



Medical Physics in Bangladesh

Among the public schools in Bangladesh, Dhaka University is the only one offered courses of medical physics, biomedical physics and engineering at the **Department of Biomedical Physics & Technology (Chair, Professor K.S. Rabbani)**. This is the first, biggest and oldest university founded in Bangladesh. As a public university, it is running by government. Presently, the department has no undergraduate courses in Medical Physics, only Master of Philosophy and Doctoral courses. The research work opportunities are also available there. Undergraduate courses in Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering are offered at the private Gono University. However, due to the limitation of teaching staff and huge educational expenses, quantity of students is very limited.

Bangladesh Medical Physics Association is a national professional organization uniting radiation therapy, diagnostic and nuclear medicine physicists, health physicists, industrial radiation physicists, biomedical physicists, radiologists and radiation oncologists. Presently, BMPA includes 109 members. There are about 16 radiotherapy hospitals (government-12 and private-4). Only 12 physicists are working in private radiotherapy hospitals. Three of them have postgraduate degrees in medical physics, two M.S. in medical physics and seven M.S. in physics. The personnel are trained abroad and in-service. There are no medical physicists with postgraduate degree in the government sector. However, the companies supplying equipment hire junior medical physicists who are graduated in physics or medical physics from private universities.

Presently, our radiation therapy clinics are equipped by linear accelerators (5 in government hospitals and 5 in private ones), Cobalt-60 teletherapy units (7 in government hospitals and 2 in private ones), CT, Simulators, MRI and Brachytherapy units. Still there are no PET machines. BMPA is trying to impose some pressure on the governmental body to implement some perspective technologies of treatment without significant progress. The main problems in the government sector are the employment of medical physicists and advanced level of professional training. Training in the field of medical physics for fresh graduates we consider as the main problem for private sector. That is why the main goals of BMPA are education, professional training by experienced foreign medical physicists and employment.

We are very interested in SEAMP membership. It allows us to receive valuable information from medical physicist associations and societies of other countries, to remind about our existence, and to get kind advice helping us to resolve our problems. We also hope to get assistance in our professional development and communicating with the medical physicists outside Bangladesh.

M. Jahangir Alam, M.Phil.
AAPM, BMPA
Director of Bangladesh branch of SEAMP