

AbstractID: 10309 Title: Medical Physicist Education in P.R.China

Present Status of Medical Physics and Hospital Physicist Training: There are about 3,300 physicists being involved in research, teaching and working in different areas relating to medicine. However there is so far no systematic training program for medical physicists recognised by the Educational Ministry of the central government. In recent years, programs of training medical physicists for B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees have been established in several universities.

Demands of Medical Physicists in the Radiation Oncology Community: Though the number of medical radiation physicists increased from about 80 in 1986 to 1181 in 2006, the gap between market demands and number of available qualified medical physicists has become even larger due to the increase of the number of radiotherapy units. The statistics will be analyzed and presented. Based on the analysis of the problem, solutions will be proposed.

Solution of the Problem: Policy support and professional recognition of medical physicist from authorities are two key issues that need urgent attention. At the same time a strict accreditation system needs to be set up to encourage continuing education and training of medical physicists. A nationwide four-level promotion system may be part of the solutions, and will be described.