

Recently, the increase in the number and complexity of medical equipment need for more educated and trained medical physicists in Korea. The aim of this presentation is to discuss the status of medical physics, the education/training programs, and the accreditation system in Korea.

The Korea Society of Medical Physics (KSMP) was first founded in 1990. In the last decade, KSMP is growing very rapidly not only the increased numbers but the internationally recognized society.

There are more than five universities to offer the post-graduate medical physics program. Currently some radiological science colleges, which have already changed to a four year program, offer the graduate degree in the field of medical physics. KSMP have also been providing an advanced education program for junior medical physicists, who never took a regular medical physics programs and need to prepare for a certification examination.

Clinical training have been obtained through a hospital based residency and/or post-doctoral program, with the goal of eventually becoming certified by a national certification board. Currently, there is only one KSMP accredited medical physics residency program and the other is waiting for accreditation.

The accreditation system of medical physicists was approved by the “Certifying Examination Committee for Medical Physics, KSMP” in 1991. Currently, Korea does not administer a national accreditation system for medical physicists. However, the KSMP administers the accreditation program of medical physics based on international standard. Currently, we confer full accreditation after the candidate passing examinations including written, practical and oral tests.

At present, there are 56 certified medical physicists in the field of therapeutic radiological physics (50), diagnostic radiological physics (3) and nuclear medicine physics (3). Recently, there has been an important issue associating with the national certification for medical physicists. Probably, the national certification or license will be endorsed by Government in near future.