

responding to Directives which impinge on the practice of medical physics, such as those relating to education and training [2]. EFOMP is now accepted by the EC as the body which speaks for medical physics in Europe.

EFOMP should also be seen as the competent body to decide how the *European Physicist (Eur Phys)* qualification set up recently by the European Physical Society will be applied in the context of medical physics. EFOMP is the obvious partner in setting the standards for *Eur Phys* accorded to applicants whose main area of training and experience involves medical physics. The necessary coordination is achieved by having a member of the EFOMP executive committee on the Registrar Commission that awards *Eur Phys*.

References

- [1] Recommended guidelines on National Registration Schemes for Medical Physicists, Policy Statement No. 6, *Physica Medica* 11 (1995) 157.
 [2] Council Directive of 21 December 1988 on the general system for the recognition of higher education diplomas, etc., *Off. J. of the European Communities* 32 (1989) 16.

EFOMP

The European Federation of Medical Physicists aims to:

- foster and co-ordinate the activities of its member organisations in the field of medical physics, and to collaborate where appropriate with national and international organisations, particularly the International Organisation for Medical Physics (IOMP);
- encourage exchanges between member organisations and the dissemination of professional and scientific information through publications and meetings;
- encourage scholarships and the exchange of medical physicists between countries;
- propose guidelines for education, training and accreditation programmes;
- make recommendations on the appropriate general responsibilities, organisational relationships and roles of workers in the field of medical physics;
- encourage the formation of organisations for medical physics where such organisations do not exist.

Membership of EFOMP is open to the organisation in each European country responsible for the professional and scientific work of medical physicists (it is not open to individuals). EFOMP has seen a steady increase in membership, and now represents 26 national societies in which 5500 individual medical physicists are organised all over Europe. One of the Federation's roles

is to stimulate the organisation of medical physicists in east and central Europe.

The activities of EFOMP are controlled by an annual meeting of Council, in which all member organisations are represented, while the activities are initiated and coordinated by an executive committee.

EFOMP has been able to raise, at an international level in Europe, the awareness of medical physics and the position of medical physicists, particularly through the presentation of policy documents. Council has adopted and published policy documents on: the roles, responsibilities and status of the clinical medical physicist; the education and training of medical physics; departments of medical physics; guidelines for national registration schemes.

Since its foundation the Federation has maintained contact with the individual members of national organisations by publishing the bulletin *European Medical Physics News*, giving news items and details of activities. EFOMP sponsors three international journals and to create opportunities for personal contacts and scientific exchanges, it has initiated a series of triennial conferences on medical physics in close cooperation with the various national organisations.

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Education Network to be Funded

Hendrik Ferdinande (Ghent University), the Coordinator of the European Physics Education Network (EUPEN), reports that the network has been accepted as a Thematic Network in the European Union's SOCRATES Programme. Subject to approval by the Union's financial committee, EUPEN will receive 70 000 ECU for the first year of operation. Some 80 networks were chosen from among over 500 expressions of interest, of which about 30 were retained.

EUPEN [EN 26 (1995) 69] grew out of the *Thematic Evaluation Conference on Physics* which EPS helped organize. A Steering Committee will manage EUPEN, and act as the reference point for EUPEN activities. It was spun off from the conference's Scientific Committee and it will call for advice from the Scientific Committee when necessary. The EPS Interdivisional Group for Physics Education will be coordinating activities with EUPEN.

The two committees aim to establish a consortium agreement or founding convention for the institutions that take part in EUPEN. The actual EUPEN structure will be optimised once the level of involvement of each partner institution is known.

EUPEN's general aims will be achieved through the combined action of five working groups that will treat physics education in a comparative manner. Contact persons from partner institutions to serve and take the lead in one (or more) of the groups are presently being sought. The groups, whose activities will mainly involve conferences and questionnaire-based peer review, cover:

- the student experience: measurement of workloads, assessment of teaching quality, implementation of the European Credit Transfer Scheme, etc.

- curricula structure and development: 1st, 2nd and 3rd levels/cycles, course content and specialisation, physics and/or engineering physics, communication skills, etc.
- organisation of physics studies: comparative statistics, number of students at the various levels, cost per student, *numerus clausus*, fees, student grants, financial support, etc.
- career aspects: recruitment, job orientation, industrial needs, research opportunities, post-doctoral positions, etc.
- research in physics teaching at the University level (distance learning, computer-assisted laboratories, etc.) and at the school level (teacher training, permanent learning, etc.).

A preliminary list of the 107 partner institutions, with details of contact persons, is available at the EUPEN WWW site (<http://all-serv.rug.ac.be/~hferdin/eupen/list.html>) via EurophysNet (<http://epswww.epfl.ch>). Contact hendrik.ferdinande@rug.ac.be (fax: + 32-9-264 66 99 for further information).

1997 Hewlett-Packard Europhysics Prize

The Selection Committee for the Hewlett-Packard Europhysics Prize invites nominations for the 1997 award. The Prize is given for an outstanding contribution to condensed matter physics within the last five years, with the potential for leading advances in electronic, electrical or materials engineering.

Nominations may be submitted by EPS members (Individual Ordinary Members and National Society Members) as individuals or as a representative of a Division, Section or Group. Previous winners have been D.R. Huffman, W. Krätschmer, H.W. Kroto, and R.E. Smalley (1994) and R.H. Friend (1995). To maintain the extremely high standard, it is necessary that the

Committee receives proposals which represent the breadth and strength of European condensed matter physics. Proposals should include the motivation for the award and include, if possible, a brief *curriculum vitae* of each of the nominees and a short list of major publications. Letters of support from authorities in the field which outline the importance of the work are also very helpful. Proposals will be treated in confidence, and although they are acknowledged, there will be no correspondence. Nominations should be sent before **15 December 1996** to the Selection Committee, Hewlett-Packard Euro-physics Prize, EPS, PB 69, CH-1213 Petit-Lancy 2.

Council Delegate

L.J.F. Hermans from the Huygens Laboratory, Leiden, has been elected as a Delegate to the EPS Council of the Individual Ordinary Members following a postal ballot.

Interdivisional WWW Sites

Interdivisional Groups have announced that information on their activities is available on the World-Wide Web as follows:

- Experimental Physics Control Systems: <http://hpcoop01.cern.ch/EPCS>
- Accelerators: <http://www.cern.ch/epac/welcome.html>

Virtual webSites Available

The EPS EurophysNet WWW service is testing a prototype Virtual webSite (VS) service at <http://epswww.epfl.ch/kps> which can be up-loaded by email. Physical societies having difficulty accessing Internet but able to send email messages are being offered webSites. Please contact the Editor for information.