Current efforts and initiatives to raise awareness safety culture in Latin America

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ALFIM: Asociación Latino Americana de Física Médica

An organization to support and encourage the development of Medical Physics in Latin American Countries

It is a scientist-cultural, non-profit civil association, without any political, religious or racial discrimination.

Established in 18 July 1984
COUNTRIES:
1. Argentina
2. Brazil
3. Chile
4. Colombia
5. Cuba
6. México
7. Panamá
8. Paraguay
9. Peru
10. Venezuela

ACTUAL Directory:

President: Simone Koddulovich Renha (Brazil)
Vice-president: Sandra Guzman (Peru)
Secretary: Rosana Sagnone (Argentina)
Syndic: Ileana Fleitas (Cuba)
Safety Culture

One essential condition to establish safety culture in medical institutions:

1. **Role of the MP:** are the stakeholders aware of how fundamental is the presence of the MP in the service?

2. **Demand:** Medical physics well-prepared and trained in all areas, radiotherapy, diagnostic and nuclear medicine
What does it include for Medical Physicist

- BSS requirements
- Training of medical staff
- Equipment QC testing
- Dose evaluations
- Risk estimations and communication
- Protocol optimizations
- Periodic and regular monitoring of doses
- Creating and monitoring of the system of dose and quality management

Dr Rehani
Main Efforts: Diagnostic...follow-up

▲ Education and Training: Medical Physics - up-date the data of MP courses and respective syllabus

▲ Legislation Status: review of the existing legislations in the countries, level of adequacy to GSR-Part 3

▲ MP organizations: expert groups to implement specifics action plan

▲ Regulatory Authorities
Main Efforts: Communication

Open a communication channel with the representatives of all countries in the region:

- WEBPAGE: www.alfim.net
- FACEBOOK: Fisica Medica Alfim
- ALFIM magazine
- Skype, msn, email ...all tools are totally open
- Disseminate: material available and opportunities
Main Efforts:
Open the discussion

▲ Promote the discussion of the MP professional issues, including main responsibilities and attributions, in conferences and congress

▲ Refreshing courses – distribution of free material
Main Efforts: Medical Physics Societies

- Incentive and Support:
  - To implement Medical Physics society in the countries
  - To strengthen medical Physics societies
  As an important role in the recognition of medical physicist

- Latin America: 33 countries - Nowadays there is only 10 MP societies in place and the numbers of members are very limited.
Main Efforts: 3 points!

- Lack of medical physicist in the region
- Lack of courses
- Lack of legislation

These points are correlated: without the legislation, there is no obligation to hire a MP, no job, no incentive to study medical physics, no demand for courses.
Main Efforts: MP

▲ Lack of medical physicist: in many countries is very difficult to get the adequate formal education in the own country, nowadays there is no incentive to dedicate effort where no job is available

- ALFIM is working in the process of development of medical physics courses
- Discussion of the syllabus
- Visiting universities, promoting conferences in education and training issues
Main Efforts: Legislation

- Legislation and Regulatory body: ALFIM started the discussion with the representatives of regulatory body.

- There are some inconsistencies that should be reviewed:
  - Existence of requirement of MP in the medical facilities – the profession is not recognized.
  - Existence of requirement of MP in the medical facilities – NO medical physics course available, no practical training.
  - High technologies – no requirements for MP.
  - Evidences of some progress in RT, none for NM and RD.
Main Efforts: Education

- Lack of Medical Physics Courses: Education - an essential part of the process
- ALFIM are working in the development/revision of the syllabus of some University and also evaluating the possibility to create new ones in the countries or in some regions.
- Education material: development of education material in Spanish
- Dissemination: To facilitate access to existing material
- Certification process: Courses and MP – No exist!
- Promoting the information about residences programs – Much to do!!!
Main Efforts: international cooperation

• ALFIM is seeking to strengthen partnerships with international organization

• IAEA
• PAHO
• AAPM
• IOMP

• Although exist a good relationship is necessary to establish a plan of joint action in order to improve the medical physics in the region
Thank you

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