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A special edition of the newsletter was also uploaded in the IOMP and BMPA web-pages
http://www.iomp.org/idmp/index.php/events-2015/59-11th-iranian-conference-of-medical-physics/event_details
and <http://bmpaweb.org/newsletter/> respectively.

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ASSOCIATION NEWS

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PHYSICS IN MEDICINE AND CLINICAL NEUROELECTROPHYSIOLOGY



An international conference on 'Physics in Medicine and Clinical Neuroelectrophysiology (PMCN2015)' was held during 19-20 February, 2015 at the Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate building of the University of Dhaka. The event was organized jointly by the Bangladesh Medical Physics Association (BMPA), Bangladesh Clinical Neuro Electrophysiologists Society (BCNEPS) and the Department of Biomedical Physics & Technology of Dhaka University (BMPT-DU). International Organisation of Medical Physics (IOMP) and American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM) endorsed the conference.

The presence of about 230 participants made the conference a great success. Eighty contributory papers and 20 Invited talks from home and abroad, including one directly from the USA through internet, were presented in the conference.

National Professor M R Khan was the Chief Guest at the Inauguration ceremony. Professor S Mukarram Ali, Chairman and Managing Director of Delta Medical College & Hospital and Mr. Mir Mahaboob Ali, MD of Tradevision Ltd representing Varian Medical Systems were the Special Guests at the occasion. Three theme lectures on the topics of Radiation diagnosis and therapy, Innovative Clinical Neuroelectrophysiology as adapted to local situations, and empowering people through building indigenous capability in the design and manufacture of appropriate medical devices were presented by Professor Sadiq Malik, Chief Medical Physicist of Delta Medical College & Hospital, Professor Naila Zaman Khan, President of BCNEPS and founder of Paediatric Neurology at the Children's Hospital, Dhaka and Professor K Siddique-e Rabbani, President of BMPTA and Chairperson of BMPT-DU respectively.

At the ceremony, Dr. Abdus Sattar Syed was honoured through an award for his pioneering role in establishing indigenous Medical Physics Research in Bangladesh as early as in 1978 and Dr. Syed Reza Husain for lifetime contribution in Medical Physics through establishing the importance of Medical Physicists in hospitals and for establishing the first Radiation Oncology facility in a private hospital in Bangladesh.

Professor Rabbani chaired the event. The main sponsor of the event was Varian Medical Systems.

Professor John Damilakis, Chairman, Education & Training Committee, International Organization of Medical Physics (IOMP), whose visit was sponsored by IOMP to assist in the medical physics education, accreditation and certification process, delivered 2 lectures on *"IOMP perspective on education and training of Medical Physicists"* and *"Accreditation, certification and Recognition issues"*. Professor M. Saiful Huq, Director of Medical Physics Division, Department of Radiation Oncology, University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute and UPMC Cancer Center presented his paper titled *"Radiation therapy: state of the art and the future"* over Skype. Dr. Salahuddin Ahmad, Professor of Radiation Oncology and Director of Medical Physics, Stephenson Cancer Center, University of Oklahoma HSC, gave his lecture on *"Treatment Plan Evaluation and Optimization Based on Radiobiologic Parameters"*.

The BMPT department of Dhaka University also exhibited their research outcomes and innovative low cost products related to healthcare during the conference. The fact that some of these innovations have already crossed the borders, inspired many participants in the conference, most of whom were young researchers.



International Day of Medical Physics observed at Dhaka, Bangladesh

To celebrate the 3rd **International Day of Medical Physics (IDMP)** on **7 November, 2015** and to raise awareness about the role that medical physicists play for benefit of patients, Bangladesh Medical Physics Association (BMPA) organized a Seminar and Press Conference in Dhaka, Bangladesh with the theme:

‘Better Medical Physics = Better Cancer Care in Radiation Oncology’

The event was held at the Auditorium of National Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (NINMAS) in the campus of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU). About 50 professionals were present in the seminar. The Secretary of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of the Government of People’s Republic of Bangladesh and the Vice Chancellor of BSMMU were present as the Chief Guest and the Special Guests respectively. Pro-Vice Chancellor and Chairman of Department of Oncology of BSMMU, Director of NINMAS, former Vice Chancellor of Shahjalal University of Science & Technology, Chairman of the Department of Biomedical Medical Physics and Technology of Dhaka University, President of Oncology Club and many renowned persons were present in the seminar.



News of the Department of Biomedical Physics & Technology of Dhaka University

M.S. with separate emphasis on Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering

The department of Biomedical Physics & Technology (BMPT) of Dhaka University had PhD and MPhil programmes only when it was initiated in 2008. Since early 2013 it started giving an MS course which combined topics in both Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering. Since early 2015, it has started giving MS with specialization in two separate streams - Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering. The Medical Physics students will have an internship for 3 months at the end of their course – one month in Nuclear Medicine and two months in Radiation Oncology. The Biomedical Engineering students will have both laboratory sessions throughout the duration of the course and a research based thesis at the end. The first batch of Medical Physics students under this arrangement, comprising of 9 students, has already started internship at the National Institute for Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (NINMAS).

Annual Research Exhibition

Since 2010, the department has been organizing an annual exhibition of its research and development programmes and medical products developed by this department on the Dhaka University day, which is celebrated on 1 July each year. This exhibition was held as usual in the Curzon Hall building, in a varendah in front of the department. The exhibition drew a good crowd and earned appreciation of the visitors.

Participates in Digital World 2015

The department exhibited its IT enabled medical devices and Telemedicine system at the Digital World Exhibition 2015, Dhaka, organized by the Ministry of ICT and BASIS.

Dhaka University approves the title, ‘Dhaka University Telemedicine Programme’ for the department’s telemedicine dissemination project

The department had developed a telemedicine system with integrated diagnostic equipment like stethoscope, ECG machine, etc., earlier and took up a field trial of this system in a few rural centres with the help of a local NGO since 2013. In 2015 Access to Information (a2i) programme of the Government gave a grant for expanding the field trial further. With a successful result of this field trial, the department now plans to expand the project throughout Bangladesh, to rural areas where qualified doctors are not available. On an application from the department, the Syndicate of the University of Dhaka has recently approved the use of the name, “**Dhaka University Telemedicine Programme**” for this project and the Directorate General of Health of the Bangladesh Government has also approved this programme.

Receives a grant of Tk.2.45 million from A2I of PMO, Bangladesh Govt

The Department received a grant of Tk.2,450,000 from Access to Information (a2i) programme of the Prime Minister’s Office of Bangladesh Government for its project, “*Field Trial of Telemedicine using locally developed PC based diagnostic equipment and software*”. This fund has helped expand the field trial which the department took up earlier on its own initiative.

Receives a prestigious Asia-Pacific grant of AUD 30,000

The Department received a prestigious grant of AUD 30,000 (Australian Dollar) from Information Society Innovation Fund-Asia, which is administered from Australia, for its project, “*Development of mobile phone based telemedicine with interfaced diagnostic equipment for essential healthcare in rural areas of Low Resource Countries*”. The department’s proposal was one of the four chosen from 166 applications from 23 countries. ISIF Asia grants Selection Committee member, David Rowe said “This is real innovation, addressing local issues and designed for local conditions like power and maintainability.” ISIF Asia is an initiative supported by the Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the Swedish government through the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) and the Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC). The grants for 2015 have also been sponsored by the Internet Society, the Dot Asia Organization, ICANN and APIA.

Receives a grant of Tk.500,000 from Ministry of Science & Technology, Bangladesh Govt

The Department received a grant of Tk. 500,000 from the Ministry of Science & Technology of the Bangladesh Government for its project, “*Development and dissemination of innovative safe drinking water techniques for rural areas, urban slums and saline laden coastal areas*”.

Continues receiving yearly grant from International Science Programme (ISP) of Uppsala University, Sweden

The Department has been receiving an yearly grant, renewable every few years based on the evaluation by ISP's team of international experts, for its various innovative projects on healthcare technology, specifically in the fields of Electrical Impedance, Nerve conduction measurement and low cost safe drinking water production for rural areas. This year's grant was valued at SEK414,000.

Beximco Pharmaceuticals commits a grant of Tk.1,000,000 from its CSR fund

Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd., a renowned private company, has committed a grant of Tk.1,000,000 to Professor K Siddique-e Rabbani for research projects under his leadership that benefit the common people. Of this Tk.500,000 has already been paid and the rest will be paid in early 2016.

Beximco Pharmaceuticals donates 5 on-line digital ECG machines to Entrepreneurs working with the department's Telemedicine Project

Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd., has donated 5 on-line digital ECG machines to 5 Telemedicine Entrepreneurs in rural areas who are working in the Telemedicine programme of the department. It may be mentioned that these ECG machines were made by BiBEAT Ltd., a local non-profit company, using an original design developed by the Department itself. The department had made an MOU with BiBEAT Ltd., earlier to this end.

Seminar at BMPT on Biotribology

Dr. Santanu Kumar Karmakar, Professor & Ex-Head, Department of Mechanical Engineering and Dean, Alumni Affairs & External Relations of Indian Institute of Engineering Science & Technology, Shibpur, Kolkata, India presented the new topic of BIOTRIBOLOGY – ITS RELEVANCE IN HEALTHCARE at a seminar of the department on 24 December, 2015.

Mr. M A Kadir presents department's innovations on safe drinking water in Mozambique

On a request by the Representative of IDB in Bangladesh the ERD of Bangladesh Government nominated the department to present its innovations in the low cost technologies for safe drinking water at an Innovation Exhibition held during the Annual Meeting of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) in Mozambique during 7-11 June, 2015. Mr. M Abdul Kadir, Assistant Professor of the Department (the current Chairperson) represented the department at this exhibition.

Professor Rabbani attends annual meeting of Health Technology Task Group (HTTG) in Toronto, Canada

As a member of the group, Professor K Siddique-e Rabbani attended the annual meeting of HTTG in Toronto, Canada on June 6, 2015. HTTG is an organ of the International Union of Physical and Engineering Sciences in Medicine (IUPESM), a Geneva based international organization, of which IOMP is a member.

Professor Rabbani gives invited talk and at HTTG Workshop in Toronto, Canada

Professor K Siddique-e gave an invited talk on '*Innovations in the use of mobile devices in healthcare*:'

Implementation, Barriers and Policy Issues in Resource-limited Regions (RLR) at the HTTG workshop, Toronto, Canada on June 11, 2015.

Mr. Ahmed Raihan Abir presents country paper at Health Technology Seminar (HTM) in Toronto, Canada

Mr. Ahmed Raihan Abir, a PhD student of the department, presented the country paper representing Bangladesh at the HTM Seminar in Toronto, Canada during June 8-12, 2015. Prof Rabbani also attended the seminar.

Professor Rabbani presents two papers at the World Congress on Medical Physics (WC2015) in Toronto, Canada

Professor K Siddique-e Rabbani presented two papers at WC2015 in Toronto, Canada during June 7-12, 2015. The topics were, i) Distribution of F-Latency (DFL) - a new nerve conduction parameter for early detection of Radiculo-Myelopathy, ii) Ways to outreach medical devices in Low Resource Countries

Professor Rabbani and Mr. Ahmed Raihan Abir presents department's Telemedicine system and the on-line digital ECG equipment at HTTG Workshop in Toronto, Canada

Professor K Siddique-e Rabbani and Mr. Ahmed Raihan Abir gave a practical demonstration of the department's Telemedicine system and the on-line digital ECG equipment at HTTG Workshop in Toronto, on June 11, 2015.

Professor Rabbani attends Global Forum 2015 on Research and Innovation in Health, Philippines

The Global Forum 2015 on Research and Innovation in Health, held in Manila, Philippines, during August 24-27, 2015 was a grand event. It was participated by more than 2500 delegates from 72 countries and there were over 200 speakers and presenters. Organised by the Geneva based Council on Health Research and Development (COHRED), it was hosted by Department of Science and Technology and the Department of Health of the Philippine Government along with the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development. Professor Rabbani participated in the forum as a Fellow of the Information Society Innovation Fund-Asia (ISIF-Asia).

Professor Rabbani gives invited talk at many events in Bangladesh

Professor K Siddique-e Rabbani was invited to give lectures on the research and development work in various areas of healthcare technology carried out in the department under his leadership and national policy issues. Some of these events are:

- i. Bangladesh Network Operators' Group (bdNOG4) meeting, 11 November 2015.
- ii. Export Promotion Bureau, special lecture, 14 December 2015.
- iii. ICEEIT-2015, held at Dhaka University, May 2015.
- iv. EICT-2015 at Khulna University of Engg & Technology, December, 2015.
- v. Military Institute of Science & Technology, Special Lecture, February 2015.
- vi. Rotary Club, Gulshan, Dhaka, Special Lecture, April 2015.
- vii. Breast Cancer Conference organized by Tasmia Tahmid Breast Care Centre, October, 2015.

Other News

Dr. Kamila Afroj Quadir attends technical expert meeting in Nepal

In order to produce quality medical physicists in the RCA region, IAEA has taken an initiative to develop guidelines for assessment and certification for medical physics education and training. A technical expert meeting in this regard was held at Kathmandu, Nepal during 30 Nov - 3 Dec 2015. The participating experts were: Dr.

Brendan Healy (IAEA), Dr. Kamila Afroj Quadir (Bangladesh), Dr. Supriyanto Ardjo Pawiro (Indonesia), Dr. Kwan Hoong Ng (Malaysia), Dr. Muhammad Basim Kakakhel (Pakistan) along with the local counterpart Dr. Kanchan Adhikari (Nepal). This is the third meeting of an ongoing series of meetings on “*Recommendations on accreditation and certification for Medical Physics Education and Clinical Training in the RCA region*”

The accreditation and certification of medical physicists who are working in hospitals is now a burning issue for the region. The IAEA training course series 37, 47 and 50 are to be used for clinical training in Radiation Oncology, Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine respectively. The draft guideline is in the process of preparation and recommendations are being prepared in such a manner that each IAEA member country in the RCA region will be able to adapt it to their national standard.



OBITUARY

Dr. Abdus Sattar Syed, former scientist of BCSIR and e-commerce entrepreneur, died of cardiac arrest on 11 June 2015 at around 11 PM. He was 80. Dr. Sattar was a pioneer of medical physics in Bangladesh. He also led the research work for manufacturing telephone sets and colour television in the country. Dr. Sattar left behind his wife and three sons. He was buried at Banani Graveyard beside his parents.



-End of Newsletter-