

# CERTIFICATION AND LICENSING OF MEDICAL PHYSICISTS IN THE PHILIPPINES

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## Objective

To describe the establishment of a certifying body for radiation oncology medical physics (ROMP) in the Philippines

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## Outline

Introduction  
Process  
Results

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## Introduction

1963 : Philippine General Hospital acquired Cobalt 60 unit Dr. Cook, British medical physicist, trained Luciano Niguidula, on site for 6 months on calibration and radiation treatment planning

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## Introduction

1969 : Philippine Atomic Energy Commission (now Philippine Nuclear Research Institute) sent Eulinia M. Valdezco for MSc Medical Physics course in UK

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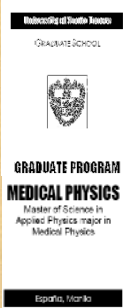
## Introduction

1974 : Radiation Health Service (now Bureau of Health Devices and Technology or BHDT) was established and its Director, Dr. Celia T. Anatalio, started hiring *Physics graduates* (Carmen Filamor, Arturo Sy, Agnette Peralta, Romeo Sope) and sending them to Australia and New Zealand for on the job training in *Medical Physics*

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### Introduction

**1981: MS Applied Physics Major in Medical Physics Course was established at UST Graduate School a joint project of :**



*Radiation Health Service, National Cancer Control Center, DOH, the Philippine Atomic Energy Commission, DOST and International Atomic Energy Agency*

### Introduction



**1986 Philippine Organization of Medical Physicists (POMP) established and Ms. Agnette Peralta (founding President) registered it to the International Organization for Medical Physics member (IOMP)**

### Introduction

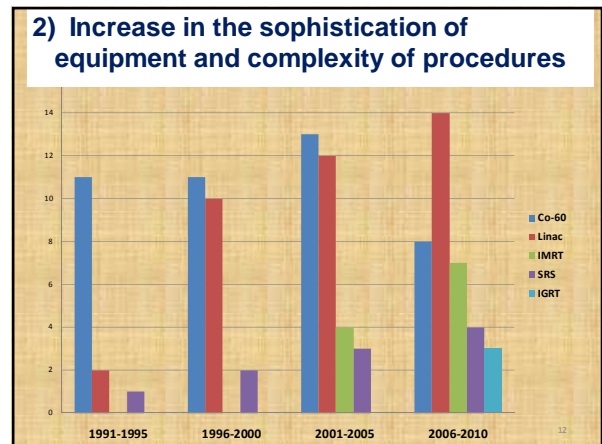
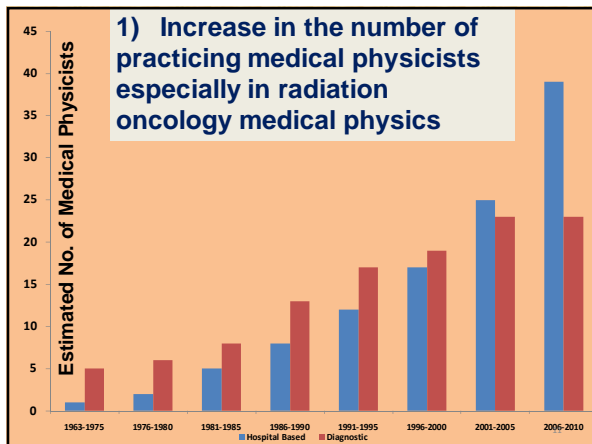
**2000 POMP became member of Asia-Oceania Federation of Organizations of Medical Physics (AOFOMP)**

**2001 POMP became member of South East Asian Federation of Organizations of Medical Physics (SEAFOMP)**

### Process

**June 18, 2008- POMP president, Mr. Gil Falcone, created a committee to formulate guidance for creating a certification board. The committee consisted of : *Norberto Abella (POMP-VP) as Chairman, Merle Sintos, Arnold Eleazar, Julie Cruz, Teofilo Hermoso and Ramil Cabaluna***

**The Committee concentrated on radiation oncology medical physics due to:**



3) The demand for assurance of qualifications of practicing medical physicists

4) Regulatory bodies are coming up with revisions of regulations

**Regulatory Requirements (BO-011s.2005, BHDT,DOH)**

- Basic Level Radiotherapy Medical Physicist
  - has a Ph.D. or a Master's degree in Medical Physics
  - has been trained and performed activities in conventional radiotherapy procedures under the close supervision of a senior medical physicist
  - shall work under further supervision on site by a supervising medical physicist who may be on a visiting consultant.
  - shall have been *certified by the supervising medical physicist* as competent to undertake activities without supervision

**Regulatory Requirements (CPR Part 12, 14- PNRI, DOST)**

- BSc degree in physics, related physical sciences or engineering and
- Had at least 200 hours of classroom training
- Has earned units in Physics of Radiotherapy
- Has 6 months training in conventional radiotherapy procedures which covers treatment planning, etc. and QA of equipment under supervision by a medical physicist after which *a certificate of completion of training is issued by the medical institution.*


To create the board, the committee called for brainstorming meetings



**Committee's Recommendations**

1. All ROMPs with more than 10 years experience in the field and all the current clinical supervisors would be invited to undergo a certifying examination to be included under the "grandfather" clause

2. Prior to the examination, these experienced ROMPs would need to attend review sessions



### Procedure

3. They would have to register to signify their interest to undergo the exam by submitting a CV

4. The examinees who obtained the three highest scores would be the first members of the board of examiners for Philippine ROMP

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### Procedure

5. The examination would be in two parts:

Part 1 given by invited external - examiner (2/3) – *Dr. Brendan Healy*

Part 2 by internal examiner (1/3)- *Lilian Rodriguez*

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### Procedure

- The exams took the form of a practical dosimetry exercises on a linear accelerator, Cobalt 60 and brachytherapy machines with a short oral component
- Candidates were graded on a number of criteria including theoretical knowledge and measurement proficiency

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### Part I: EBRT, QA, Dosimetry and Protection



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### Part II: Brachy, Cobalt 60, QA and Protection



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### Results

- Eleven out of 12 candidates passed  
These are:

*Norberto A. Abella, Maureen R. Bojador, Monica T. Bacaling, Ramil Cabaluna, Jonathan D. Corpuz, Eliseo dela Cruz, Mart Lester De Guzman, Teofilo M. Hermoso, Ranell M. Razon, Julius Cezar P. Rojas and Merle P. Sintos*

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### Results

- Four of those who passed and garnered the highest scores became the first Board Members
  - *Julius Cesar P. Rojas* – Board Examiner for 3 yrs
  - *Jonathan D. Corpuz* – Board Examiner for 4 yrs
  - *Norberto A. Abella, Jr.* – Board Examiner for 2 yrs
  - *Monica T. Bacaling* – Board Examiner for 2 yrs

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### Results

- Oath taking was held last August 18, 2010



### New Concerns

- Certification of Practicing Radiation Oncology Medical Physicists
- Certification of graduates of the Clinical Residency Programme
- Continuing Professional Education of those certified
- Recognition by the regulatory body and other professional societies specifically the Radiation oncologists of the certified ROMP

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### Lesson Learned

The establishment of a certification process requires dedication, hard work and cooperation of all.

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### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Dr. Brendan J. Healy  
 Dir. Agnette P. Peralta  
 Mr. Norberto A. Abella  
 Ms. Merle P. Sintos

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Thank you for your attention

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