

Ottawa Medical Physics Community in the AAPM/COMP spotlight

Friday, July 17, 2020

At this week's AAPM/COMP virtual conference, members and alumni of the Ottawa Medical Physics community were in the spotlight.

- **Rowan Thomson** was named Fellow of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine, FAAPM. "The category of Fellow honors members who have distinguished themselves by their contributions in research, education, and leadership in the medical physics community" (quoting the awards ceremony program). Aside from her extensive and successful research (see example two items below) and teaching, Rowan's contributions include membership of AAPM's Therapy Physics Committee, member of the Board of Associate Editors for the journal Medical Physics, and co-chair of AAPM TG-221 (med phys practices for ocular plaque brachytherapy).
- **Marco Carlone** was named Fellow of the Canadian Organization of Medical Physicists, FCOMP. Quoting the COMP website, "This honour recognizes an active member who has made a significant contribution to the field of medical physics and to COMP." Since graduating from Carleton (PhD 2004 with Peter Raaphorst and David Wilkins), Marco has worked clinically in Ontario, Alberta, and BC where he is currently Medical Physics Department Head in Kelowna. He has contributed much effort to our national organization COMP, including being President (2014-2016). Recently, he was the founder of Linax Technologies Ltd.
- The paper "Investigating energy deposition in glandular tissues for mammography using multiscale Monte Carlo simulations," Medical Physics 46(3), 1426-1436 (2019) [<https://doi.org/10.1002/mp.13372>] by **Patricia Oliver** and **Rowan Thomson** received awards independently from AAPM and COMP. It won the AAPM's Moses & Sylvia Greenfield Award for an outstanding paper on imaging published in the journal Medical Physics in 2019, and the Sylvia Fedoruk Prize of COMP/Saskatchewan Cancer Agency for "best paper on a subject falling within the field of medical physics, relating to work carried out wholly or mainly within a Canadian institution and published during the past calendar year." It's highly unusual for a single paper to win major awards from both AAPM and COMP. A cursory check today turned up only one other case, in 1998. Patty Oliver obtained her PhD with Rowan in 2018, and proceeded to the Halifax Radiation Oncology Physics

Residency Program which she is now completing (today actually, Fri July 17). In August she will join the staff at the Cross Cancer Institute in Edmonton.

Congratulations and thank you to Patty, Marco and Rowan!

Ottawa authors well represented at AAPM/COMP 2020 virtual conference

Friday, July 10, 2020

This summer, medical physics in Ottawa is well represented by 34 contributed and panel talks and posters at the virtual AAPM/COMP conference, July 12-16. **[Here is a pdf list of authorships by Ottawa medical physicists](#)**. The titles have links to the conference entries.

In addition, Nancy Barrett (Executive Director of COMP, which is based right here in the nation's capital) is part of a panel on mentoring: "Mentorship: Let's Look at Both Sides of the Equation", to be held Monday afternoon (MO-F-TRACK 6-0).

For more info on the conference, please see **<https://w3.aapm.org/meetings/2020AM/>**

OMPI30 Highlighted in InterACTIONS

Wednesday, January 1, 2020

On the 2019 International Day of Medical Physics (2019/11/07) OMP celebrated its 30th anniversary. These celebrations were showcased in the latest issue of the InterACTIONS, the newsletter of COMP and CCPM.

30 years **OMPI** **IDMP 2019 CELEBRATION OF 30 YEARS OF THE OTTAWA MEDICAL PHYSICS INSTITUTE**
 celebrating collaboration & innovation

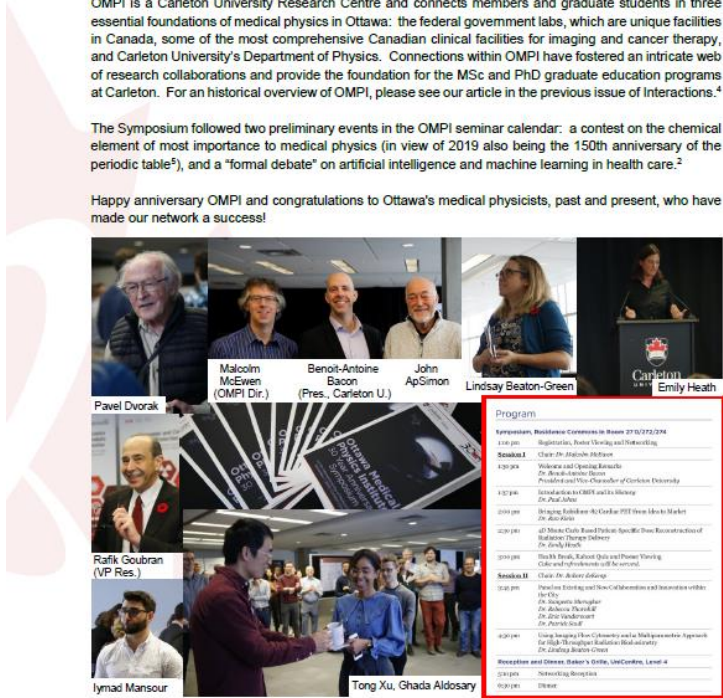
Sarah G. Cuddy-Walsh, University of Ottawa Heart Institute, Ottawa, ON
 Paul C. Johns, Carleton University, Ottawa, ON

The Ottawa Medical Physics Institute¹ (OMPI) – the medical physics network in our nation's capital – celebrated 30 years on International Day of Medical Physics, 2019 November 7. Besides the talks, panel discussion, and cake, highlights included a signable academic tree by Iymad Mansour showing Carleton's 146 thesis completions in medical physics, an OMPI trivia contest led by Tong Xu, and presentation of the O-rate prize for best student talk in the previous academic year to Nathan Murtha.^{2,3}

OMPI is a Carleton University Research Centre and connects members and graduate students in three essential foundations of medical physics in Ottawa: the federal government labs, which are unique facilities in Canada, some of the most comprehensive Canadian clinical facilities for imaging and cancer therapy, and Carleton University's Department of Physics. Connections within OMPI have fostered an intricate web of research collaborations and provide the foundation for the MSc and PhD graduate education programs at Carleton. For an historical overview of OMPI, please see our article in the previous issue of Interactions.⁴

The Symposium followed two preliminary events in the OMPI seminar calendar: a contest on the chemical element of most importance to medical physics (in view of 2019 also being the 150th anniversary of the periodic table⁵), and a "formal debate" on artificial intelligence and machine learning in health care.²

Happy anniversary OMPI and congratulations to Ottawa's medical physicists, past and present, who have made our network a success!



Read the article here from the Canadian Medical Physics Newsletter, COMP/CCPM InterACTIONS 66(1), January 2020, pages 27-28 (posted with permission), or in the **the full issue**.

Reference: Cuddy-Walsh SG, Johns PC, *IDMP 2019 Celebrations of 30 Years of the Ottawa Medical Physics Institute*, *InterACTIONS*, 2020;66(1):27-28.

OMPI is celebrating 30 years of collaboration and innovation!

Thursday, November 7, 2019

30 years
OMF
celebrating collaboration & innovation