

13th February 2024 Document No: 2024/10

A new EFOMP Working Group to establish Policy Statement 21: "The role of the Medical Physicist in the management of medical laser sources". Call for members.

EFOMP hereby announces a new Working Group (WG) entitled "EFOMP Policy Statement 21 "The role of the Medical Physicist in the management of medical laser sources". The WG will operate under the Professional Matters Committee with cooperation from our Education & Training and Science Committees. The working group is expected to operate from Autumn 2024 to Autumn 2026. WGs usually meet online with one or two face to face meetings during the lifetime of the WG.

The rationale of the WG: Medical Physics Experts working within the hospitals are often appointed as Laser Safety Experts for the lasers used in medical applications. Their role is to contribute to maintaining a safe, effective and optimised use of laser-based devices for patients, staff and visitors. In particular, it comprises quality controls, risk management (designation of laser-controlled areas, definition of protection provisions, including protective equipment, signs, etc.), staff and user training, optimisation and safety of the practices.

The necessity of producing these guidelines was identified in the 'EFOMP Malaga Declaration 2023: An updated vision on Medical Physics in Europe' where it is stated that an 'A MPE has the core knowledge, skills and competences commensurate with that of the Magnetic Resonance Safety Expert, Laser Safety Expert and MR Scientist and is required to deal with the risk assessments described in EU Directive 2013/35 [12,13,14]. MPEs in most European countries are already in charge of these positions'.

The proposed chair of the WG is Dr. A (Mani) Manivannan and the expected outcome is EFOMP Policy Statement no 21: The role of the Medical Physicist in the management of medical laser sources.

The deadline to establish the WG is 30th of April 2024. NMOs are kindly asked to distribute this announcement to their members. Nomination of Clinical Medical Physicists working in lasers must be made through the NMO (no self-nominations are allowed). A professional CV is required (max 3 pages in PDF form)

The term for accepting nominations is from **13**th **of February to 18**th **of March 2024**. Nominations must be made electronically using this google form <u>here</u>.





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Best Regards

Efi Koutsouveli Brenda Byrne

President EFOMP Secretary General EFOMP

