



www.fampo-africa.org

Newsletter

JUL
2021

Volume 3
No. 1

President: **Dr. C.J. Trauernicht** | Editors: **Dr. T.A. Ige; Dr. A. Ibn Seddik; Dr. F. Hasford; Dr. S. Inkoom**

In This Issue.....

- President's corner: Africa Must Leapfrog
- Profiles of newly elected FAMPO executives (2021 – 2024)
- Handing over and inauguration of new FAMPO executives – Report of the outgoing President
- The value of a national medical physics society
- African Journal of Medical Physics (AJMP)
- Report of IOMP Council Meeting
- Call for nominations for the IDMP-2021 Award

FAMPO Secretariat:

School of Nuclear and Allied Sciences,
University of Ghana - Atomic,
| Ghana Atomic Energy Commission |
Accra, Ghana.

Phone: +233 244 945 805

Email: sg.fampo@yahoo.com

The President's Corner

AFRICA MUST LEAPFROG

Chris Trauernicht (South Africa)

Email: cjt@sun.ac.za

According to a 2020 paper there are 1041 medical physicists in Africa, over half of these work in Algeria, Egypt and South Africa. This means that the remaining 500 medical physicists or so look after the needs of over one billion Africans. To put this in perspective, the American Association of Physicists in Medicine is composed of 8500 medical physicists for about one third of the amount of people. The maths is frightening...

Only six countries have a legislative recognition of medical physics, even though medical physics was included among healthcare professionals by the International Labour Organization over ten years ago.

Only eleven countries have a national medical physics society. Only five countries have formed societies since 2009, when FAMPO was founded.

Only ten countries offer academic medical physics training, and less than that offer clinical training.

We have all the potential we need, we must do much better...

We thank organizations and individuals who have helped medical physics development in Africa, most notably the International Atomic Energy Agency. However, it is clear that Africa cannot forever rely on handouts for sustainable growth. Each individual must take on the responsibility of improving continuously. Each individual must take on the responsibility of adding value and passing on their knowledge.

To succeed, we must aim to not only catch up, but to leapfrog.

Visit FAMPO website (<https://fampo-africa.org>) for latest news and events

FAMPO
FEDERATION OF AFRICAN MEDICAL PHYSICS ORGANIZATIONS
Regional Federation of IOMP in Africa

African Journal of Medical Physics | Login

Home | About Us | News & Events | Membership | Medical Physics | Training | Publications | Resources

ABOUT FAMPO

The Federation of African Medical Physics Organizations (FAMPO) is the regional federation of the International Organization for Medical Physics (IOMP) in Africa. FAMPO is a non-profit-making organization established in March 2009 to promote the application of physics in medicine.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Profiles of Newly Elected FAMPO Executives (2021 – 2024)

President: Dr. Christoph Trauernicht (South Africa)



Dr. Christoph Trauernicht is the Head of the Medical Physics Division at Tygerberg Hospital and a Senior Lecturer at Stellenbosch University. He has played an active role in the South African medical physics association over the past years and has been SAMPS representative to the IOMP since 2015. He has served on the IOMP Education and Training Committee from 2015-2018, and currently serves on the Accreditation Board.

Chris's involvement with the national association (SAAPMB) started in 2009, when he was first elected to the committee of the affiliated South African Radiation Protection Society (SARPS) in 2009. He became chairperson of that society from 2010-2014. He served as the SARPS representative to the International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA) since 2013. Chris was a member of the bid committee to host the IRPA14 congress in Cape Town in 2016, and after the successful awarding of the bid became a member of the congress organizing committee, as well as a corresponding member of the International Congress Programme Committee. He also presented a refresher course at IRPA14, as well as at the 2018 regional AFRIRPA05 congress.

Chris was elected as a council member of the SAAPMB in 2014, became Vice President of the SAAPMB from 2016-17 and became President of this national association in 2017. He is currently the Past-President. Chris has served as IAEA expert on numerous occasions for national and regional workshops and training courses.

Between 2017 and 2021, Chris held the Vice-Presidency position of FAMPO and served as member of the Scientific Committee of FAMPO. He has published several papers or reports and 2 book chapters. He has over 100 congress contributions in national or international congresses, either as oral presentations or posters.

Chris was chairperson of the 2019 SAAPMB congress committee and was also an invited speaker at the last three editions of the SA Imaging Congress. He serves as an assessor for the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) for the National Board Assessment of Medical Physics Intern Portfolios of Evidence and an examiner for the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa.

Webpage: https://fam-po-africa.org/dt_team/mr-christoph-trauernicht/

Vice-President: Dr. Francis Hasford (Ghana)



Dr. Francis Hasford obtained his B.Sc. degree in Physics in 2003 from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana. He obtained his master's and doctorate degrees in Medical Physics from the University of Ghana in 2006 and 2015 respectively. He has been working with Ghana Atomic Energy Commission since May 2008 and presently serves as Principal Research Scientist.

Francis serves as Head of the Medical Physics Department of the School of Nuclear and Allied Sciences, University of Ghana. The Department serves as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Regional Designated Centre for Medical Physics training in Africa.

Francis presently serves as the Vice President for the Ghana Society for Medical Physics (GSMP). He is a member of the International Organization for Medical Physics (IOMP) Web Sub-committee and has been a Project Coordinator for IAEA Technical Cooperation Projects in Medical Physics for the past 9 years. He is the Project Scientific Consultant for the IAEA Technical Cooperation Project RAF6053 "Enhancing Capacity Building of Medical Physicists to Improve Safety and Effectiveness of Medical Imaging".

Francis is a Visiting Lecturer to the National University of Science and Technology in Zimbabwe. He is an External Examiner to some high-profile universities in Ghana and South Africa. He is an Examiner and member of the Professions Specific Committee of the Allied Health Professions Council of Ghana. He is an Associate of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), member of the Ghana Young Academy (GhYA), Ghana Nuclear Society (GNS), and the Ghana Science Association (GSA).

Francis is recipient of the 2016 International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP) / IOMP Young Scientist Prize in Medical Physics. He received the 2017 Recognition Award of the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission and Best Presentation Prizes at the 2018 ICTP College on Medical Physics and the 2015 Maiden University of Ghana Doctoral Conference. He has over 40 research articles, 3 book chapters and 20 conference abstracts. He has supervised and co-supervised over 30 postgraduate students. His research interest is in medical imaging.

Francis served as Secretary-General of FAMPO (2017 – 2021) and Chair of the Education and Training Committee (2016 – 2017).

Webpage: https://fampo-africa.org/dt_team/dr-francis-hasford/

Secretary General: Dr. Stephen Inkoom (Ghana)



Dr. Stephen Inkoom holds PhD in Medical Physics, obtained from the University of Ghana through IAEA sandwich programme with University of Crete (Greece). Stephen is a Principal Research Scientist and Medical Physicist at the Radiation Protection Institute of Ghana Atomic Energy Commission. He is the Head of Radiation Protection Training and Consultancy Centre.

Stephen has over the years offered Medical Physics services, radiation protection consultancy, radiation safety assessment, etc. to medical facilities, industries and research institutions. He has served as expert in training courses nationally and internationally.

Stephen is a Senior Lecturer in Medical Physics and Radiation Protection at the School of Nuclear and Allied Sciences, University of Ghana. He has supervised several graduate students (PhD and MPhil), IAEA fellows and B.Sc. students from Ghana and abroad. He is clinically qualified and holds professional license from the Allied Health Professions Council in Ghana. He is a member of the Profession Specific Committee of the Council. His current research focus is on dose optimization in diagnostic radiology, diagnostic reference levels, quality audits, CT dosimetry patient protection, and quality assurance.

Stephen has participated in many international and national technical meetings and expert missions, national and international research/collaborative projects and workshops. He is a member of several national and international professional bodies. He is the General Secretary for the Ghana Association of Radiation Protection, Executive member for Ghana Society for Medical Physics. He is the immediate past delegate for Ghana on the FAMPO Council.

Stephen has authored and co-authored scientific publications in peer-reviewed journals, book chapters, conference papers, newsletters and technical reports and contributed to drafting and review of the IAEA TECDOC 1734: Establishing a National Nuclear Security Support Centre. He is an External Examiner for several universities and bodies and a reviewer for some reputable scientific journals.

Webpage: https://fampo-africa.org/dt_team/dr-stephen-inkoom/

Treasurer: Prof. Odette Samba (Cameroon)



Prof. Odette Samba is a Medical Physicist at the Yaoundé General Hospital and Associate Professor in Medical Physics for the University of Yaoundé. She holds Diploma in Physics from the Technische Universität Chemnitz, Germany and PhD from the Institut für Medizinische Physik und Biophysik zu Humboldt Universität, Germany.

Odette has served as Project Counterpart for the IAEA projects RAF 6031 (Medical Physics in Support of Cancer Management), RAF 6038 (Promoting Regional and National Quality Assurance Programmes for Medical Physics in Nuclear Medicine), RAF 6044 (Strengthening Medical Physics in Support of Cancer Management), RAF 6050 (Improving Access to Quality Cancer Management through Sustainable Capacity Building) and RAF 6053 (Enhancing Capacity Building of Medical Physicists to Improve Safety and Effectiveness of Medical Imaging).

Odette has specialty in radiotherapy Medical Physics, patient's radiation protection in radiography, quality control in radiography, among others. Her regular work duties cover performance of quality assurance and control, dosimetry, patient dose surveys at the Yaoundé General Hospital.

Odette has previously served as the Treasurer of FAMPO. She is an Associate of the ICTP, member of the Cameroon Physics Society (CPS). She has several research articles, conference abstracts and a book chapter.

Webpage: https://fam-po-africa.org/dt_team/dr-odette-samba/

Handing-Over and Inauguration of New FAMPO ExCo: (Report of the Outgone President)

By Taofeeq Abdallah Ige (Nigeria)

Email: igetaofeeq@yahoo.com

FAMPO is the regional federation of the International Organization for Medical Physics (IOMP) in Africa. The Federation has been established primarily to raise the standard of medical physics practice in Africa. Its activities are extended throughout the region and its local Islands.

In October 2017, membership of FAMPO gave my administration the nod to lead our great Federation to its next destined level. In the past three and half years of my leadership as President, we have worked assiduously to transform the Federation and made it more visible within the Africa region and beyond. Several initiatives, enumerated broadly in the nine (9) key points below, have been undertaken during our term of office to contribute to achieving our desired objectives.

1. Constitution of the FAMPO Council:

As a constitutional requirement of the Federation and in order to bring her governance to all the member states and ensure inclusiveness, the FAMPO Council was constituted and duly inaugurated in October 2018. The Council directs the activities of the Federation and is comprised of the Executive Officers, Committee Chairs and Delegates of member countries.

2. Registration and incorporation of FAMPO:

The Federation has been duly registered as a non-governmental organization under the laws of Ghana by the Registrar General's Department. This registration has given FAMPO the status as a legal entity, with its complete independence of any Government influence.

3. Opening of Bank Account:

The Federation has opened its Domiciliary Forex Account at Ecobank Ghana Limited in Accra. This has been a big solution to the Federation's long-standing problem where it became practically difficult to have its own bank account for the purposes of dues collection and receipt of funding for sponsored activities.

4. Revamping the FAMPO website and Improvement in Communication:

The website of the Federation has seen massive improvement with rich content and very resourceful materials. The site is regularly updated with latest information and has been linked to the FAMPO list server such that automatic email prompts are generated periodically to Federation's membership and subscribers. I dare say that the website has become a standard by which other professional groups are emulating.

5. FAMPO Journal

African Journal of Medical Physics (AJMP), the Federation's official journal has been established and thus far released three editions. The journal has obtained its ISSN No. and is published by the Harvard University. I must emphasize here that the South African Association of Physicists in Medicine and Biology (SAAPMB) took a giant step by publishing the book of abstracts of its 2020 conference in AJMP. I would kindly encourage all MPs in the region to patronize the journal by submitting good articles for publication.

6. Publication of Quarterly Newsletter

The Federation also initiated quarterly release of its highly informative newsletters. The newsletters highlight most of the important developments and programmes on medical physics in the Africa region. I encourage members of the Federation to make available interesting articles on medical physics activities in their respective countries for future editions.

7. Establishment of the FAMPO Secretariat

The proposal for establishment of the Federation's Secretariat was realized when in November 2018 the Council voted for Accra, Ghana to be the host of FAMPO Secretariat. Arrangements have since been made for a befitting office space, located at Ghana Atomic Energy Commission, to made available for housing the Secretariat.

8. Development of Certification and Accreditation Schemes

Through the Professional Development Committee and the Education and Training Committee, certification and accreditation schemes have been developed and are on the verge of implementation. It is anticipated that these will be rolled out as major activities of the incoming ExCo.

9. Regional Conference of Medical Physics

The Federation was on the verge of staging one of its biggest activity since its formation with the planned First Regional conference on Medical Physics in Marrakech, Morocco in the month of November 2020. However, with the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, the plans had to be shelved and programmed postponed indefinitely. It is hoped that the conference could be staged in 2022 and bring together medical physicists from all corners of the Africa region for knowledge sharing on scientific ideas.

The growth we have experienced in the Medical Physics fraternity in Africa during our term has been a big inspiration and a call for us to remain united to achieve more. I cannot finish my report by showing appreciation to Ahmed Ibn Seddik, my predecessor and founding President, who has been a real big father figure to the Federation. His wise counsel is one of the reasons why we have been able to achieve so much in these few years.

It is my wish that the incoming ExCo will also contribute their quota to build of the gains made and achieve even far more that my leadership has. This is the surest way by which we can accelerate the development of Medical Physics regionally.

I will end my report by encouraging all members to give this new administration all the needed cooperation and support to succeed. Long live FAMPO!

The Value of a National Medical Physics Society

By Chris Trauernicht (South Africa)

Email: cjt@sun.ac.za

A professional medical physics society seeks to further the profession of medical physics and the interests of its members.

Only eleven African countries have national medical physics societies:



“Why is this important?”, one might be tempted to ask.

Here are ten reasons:

- 1 •You get to meet other medical physicists.
- 2 •You get to network with local, national and international leaders.
- 3 •You may be able to give input into legislative developments as experts in the field.
- 4 •You may be able to join a professional committee to offer advice at national level.
- 5 •You will be able to lobby much more powerfully with your Health Professions Council for proper recognition of the profession
- 6 •National societies can help your professional development by hosting CPD events such as conferences or workshops
- 7 •Society membership may offer you reduced fees to attend conferences or workshops
- 8 •Your involvement in the society may help you build a better CV
- 9 •A society offers an avenue to disseminate information and job openings.
- 10 •You get to join FAMPO as a national member organization and in doing so the family of the International Organization for Medical Physics (IOMP).

So, to all other 43 countries in Africa who have not formed a national medical physics society yet: What is stopping you? How can we help you?

African Journal of Medical Physics

Download the latest edition of the AJMP publication (**Vol. 3, No. 2; 2021**) from

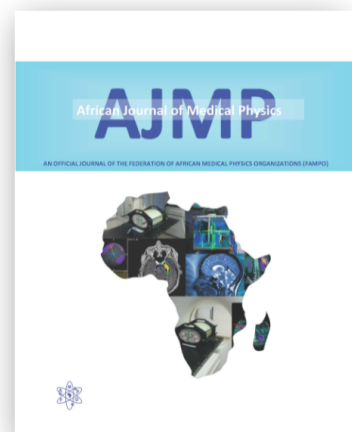
https://globalmedicalphysics.org/journal_volume-32/

For submission of quality research articles:
<https://globalmedicalphysics.org/>

Welcome to the African Journal of Medical Physics (AJMP)
ISSN2643-5977

AJMP–An Official Journal of the Federation of African Medical Physics (FAMPO)

The African Journal of Medical Physics (AJMP) publishes novel and high-quality research papers and other material on all topics relating to medical physics, biomedical sciences, medical imaging and molecular imaging for diagnosis, therapy and disease management. The journal provides an effective way to publish original research articles, review articles, short communication, rapid communication, letter to the editor, case report etc. It strives with a passion to publish articles on diverse themes of theoretical, computational, experimental and related clinical research from across the globe on a sole platform where there will be a wide scope to share ideas involved from latest on-going research. It is the goal of the journal to provide an international forum for education and training in medical physics, radiation oncology, radiation detection, radiation protection, radiation shielding, and radiation response, new technologies development and applications, diagnostic and radiotherapy physics and applications.



Report of IOMP Council Meeting

Report by Prof. Madan Rehani (IOMP President) and Prof. Eva Bezak (IOMP Secretary General)

The virtual meeting of the IOMP Council was held on 1st June 2021 at 12 noon GMT for almost 3 hours. We thought it appropriate to hold this meeting almost at the same time when it would have been held if the World Congress was held in Singapore in the absence of pandemic. The meeting was well attended with 73 participants from 39 countries. There were presentations by all officials of IOMP (President, Vice President, Secretary General, Treasurer, immediate Past-President and all Chairs of Committees and sub-committees). In addition, all the regional organizations (EFOMP, AFOMP, SEAFOMP, FAMPO, MEFOMP, ALFIM) and AAPM/COMP and Regional Coordination Board (RCB) made presentations. Other business included removal of the National Member Organization (NMO) status for the Association of Medical Physicists of Georgia that will facilitate processing of the case of a new organization in Georgia for NMO of IOMP. It was also affirmed that IOMP is in the process of allowing all NMOs to participate in providing nominations for IDMP award for 2021 and is deliberating solutions for 2022 and thereafter.

The some of the main new activities in this term included: creation of strategic plan for the term 2018-2021, start of the IOMP newsletter with outreach to grassroots and resulting in more than 50 times increase in subscription in last 2 years, establishment of International Medical Physics Week (IMPW), webinar series of IOMP, signing of MoU with ICRP and ISR, IOMP framework for accreditation of events for continuing professional development (CPD) and cooperation with radiology societies.

The continuation of activities included IDMP, all publications of IOMP, work of all committees and sub-committees as highlighted in respective reports. Full reports of each committee are going to be available in June 2021 issue of eMPW.

Copied from IOMP website (<https://www.iomp.org/report-of-iomp-council-meeting/>)

Call for Nominations for the IDMP-2021 Award

The IOMP is pleased to seek nominations for the IDMP Award. This award recognises excellence in Medical Physics with a particular view of promoting medical physics to a larger audience and highlighting the contributions medical physicists make for patient care. The IDMP Award is linked to the International Day of Medical Physics (IDMP) from which it takes its name. The 2021 IDMP theme is ***"Communicating the Role of Medical Physicists to the Public"***.

The 2021 IDMP Award will be given on the occasion of the celebration of the International Day of Medical Physics (IDMP) and will be announced on November 5, 2021.

The IDMP Award consists of an IOMP certificate, and additionally a short biography of the awardee will be published in the IOMP Newsletter *Medical Physics World*.

Criteria for selection:

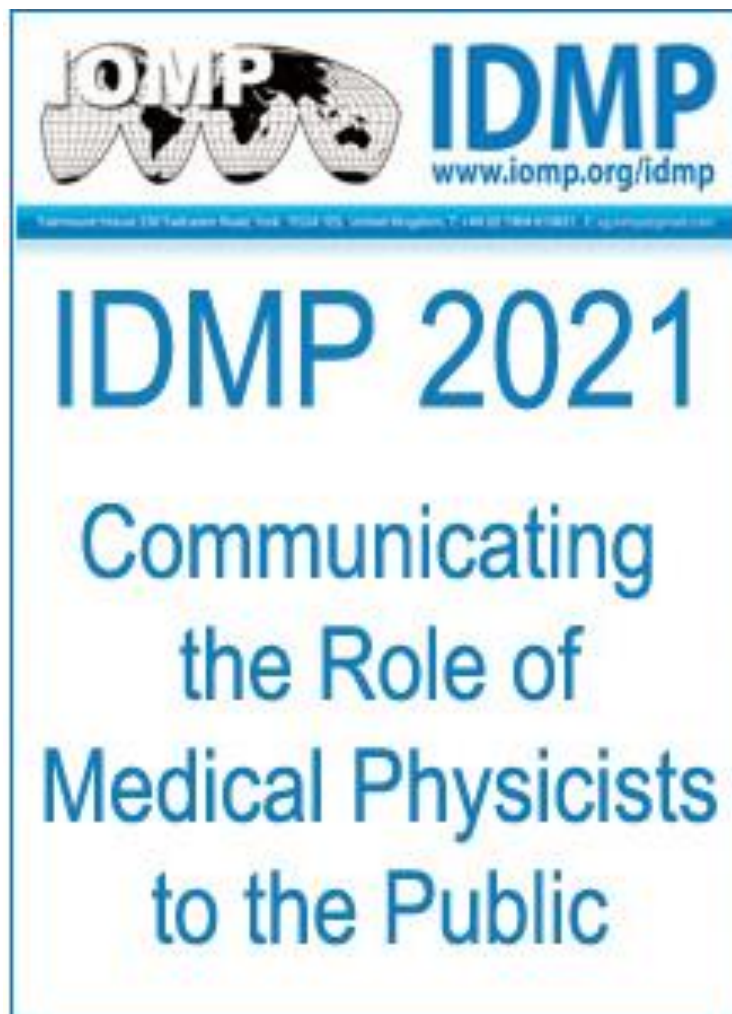
- The recipient of the award should be a professional medical physicist holding a masters or higher degree or equivalent, who is an active member of the relevant Medical Physics society.
- The recipient should have taken active part in promoting medical physics, nationally or internationally.
- The recipient should have performed original and/or applied work of high scientific quality or made a significant professional contribution to Medical Physics in the past three years.
- It may be noted that only deserving candidates will be selected. If no one meets the requirements from the region, no award will be given.
- Nominee shall not be a current member of the IOMP Awards & Honors Committee or the IOMP ExCom.

Nominating Procedure

- The award will be widely advertised on the IOMP mailing list and website.
- Each National Member Organization (NMO) and Regional Organizations (RO) can nominate for this award. Nominations should be made by the President or Secretary General of the Organizations.
- Nominees should be full members of an IOMP NMO.
- Self-nomination will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.
- Nominations are to be made to the chair of the IOMP Awards and Honours Committee (AHC). In exceptional circumstances nominations (eg from countries where no NMO exists) individuals can nominate a colleague directly. It is recommended that the nominating person checks with the IOMP AHC prior to submitting such a nomination.
- The nomination should include the following:
 1. A letter of not more than 1,000 words evaluating the nominee's achievements and identifying the specific work to be recognized.
 2. IOMP award form as filled out by the candidate. (<https://www.iomp.org/call-for-nominations/>)

Nominations should be sent to Dr. Simone K. Renha, Chair of the IOMP Awards and Honours Committee (AHC) at simone@cnen.gov.br by **September 24, 2021**. Submissions should be in the form of: MS Word or PDF document. Nominations will be acknowledged by e-mail. If you do not receive an acknowledgement within 72 hours please contact Dr. Simone and the Secretary General of the IOMP at sg.iomp@gmail.com. **One medical physicist per region will be selected by the AHC to receive the award.** The winners will be announced on **November 5, 2021**.

Copied from IOMP website (<https://www.iomp.org/report-of-iomp-council-meeting/>)



News and Events

IDMP 2021 messages from IOMP and regional federations	https://www.iomp.org/idmp-2021/
IOMP Strategic Plan 2018-2021	https://www.iomp.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/IOMP-Strategic-Plan-2018-2021.pdf
IOMP School Webinars: Recordings available online	https://www.iomp.org/iomp-school-webinars-recordings/
IOMP Newsletter, Vol. 3, No. 3, June 2021	https://www.iomp.org/iomp-newsletter-vol-3-no-3-june-2021/
Covid-19 Information Resource	https://www.iomp.org/covid-19-information-resource/
AFOMP Newsletters	https://afomp.org/afomp-newsletters/
IUPESM World Congress on Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering (IUPESM WC2022)	https://wc2022.org
IAEA Develops First of its Kind Emergency Preparedness and Response Guide for Medical Physicists	https://www.iaea.org/publications/13388/pocket-guide-for-medical-physicists-supporting-response-to-a-nuclear-or-radiological-emergency
Medical Physics International, Vol. 9, No. 1	http://mpijournal.org/MPI-v09i01.aspx
Niger's First Public Radiotherapy Centre Ready to Treat Patients	https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/nigers-first-public-radiotherapy-centre-ready-to-treat-patients
Comprehensive Cancer Control	https://www.iaea.org/topics/comprehensive-cancer-control
Cancer Treatment: Radiotherapy	https://www.iaea.org/topics/cancer-treatment-radiotherapy
Inclusive and Collaborative Efforts to Strengthen Cancer Control in Tunisia	https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/inclusive-and-collaborative-efforts-to-strengthen-cancer-control-in-tunisia
IAEA's Nuclear Safety Essay Competition for Young Professionals - Now Open	https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/attention-young-professionals-nuclear-safety-essay-competition-now-open

ADVERTISEMENT SPACE

