

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

Dear colleagues,

Initially, everything looked great...In November last year our SSRMP general assembly took place at PSI during the annual meeting. Sibylle Bollhalder, Sairos Safai and Tony Lomax organized the meeting at PSI and put together a very exciting program – a big thank you to all of them. The meeting offered a broad range of presentations and posters, which led to stimulating discussions, and meeting the industry sponsors made the breaks very enjoyable. Furthermore, in three excellent presentations the invited speakers Rob Coppes, Gunther Dissertori and Thomas Bortfeld shared their experiences and opinions from tissue resembling organoids over a personal travelogue to the democratizing of proton therapy.

During the general assembly, it was also announced to hold the next annual meeting in Thun. However, as you all know, the Covid-19 emergency has impacted our lives quite significantly and we are challenged daily with new rules including ways to interact with each other. This also impacts our society. While many activities were postponed or cancelled, some activities remained the same in terms of content, but obviously were amended or have to be amended in their form. One example is this year's general assembly, which was entirely carried out over zoom along with the elections organized via polyas.ch. I thank all of you for your



personal efforts and your understanding during this special pandemic time.

Within the last year the board held 5 meetings (mostly virtual). Many different topics were discussed and can be summarized as follows:

- One AMP meeting
- Support of SSRMP working groups
- Discussions with BAG
- Collaborations with other societies
- SSRMP continuous education day
- SSRMP member salary survey
- Research grant
- Varian prize
- Annual meeting in Thun

In December 2019 the last physical AMP meeting took place where Janita van Timmeren and Raphaël Moeckli presented excellent introductions into radiomics and artificial intelligence, respectively, followed by a stimulating discussion on practical applications. Also, there are currently several working groups active in generating reports and recommendations. I not only appreciate the efforts and engagement of the working group members, but also the efforts of the science committee for their support in reviewing the drafts.

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Based on many discussions over the last years, the “Concept for the acquisition of the evidence of radiation protection expertise for SSRMP certified Medical Physicists in Switzerland” was composed and discussed with the BAG. This concept has been recognized by BAG and was officially introduced for all new accepted candidates for the board certification from July 1st 2020. I would like to thank especially Peter Manser and Frédéric Corminboeuf for their huge efforts spent on this topic. Personally, I am very happy that we now have such a clear concept for the radiation protection training in place. In addition, we currently are in discussions with BAG about a concept for the acquisition of the continuous education for radiation protection for SSRMP certified medical physicists.

Further, I would like to mention the collaboration with other societies. Based on the experience of SCR’19 in St. Gallen, we continued the excellent collaboration for the SCR’20 as mentioned already last year. Several interesting joint sessions with other societies (SGR, SGNM, SSVIR, SVMTRA) were organized, however, due to the pandemic situation the congress has been postponed and is now scheduled for June 2021 in Davos. I want to point out the very supportive and constructive collaboration with these societies, which I think is an important aspect for our SSRMP. So, I look forward to this

conference next year. Additionally, also the “Winter School: Dosimetry-Guided Treatment Planning for Radionuclide Therapy” was postponed and is now rescheduled for January 2021 with online access.

In addition, there were also several exchanges with DGMP and ÖGMP. One topic is related to our society journal “*Zeitschrift für Medizinische Physik*” (ZMP). The publisher Elsevier would like to offer ZMP as an open access journal. Based on the survey to all members of the three societies, also the members are in favor of this transition. Thus, the boards of the three societies mutually agreed to negotiate with Elsevier about a new contract for ZMP as open access journal. Negotiations are still ongoing. A second topic is related to discussions in the context of the next Dreiländertagung in September 2021 in Vienna. Although currently planned as a physical meeting, the options for a virtual meeting are also considered.

Other potential SSRMP event highlights in 2020 would have been the continuous education day and the annual meeting 2020. For the continuous education day with the topic “*Challenges of medical physicists in the operating theatre*” Stefano Gianolini had everything prepared and ready to go before it had to be cancelled due to the pandemic situation. Similarly, Daniel Frauchiger and Silvan Müller did a

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lot of work in order to prepare the annual meeting in Thun. For now, I would greatly thank all of them for their efforts and engagement for the preparation of these events.

Apart from the activities already mentioned, there were many more going on over the last year and I would like to point to the dedicated **reports by the three permanent committee chairs** for more information about further SSRMP topics. However, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Regina Seiler, who acted as chair of the education committee ad interim, to Jean-Yves Ray (professional chair) and to Raphaël Moeckli (science chair). All of them are doing an incredible job besides their regular work and I am very thankful to have them on board for these tasks. So again, a great thank you!

In addition, I also would like to thank all the board members for their continuous support and responsiveness to my calls, emails, requests, meeting invitations, etc. This is by far not self-evident! Especially this is the case for Regina Seiler. She is not only taking care of all financial aspects as our treasurer, but also getting everything for the education committee ready is a huge amount of work. A particular challenge has been the exams **for the board certification**. In an exceptional team work together with Stephan Klöck and Peter Manser the exams were successfully carried out in an online format due to the Covid related restrictions applied to the candidates as well as the examiners. I think it is outstanding that we were able to perform such a smooth exam! So, thank you again for jumping in for the education chair for the last two years. Stefano Gianolini and Gerd Lutters deserve another special thank you, as they both served as SSRMP **delegates to EFOMP** for many years and now stepped down from their position. It is important to care about the international network of medical physicists, which both of them did with great commitment.

The society's new EFOMP delegates will be Sara Alonso and Eleni Samara. I also like to thank Roman Menz for his enormous support as secretary, Yvonne Käser for her great work in representing SSRMP in the steering committee for **clinical audits**, Stefano Presilla for his strong support of the professional committee and organizing the **salary survey** earlier this year and Markus Notter for supportive responses providing a different point of view.

It is clear that many more members actively support our society and deserve a big thank you: working group members, editorial of the bulletin, mentors, lecturers, delegates etc. However, there could not be enough members to support the society, so feel encouraged to serve SSRMP. Thank You All. Finally, I hope to meet you soon personally again and until then stay healthy and take care of yourself, your families, friends, neighbors and colleagues.



Michael K Fix,
SSRMP president