

AbstractID: 11899 Title: Education, Training and Certification of Medical Physicists in Canada

Canada has been strong in medical physics since the discovery of x rays in 1895 and this tradition continues. The main characteristics of Canadian medical physics are: a high level of professionalism; strong national medical physics organizations; excellent graduate and residency teaching programs, many of them CAMPEP accredited, spread across Canada; a certification process run by medical physicists for medical physicists; excellent research productivity; and concentration of academic and clinical medical physics programs in larger centers.

The current number of medical physicists practicing in Canada exceeds 500 (15 medical physicists per million population). There are two national medical physics organizations in Canada: the Canadian Organization of Medical Physicists (COMP) with over 500 members and the Canadian College of Physicists in Medicine (CCPM) with close to 300 Members and Fellows.

The certification of medical physicists in Canada is run by the CCPM. The process started in 1979 and offers two levels of certification: the base level CCPM Membership is attained through a rigorous written and oral examination and the advanced level CCPM Fellowship is attained through a rigorous oral examination. The minimum requirements for CCPM Membership are an advanced degree in Physics (preferably in the medical physics specialty) and 3 years of clinical experience; for CCPM Fellowship they are a CCPM Membership and 8 years of clinical experience.