

Benefit Exchange

A newsletter of *Medical Physics for World Benefit*



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Membership

Since MPWB opened its membership application process in June 2017 over 155 members have joined. The 2018 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>

More information will be forth-coming about the upcoming annual membership meeting.

Open Syllabus for Medical Physics Residents

We have learned from the Lancet Oncology Commission report (Atun *et al*, Lancet Oncology 16: 1153-1186; 2015) that over 22,000 medical physicists will need to be trained by 2035 if there is to be equal access to radiation therapy, globally. We know that in low-to-middle income countries (LMICs), there is very limited training capacity for medical physicists. Many of the projects discussed at the MPWB Board relate to education and training, especially in Africa. The IAEA has individual documents on clinical training for three subspecialties, i.e., radiation oncology, diagnostic radiology and nuclear medicine. The document for radiation oncology contains a detailed outline of topics to be covered by the medical physics residents in its Appendix IV. We are also aware of the tremendous amount of on-line information that is available, be it video lectures, videos regarding procedures, as well as materials that are in print. Our "Open Syllabus" project aims to provide links from the topics in IAEA's Appendix IV to appropriate on-line materials. Kathy Mah from Toronto and Parminder Basran from our Board have agreed to take leadership on this project along with Jake Van Dyk as the Board sponsor. We have **two requests**: (1) if you are aware of any on-line materials that are useful for radiation oncology medical physics residents, please forward that information and the links to: medphyswb@gmail.com; (2) if you would like to participate in the development of the open syllabus, possibly by taking the lead on a subsection, please contact medphyswb@gmail.com. We look forward to your participation.

Fund Raising

With the increased activities within MPWB, fundraising has become a key area of focus for MPWB. Now **we need your help!** We are in the
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Fund Raising

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process of setting-up a small **MPWB Fundraising Committee** to lead our fundraising activities, together with the MPWB Board of Directors. As fundraising for non-profits is relatively new to most of us, we will likely have quite a bit of learning to do, in addition to performing/organizing all the activities that would eventually lead to successful fundraising for MPWB. Please contact Robert Jeraj (rjeraj@wisc.edu), if you have any experience, ideas, or you would be willing to participate in the MPWB Fundraising Committee. **We would LOVE to hear from you!**

Brief Notes

- MPWB was profiled on MedicalPhysicsWeb in Oct 2017:
<http://iop.msgfocus.com/q/17ERlrlnDG5x4jt3ax49aL/wv>
- **Jerry White** has been working for the IAEA on a radiation therapy room shielding review project in Malawi.
- **Jake Van Dyk** represented MPWB and the International Cancer Experts Corp (ICEC) at a meeting at CERN in Geneva, Switzerland on the development of low-cost, robust radiation treatment technologies. Travel funding was provided by ICEC. A summary of the meeting can be found on the CERN website:
<https://home.cern/about/updates/2017/11/combating-cancer-challenging-environments> and the ICEC website:
<https://www.iceccancer.org/cern-stfc-icec-workshop-ii-an-innovative-robust-and-affordable-medical-linear-accelerator-for-challenging-environments/>
- Travel funding was also provided by the ICEC for **Jake Van Dyk's** and **Yakov Pipman's** attendance at the IAEA ICARO2 meeting held in June 2017.
- **Jake Van Dyk** was invited to speak at a special event at the IAEA in Vienna to mark World Cancer Day on 2 February 2018:
<https://www.iaea.org/events/world-cancer-day-2018>.
- **MPWB** has been invited by the IAEA to participate as speakers and member of the Program Committee for the **International Symposium on Standards, Applications and Quality Assurance in Medical Radiation Dosimetry (IDOS 2019)**. Jake Van Dyk will represent MPWB.
- **MPWB** is in the process of getting legal advice on a release of liability document for volunteers working on international projects.
- **Jake Van Dyk** has been invited to speak about MPWB at the World Congress of Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering in Prague in June 2018 in a Special Session entitled **Eliminating Global Medical Physics Disparities**.
- **Jake Van Dyk** has been invited to speak about MPWB at the annual AAPM meeting in 2018 in a session entitled **Medical Physicists and the Global Health Challenge**.
- **Yakov Pipman** and **Jake Van Dyk** are invited to participate in a meeting organized by the UK Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) in Stretton in collaboration with CERN and the International Cancer Experts Corp (ICEC). The meeting is entitled **Burying the Complexity: Re-engineering for the Next Generation of Medical Linear Accelerators for Use in Challenging Environments**. Travel funding is provided by the STFC.
- **Robert Jeraj**, while on sabbatical, spent almost three months in Argentina. He was working on strategic planning for a new therapy/imaging facility in Bariloche and reviewing/advising the medical physics program at Instituto Balseiro, the largest medical physics research and educational program in Argentina.
- **Robert Jeraj** has been involved in development of medical physics master's programs in Peru and Bolivia.
- **Jerry White** helped develop a job description for a medical physics job posting in Botswana.
- **Jake Van Dyk** and **Yakov Pipman** continue collaborating with the AAPM/IOMP Equipment Donation program.

Note: The membership renewal notice has been sent out

Our themes:
Partnership and collaboration
