



## MEDICAL PHYSICISTS IN RUSSIA

First of all I would like to greet the newly created Society of the Euro-American Medical Physicists. I would like to express my hope that our Society will increase professional and human cooperation, and that the exchange of experience and information will contribute to the fight against cancer. I wish all the members of SEAMP the peaceful life, well-being, happiness and professional success.

The conscious decision to bring up and foster the personnel, named «medical physicist» was made up in Russia at the beginning of 90s, more than 20 years ago. Then it became clear, that modern equipment and technology which have been supplied to radiological and cancer centers could not solve the problem of quality in radiation therapy. By that time the skilled medical physicists who worked in 70s were already at the end of their professional career. The next generation at the age from 35 to 50 was active but their numbers were few, and young physicists who could continue the established traditions were not brought up yet. It was clear that even if the whole country would be equipped with modern technology, there were not enough people who could use that technology properly.

Then Dr. Victor Ivanov, the Chairman of the Department number one of Moscow State Engineering Physics Institute (MEPHI) and Dr. Valery Kostylev, the President of Association of Medical Physicists of Russia took the initiative to establish the Medical Physics major in three MEPHI departments as well as in a department of the Moscow State University.

Today after 10 years personal experience of graduate students training, we can say that the newly graduated physicists who have started to work in health care field still do not have enough knowledge of medicine and poor understanding of the role of a physicist in clinics.

The special departments and attempts to train medical physicists in educational institutions have not brought significant improvement in solving the problem of providing qualified technical personnel for the work in clinical environment, in particular in radiation therapy. The question of fair compensation for a junior medical physicist is still under consideration. Besides, it became clear that only combination of professional education in colleges and universities with clinical training under supervision of experienced physicists of elder generation can prepare fully competent specialists.

Some actions have been taken to solve this problem. Communication among medical physicists and radiotherapists continues at the high professional level during conferences and seminars. Additionally, professional rotations were organized more than two years ago by Association of Medical Physicists of Russia. Leading medical physicists and therapists from different cancer centers of Moscow and S.-Peterburg deliver lectures on all aspects of modern oncology and medical imaging.

The Russian “Medical Physics” journal has been published every three months since 1995. The editorial board of the journal includes leading scientists and experts in the fields of medical physics, engineering, radiology, nuclear medicine and other areas. Dr. V.A. Kostylev is the journal editor.



Young medical physicists from MEPhi (chaired by Prof. Vladimir A. Klimanov ) and Moscow State University (Chaired by Prof. Alexander P. Tchernyaev) are trained in our Department of Medical Physics in N.N.Blokhin Cancer Research Centre of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences. They conduct their research and work on their diplomas. The same students are supported by the special grants «talents» intended for student's scientific research. The grants are offered on a competitive basis for perspective students and graduates of medical and technical higher educational institutions.

Most importantly at present, a uniform radiotherapeutic complex (Varian, Inc.) is commissioned in our Department. This is the result of the unique and comprehensive administrative work of academician Michael I. Davidov, Director of the N.N.Blokhin Cancer Research Center of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences. Now, our department is the center for students to prepare undergraduate and graduate projects as well as for experienced technical and medical personnel to improve their professional skills. Our department will be a part of the Federal Educational Science and Methodical Centre. This project is supported by academician Michael I. Davidov.

We hope to continue cooperation and dialogue with our colleagues from different countries.

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