

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
MEDICAL PHYSICS  
ROUND TABLE SESSION RT-5-E

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MEDICAL PHYSICS CERTIFICATION  
PROCESS IN MEXICO: AN UPDATE

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FMOFM, Porto Alegre, April 2011

## Mexican Federation of Organizations for Medical Physics (FMOFM)

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Created in year 2003

[www.fisica.unam.mx/fmofm](http://www.fisica.unam.mx/fmofm)

It assembles the 3 Medical Physics societies in the country

AMFM, Asociación Mexicana de Física Médica, Mexico City

SOFIMED, Sociedad de Física Médica, Monterrey

DFM, División de Física Médica, Sociedad Mexicana de Física, national

FMOFM is the voice of Mexican medical physicists in IOMP and ALFIM. Its society members (about 75, clinical and academic) include about 1/3 of the clinical medical physics workforce in the country.

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## CERTIFICATION OF CLINICAL MEDICAL PHYSICISTS

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In 2008, the FMOFM delegates met in Mexico City to initiate work towards the Certification of clinical medical physicists (CMP).

It is of the highest importance to consider a model based on the evaluation of professional competences.

To deal with the certification process a group called “Task Group 0” (TG0) was formed. This group will be responsible for the design and development of the entire evaluation process.

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# STEPS IN THE DESIGN PROCESS

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Step 1: Define the professional competences to certify.

Step 2: Design the evaluation tools needed to evaluate the chosen competences . From the definition of “competence” it is clear that the evaluation process must involve written, oral and practical exams.

Step 3: Create the panel of experts that will constitute the first certification council.

Here we can consider several mechanisms, such as national consults among peers, the use of demonstrable curricular information, etc. It is suggested to include the regulatory bodies in the field in this national consult.

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# TGO AGREEMENTS

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1. The process of certification must be kept within the medical physicists community (FMOFM)
2. Certification requires education, clinical experience and an examination
3. The areas to be certified are:
  1. RADIOTHERAPY
  2. NUCLEAR MEDICINE
  3. DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGY
  4. RADIATION PROTECTION ???
4. The concept of “pioneers” or “founders” is acknowledged. A “pioneer” is a CMP with 15 + years experience with the last 5 years of continuous clinical practice. It was proposed that these professionals receive a special treatment in the certification process.

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# TG0 FIRST MEETING AGREEMENTS

## 5. Certification basic requirements

- B Sc + 5 years clinical experience
- M Sc + 3 years clinical experience
- Ph D + 2 years clinical experience

These are similar (in spirit) to IAEA ARCAL 83 document recommendations (i.e., education and training are required). However, this proposal is “softer” since it does not demand a postgraduate degree in Medical Physics. FMOMF considers this as a realistic decision for a first-ever certification process in the country. In Mexico, there are 2 M Sc (Medical Physics) programs that graduate about 15 students per year.

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# NOW

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We are working in the design of the written part of the first examination, creating a bank of multiple-choice questions in basic Radiological Physics and “open answer” questions.

We propose to use the experience of other countries like Canada in our process by reviewing documents such as The Canadian College of Physicists in Medicine (CCPM) Membership Examination.

The next TGO meeting is proposed to be held in Monterrey, in November 2011, during the FMOFM II Medical Physics Congress.

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