medical physicists, it is important for us to show our presence to the community. The International Day of Medical Physics (IDMP) is one of the initiatives taken by IOMP to raise the profile of our profession to the public. November 7, the birthday of Marie Sklodowska-Curie has been named by IOMP as the International Day of Medical Physics. The Chairman of ETC, Professor John Damilakis of University of Crete in Greece is leading a task group in planning and coordinating a series of professional, educational and scientific activities to mark this meaningful day in 2013. This will be an annual event and we hope to draw the attention of the global community to the event and to generate sufficient momentum to ensure its continuity in the future. We are trying to bring together as many medical physicists as possible from all over the world to participate in this exercise. Your support and active participation will be most appreciated. Please keep an

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eye on the IOMP website for further details of the activities.

Kin Yin Cheung, Ph.D.  
President IOMP

## Message from the Chairman of the IOMP Education and Training Committee, Prof. John Damilakis (Figure 2)



**Figure 2:** Prof. John Damilakis, the Chairman of the IOMP Education and Training Committee

As medical imaging technologies are evolving rapidly and pioneer radiotherapy techniques have considerably improved the outcome of cancer therapy, medical physicists become more and more important in the clinical environment. Medical physicists also play a key role in medical research and development of new medical technology. Another key activity of medical physicists is education and training of healthcare professionals in medical radiation protection and medical technology. Nevertheless, the general public is not aware of the critical role medical physicists play in providing services in medical, educational and research institutions. It is important to inform the public on the role and responsibilities of medical physicists and draw attention of the media to the important role that medical physics play in the health care system.

To raise awareness of our profession, the International Organization for Medical Physics will celebrate annually the International Day of Medical Physics (IDMP) on November 7, an important date in the history of medical physics. On that day in 1867, Marie Curie, known for her pioneering research on radioactivity, was born in Poland. ALFIM proposed the idea of celebrating the IDMP and IOMP decided to take the initiative to organize this event. We will celebrate the first IDMP on November 7, 2013. All regional and national organizations are invited to participate by organizing activities such as lectures open to the general public and press appearances.

On behalf of the Task Group for the International Day of Medical Physics,  
Prof. John Damilakis

### Conflict of Interest

None