

Medical Physics Status in the Middle East Countries

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INTRODUCTION

- The Establishment of MEFOMP is part of the IOMP effort to organize societies under its umbrella to further enhance and improve the status of medical physics in all regions across the Globe.
- The main goals of this chapter are to promote advancement in medical physics, to educate and train local society members for new procedures and technologies, to encourage exchange of expertise and information among societies and organize regional conferences and symposiums.

THE ESTABLISHMENT PROCESS

Bahrain Meeting: Nov 07

- After the ISEP-2007 conference was adjourned, 12 members representing six ME countries and AAPM (Table 1) organized a meeting to discuss the status of Medical Physics in the region and what International organizations like AAMP and IOMP would do to help in promoting this field.

Table 1 Bahrain Meeting

Country / Organization	Name
USA, AAMP	Dr. Muthanna AlGhazi
USA, AAMP	Dr. Adel Mustafa
Bahrain, BSMPBE	Mr. Adel G. Mohammed
Bahrain, BSMPBE	Mr. Jaffar Mattar
Bahrain, BSMPBE	Dr. Lama Sakhnini
Saudi Arabia, SAMP	Dr. Ahmed Outaif
Saudi Arabia, SAMP	Dr. AbdullaAlHaj
Lebanon, LAMP	Mr. Ibrahim Duhaini
Jordan, JMPS	Mr. Osama El Natsheh
Kuwait	Ms. Abeer Ibrahim
UAE/EMPS	Dr. Jamila Al-Suwaidi
UAE/EMPS	Dr. Mohamed Bayoumi

Dubai Meeting: April 08

During a poster session at the 16th International Conference on Medical Physics held in Dubai on April 2008, Dr. Barry Allen, IOMP President, called on for a meeting for all physics delegates representing ME countries to talk about the progress of establishing the chapter. In that meeting, every delegate signed the "Motion of Intent".

Motion of Intent

"The undersigned agree to inform their national societies of an invitation to form the Middle East Federation of Medical Physics (MEFOMP) for the purpose of supporting the development of Medical Physics in the region.

Following SEAFOMP, EFOMP, and AFOMP the IOMP encourages the formation of this regional federation."

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Name

Signature

<u>Ibrahim Daham (Lebanon)</u>	<u>Ibrahim</u>
<u>Bahrain Medical physics & Biomedical Engineering Society (Bahrain)</u>	<u>Mohd</u>
<u>Jordanian Association for physicists in Medicine Abdelhameed Alyassin</u>	<u>Fayassin @jordanian-af</u>
<u>Dr. Feras Afaneh (Jordan)</u> afaneh@hu.edu.jo	<u>FerF</u>
<u>DR. R. RAVICHANDRAN (From Royal Hospital, MUSCAT, OMAN)</u> (For OMAN, Presently no Society for Medical Physics Exists) (ravichandranrama@rediffmail.com)	<u>Ravichandra</u>
<u>Dr. Ahmed M. Outif (KSA).</u> aoutif@kfmc.med.sa	<u>AO</u>
<u>Dr. Ahmed M. Alenezi (SAUDI ARABIA)</u> alenezi-ahmed@yahoo.co.uk mohdalthallag@gmail.com	<u>Alenezi</u> (UAE)

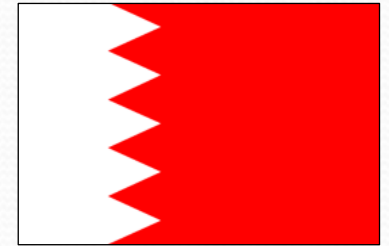
Follow Up

- After that, communication line was established to include all countries in the Middle East to join this chapter. Table 2 shows the list of MEFOMP and information about local societies. Three countries are in the progress of establishing their own society (Iraq, Kuwait, and Yemen).
- Some countries lack resources and so it took more time to establish their own society, however, a lot of efforts are put with the help of Professional Medical Physicists from international organizations like IOMP, IAEA, AAMP and others.
- In the following section, some detailed information about the status medical physics in the ME countries is included. Very few countries offer MS degree in Medical physics, so a lot of the graduates are coming from Europe or USA.

Table 2 MEFOMP List

President / Contact	No#	Society	Country
Dr. Lama Sakhini	40	SMPBE	Bahrain
Dr. Alireza Mehdizadeh	260	IAMP	Iran
Ms. Alizabith Batyo		none	Iraq
Dr. Abdalmajeid Alyassin	50	JAPM	Jordan
Dr. Ahmed Outif.	150	SAMPS	KSA
Mr. Mohamed Shaaban		none	Kuwait
Mr. Ibrahim Duhaini	10	LAMP	Lebanon
Dr. R. Ravichandran		None	Oman
Dr. Huda Al Naemi	3	HMC	QATAR
Dr Mohammad Kharita	30	SAMP	Syria
Dr. Jamila Al Suwadi	38	EMPS	UAE
None		None	Yemen

A. Bahrain



Bahrain Society of Medical Physics and Bio-engineering has been established in February 2008, and there are about 40 members. At present the Department of Physics at University of Bahrain is responsible for organizing Medical Physics courses for training students and professionals. The department offers a BS degree in Medical Physics, where at this time there are 30 students enrolled in the program. Moreover the department offers courses and workshops aimed for Physicians and Radiographers working in local Hospitals. For the names of the board members of the society and details of the activities please visit the website www.bsmpbe.org

B. Iran



The Iranian Association of Medical Physicists (IAMP) was established 10 years ago and at present is one of the most active non-governmental scientific associations among other scientific associations in this country. The president and committee in charge of IAMP are elected every 3 years by the members under auspices of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education of Iran. This committee has 7 members including the president. The association has 260 registered members working in different disciplines of Medical Physics, including 125 PhD holders (Nearly all of them university faculty members and professors) and 135 MS holders who are either PhD students at present or working in hospitals. This association runs a congress every two years about scientific achievements of researchers in Iran. At present 4 universities run Ph. D course and 7 universities run MS course involved in educating those interested in the field of Medical physics. For more information check this site <http://www.iamp.hbi.ir/>

C. Iraq



The Medical Physics society in Iraq is in the process of establishment.

(Dr. Muthana will give us more details because he is following that on a day by day basis).

D. Jordan



The Jordanian Association for Physicists in Medicine, JAPM, was founded in Dec 2006. Currently, JAPM consists of 50 members. Typically, JAPM conducts several scientific and social activities throughout the year. Yarmouk University offers an undergraduate degree in Biomedical Physics & Jordan University offers a master degree in Medical Physics. For more information:

www.jordanianapm.org.

E. Kuwait



There is no medical physics society established yet, and there are around 15 medical physics.

F. Lebanon



In 2005, a group of physicists organized a conference for Radiation Protection and Safety in collaboration with IAEA in Beirut. A new committee called Medical Exposures Control Committee was formed. In 2007, the Lebanese Association of Medical Physics was established and a lot of efforts were made by writing the Constitution and opening the membership to other related field since there are only 7 medical physics working in Lebanon.

G. Oman



There is no Medical physics society established yet but there are 6 PhD level qualified Medical Physicists, 4 B.S level medical physicists, and 1 Dosimetrist.

Regarding the formation of local society, it is believed that non-locals working in MOH cannot form such associations, and only local medical physicists only should initiate such society formation

H. Qatar



There is no local society for medical physicists established yet. However, a group of physicists trying to establish a local physics society at Hamad Medical Corporation (5 hospitals).

I. Saudi Arabia



The SAMPS was established in 2008 and it has more than 150 members.

J. Syria



The SAMP is in the process of establishment with more than 25 member.

K. United Arab Emirates



The EMPS was established in September 2005 under Emirates Medical Association. Member are now 38 and a lot of educational activities in the field of MP were organized by EMPS.

L. Yemen



No Information provided yet.



CONCLUSIONS

The final step of this new chapter is the official inauguration which will take place during the WC 2009 after approving the suggested constitution and the participating countries.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I would like to thank all country delegates for their updated information regarding their Medical Physics Societies.