

President's annual report 2015

Dear colleagues,

In the following I am trying to summarize the activities of SSRMP which have been taking place during the last year. By definition, a summary is always just a condensation of information and I try to do my best in order to highlight the most important aspects.

Certainly, my first year as president of SSRMP started with a big highlight: the “birthday party” of our Society in Luzern. In perfect physics related atmosphere – in the Hans Erni auditorium at the Verkehrshaus – we celebrated the 50st anniversary of SSRMP. It was due to the seamless organization of the corresponding committee members, the excellent presentations of the speakers, and the attendees in good temper that this event was so successful and is related to unforgettable impressions.

During the last year, we had five board meetings and we had many challenging discussions and also difficult decisions to take. In my opinion, during all the discussions, we were rigorously aiming to find solutions and to make progress. It was our sincere intention to guide the “SSRMP boat” through both, troubled and untroubled water, by looking at the most relevant and urgent aspects. I appreciate very much the friendly ambiance within the board and hence would like to express my gratitude to all board members for their efforts and their support during the last year.

After the elections on the last year's general assembly, the board has been constituted. According to the elections, Raphaël Moeckli took over the chair of SSRMP science committee. Frédéric Corninboeuf is chairing the education committee and the professional affairs committee is headed by Jean-Yves Ray. More details on the activities within their committees is given by the corresponding reports of these permanent committees. As in the last years, Daniel Vetterli is serving as our secretary and Werner Roser is taking care of finance issues and is thus our treasurer. In the bulletins of winter 2014 and spring 2015 you find additional information and also some short portraits of the board members. Although not board members, I would like to mention the bulletin editors and I would like to thank them for their great work.

In the last year, several SSRMP topics were associated to relationships to other societies or organizations. An important step was the setup of a contract with DGMP and OEGMP in order to solve current formal issues related to the “Winterschule Pichl” and to enable the future development of this commonly executed education program. Our relationship to BAG has a long tradition and in 2015 we had discussed several aspects with representatives of BAG on different occasions. Most urgently was the discussion about the planned revision of the radiation protection ordinance and the potential consequences for medical physics. Just recently, the official “Anhörung” has been launched and the SSRMP board will be getting in touch soon with the SSRMP members in order to collect feedback from the medical physics and radiobiology community. In addition, the issue of bunker shielding for linacs has been evaluated together with BAG and representatives of industry. After discussion at the AMP meeting in Bern, a working group has launched a corresponding survey and it is foreseen that more than half of the radio-oncology institutes in Switzerland will participate in that survey and will provide relevant data with respect to the current practice of bunker shielding.

The SSRMP certification is a key issue of our Society and we all know that the SSRMP certification plays an essential role for our educational strategies and the professional aspects. Historically, the idea of SSRMP certification was developed in the 80's and was continuously adapted over the years and converged to the current version. In 2015, several meetings took place (e.g. at the AMP meeting in Bern) and many more emails were sent and replied to and resulted in a draft of new guidelines which was presented at the general assembly on October 21, 2015 in Fribourg. It was mainly due to the work by

Hans Roser that this draft has been developed. I personally hope that the voting will be successful and that the new guidelines are going to be effective by January 1st 2016.

After a long time of development, thanks to the persistence and efforts of Raphaël Moeckli, the new SSRMP website was launched in summer 2015 and SSRMP is now represented in a more modern style. Appreciatively, Jean-Yves Ray has taken over the task of the web editor but everyone is welcome to support him in the further development and improvement of the website.

Interestingly, the SSRMP annual meeting 2015 coincided with a famous date of one of the “Back to the Future” movies: 21.10.2015. It took place in Fribourg and I would like to thank Pierre-Alain Tercier and his colleagues for their willingness to organize this meeting. I am sure that this meeting has given us another great opportunity to discuss common issues and to develop new ideas on how to improve our field of medical physics and radiobiology.

SSRMP is not only recognized as a national but also as an international society. It has done a great job over the past 50 years to develop the field of medical physics and radiobiology. It has been a great idea of the founders of SSRMP to setup this Society, and it is the merit of our predecessors that SSRMP has such a high level of reputation. In this context, I would like to note that the current impact factor of the SSRMP related journal – Zeitschrift für Medizinische Physik – has increased to a value of 2.963. However, the story is not finished, yet. Our Society is still needed and I would like to motivate all of you to get involved in the aspects of our Society. Your contribution is important and by actively participating in one or more of our working groups you can influence not only your own work but also have impact to others. We have excellent institutes in Switzerland with top-quality equipment where daily clinical practice, research and development as well as educational activities are performed on the highest level. Collaboration between peers has always been easily established within SSRMP. We are sharing ideas, concepts and are open-minded. It has always been no big deal to get in touch with SSRMP members and to attend working group meetings. I hope, and I will do my best, that these qualities and features are still seen to be essential and will continue to be supported in the future.

On occasion of the anniversary meeting in Luzern I was saying already that we have the best profession in the world and I would like to emphasize here, again, that we are involved in the most fascinating physics I can imagine. Medical physics is dealing with questions of all fields of physics: The physics behind it is experimental, theoretical and applicable. It is influenced by particle physics, solid-state physics, statistical mechanics, and quantum mechanics. There is electrodynamics inside as well as mathematics, computing science, and biology. It feels challenging, it feels complicated, and it feels absolutely right.

Peter Manser, Bern, 21.10.2015