



Taller "Cultura de Protección Radiológica en Medicina"

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

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ALFIM President**

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:

<i>President:</i>	Simone Kodlulovich Renha (Brazil)
<i>Vice-president:</i>	Sandra Guzman (Peru)
<i>Secretary:</i>	Rosana Sagnone (Argentina)
<i>Syndic:</i>	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**



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

conferences

& meetings



- ▲ **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.

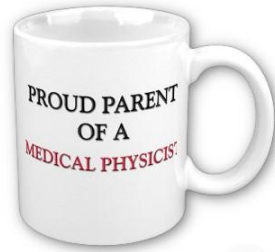
Main Efforts: 3 points!



- **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

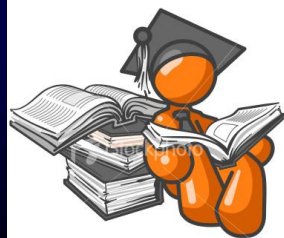
Main Efforts: Legislation



- ▲ **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
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- ▲ 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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