# International Organization for Medical Physics women survey: From participation to leadership

Dr Virginia Tsapaki

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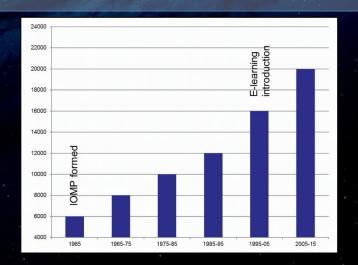
# International Organization for Medical Physics (IOMP) [1963]

represents c. 25000 medical physicists worldwide (2017)

- 86 affiliated national member organizations.
- 6 Regional Organisations :
- AFOMP, ALFIM, EFOMP, FAMPO, MEFOMP, SEAFOMP)
- Corporate Members

# **IOMP Objectives**

- To organize international cooperation in medical physics and to promote communication between the various branches of medical physics and allied subjects.
- To contribute to the advancement of medical physics in all its aspects.
- To advise on the formation of national organizations of medical physics in those countries which lack such organizations, and also the possible formation of national committees in those countries where there is more than one medical physics organization.



## **IOMP – International Cooperations**

ICSU

IUPAP

**IUPAB** 

IAEA

**WHO** 

IRPA

**ICRP** 

**ICRU** 

ISR

ILO

**BIPM** 



















ICSU

International Council for Science







# IOMP Women Group formation http://www.iomp.org/IOMP-W/



# ...If I Had Known About Medical Physicists, I Would Have Decided to Become One!



MARÍA DEL ROSARIO PÉREZ

Physician graduated at the School of Medicine of Buenes Aires University, Argentina (1980), specialized on Radiation Oncology, a post-graduate diploma on Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety (1990). Radiation protection expert at the Atomic Energy Commission and Nuclear Regulatory Authority (1991-2006), ministrat the WHO Department of Public Health, Environmental and Social Determinants of Health (2007 up-to-mue). Responsible for the technical coordination of the WHO Global Initiative on Radiation Safety in Health Care Settings, WHO representation at: Joint Secretarial for the revision of the International Radiation Basic Safety Standards (BSS), Inter-Agency Committee on Radiation Safety, United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of the Atomic Rediction, IAEA Rediction Safety Standards Committee, the EC Group of Scientific Experts referred to in Article 31 of the Euratem Treaty and the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP).

### International Conference of Medical Physics 2016 Bangkok 9-12 December 2016:

### 2 women symposia:

- a) Women in medical physics: education and profession and
- b) Participation of women in medical physics scientific events.

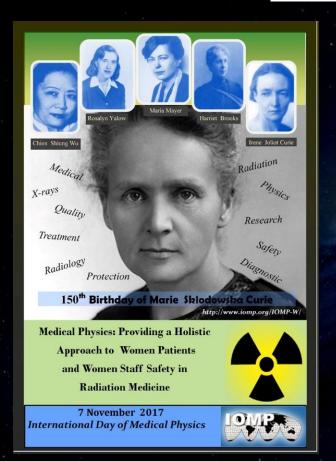
Women and Medical physics are the perfect match





## IDMP 2017 AOCMP – 2017/ AMPICON 2017 November 2017, Jaipur, India

Medical Physics: Providing a Holistic Approach to Women Patients and Women Staff Safety in Radiation Medicine



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Download Romanian Poster PDF

Download Hindi Poster PDF

Download German Poster PDF

Download Bengali Poster PDF

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02.30PM-04.00PM SESSION 4: RADIATION PROTECTION AND IMAGING OF WOMEN PATIENTS	01.20PM-1.30PM						
2.30PM-3.00PM Radiation safety aspects pertaining to female patients and staff Dr. Nidhi Patni, India	2.30PM-3.00PM	Radiation safety aspects pertaining to female patients and staff	Dr. Nidhi Patni, India				
3.00PM-3.30PM Dose management of pregnant patients in Radiology Dr. John Damilakis, Greece	3.00PM-3.30PM		Dr. John Damilakis, Greece				
3.30PM-4.00PM Segmentation of Breast Masses using active contour modelling Dr William Rae, South Africa	3.30PM-4.00PM	Segmentation of Breast Masses using active contour modelling	Dr William Rae, South Africa				
04.00PM-05.00PM VALEDICTORY FUNCTION AND AWARD DISTRIBUTION	04.00PM-05.00PM	VALEDICTORY FUNCTION AND AWARD DIST	RIBUTION				
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18th Asia-Oceania Congress of Medical Physics 16th South-East Asia Congress of Medical Physics (AOCMP-SEACOMP 2018) Kuala Lumpur, 11 – 14 November 2018.



## **IOMP WOMEN**

## www.iomp.org/IOMP-W

We are here for you to address the challenges faced by women in the field of Medical Physics.



#### ARTICLE IN PRESS

Physica Medica xxx (2015) 1-6



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journal homepage: http://www.physicamedica.com



#### Original paper

Female medical physicists: The results of a survey carried out by the International Organization for Medical Physics

Virginia Tsapaki a,\*, Madan M. Rehani b,1

#### ARTICLE INFO

Article history: Received 13 October 2014 Received in revised form 9 February 2015 Accepted 14 February 2015 Available online xxx

Keywords; Medical physicist Female medical physicists Gender balance Gender distribution

#### ABSTRACT

Introduction: The gender composition of the existing medical physicist (MP) workforce around the world is basically unknown. The International Organization for Medical Physics (IOMP) performed a survey in order to investigate the number of MPs in countries around the world and the percentage of women MPs compared to total number of MPs.

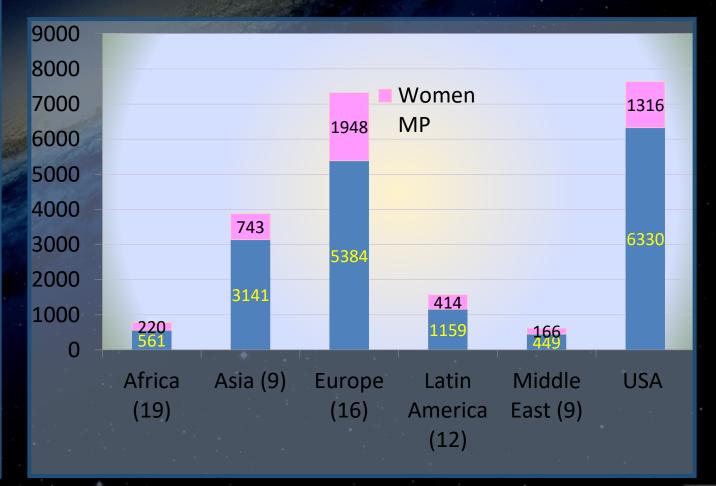
Materials and methods: A simple online questionnaire prepared as a Google Forms survey asking the country, the total number of MPs, the number of female MPs and finally the gender of the person providing the data was sent in mid-March 2013 to six regional member organizations of IOMP, as well as contact points in many member countries.

Results: Sixty-six countries responded to the survey by mid-July 2013. Fifty two percent of those who filled the form were females, the rest males. The total number of MPs was 17,024, of which 28% were female (4807). The median values of percentages of females were 21% in the USA, 47% in Europe, 35% in Asia, 33% in Africa and 24% in Latin America.

Conclusion: This is the first international survey that investigates the number and percentage of female MPs around the world. There are European countries that are far away from the target set by European Commission (40%) whereas in countries in the Middle East and Asia, female MPs actually outnumber males. This study is the first step in a more in-depth study that needs to be taken in near future.

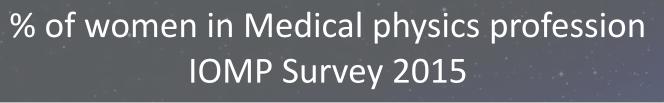
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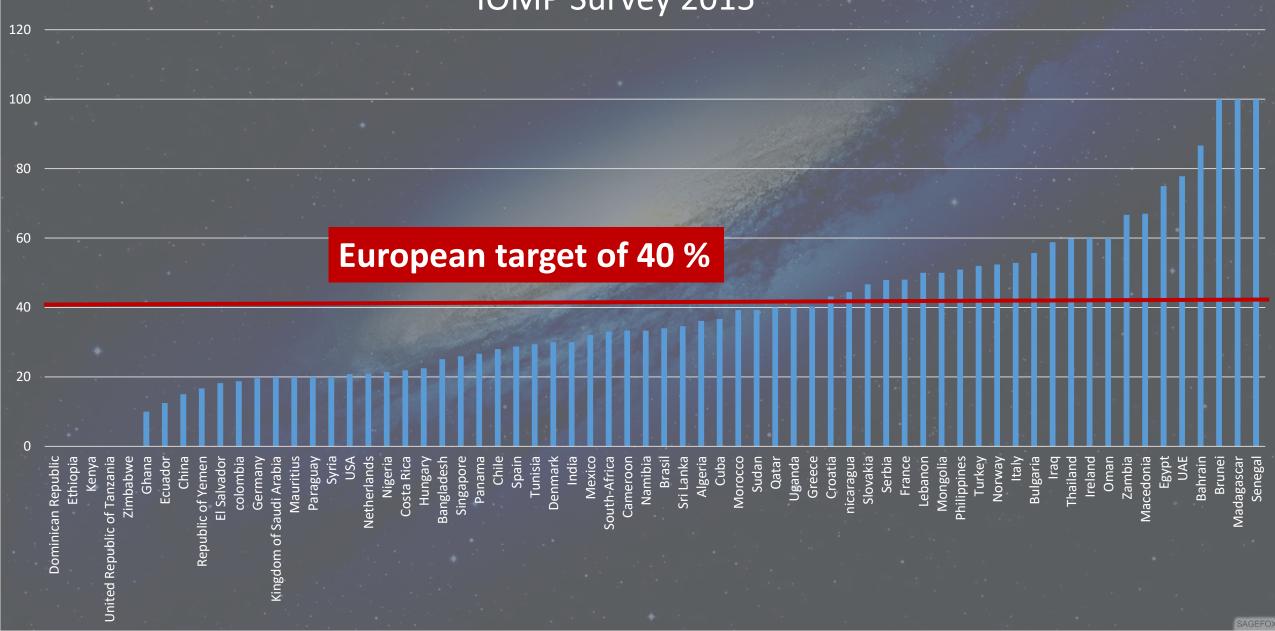
### 28% women MP worldwide



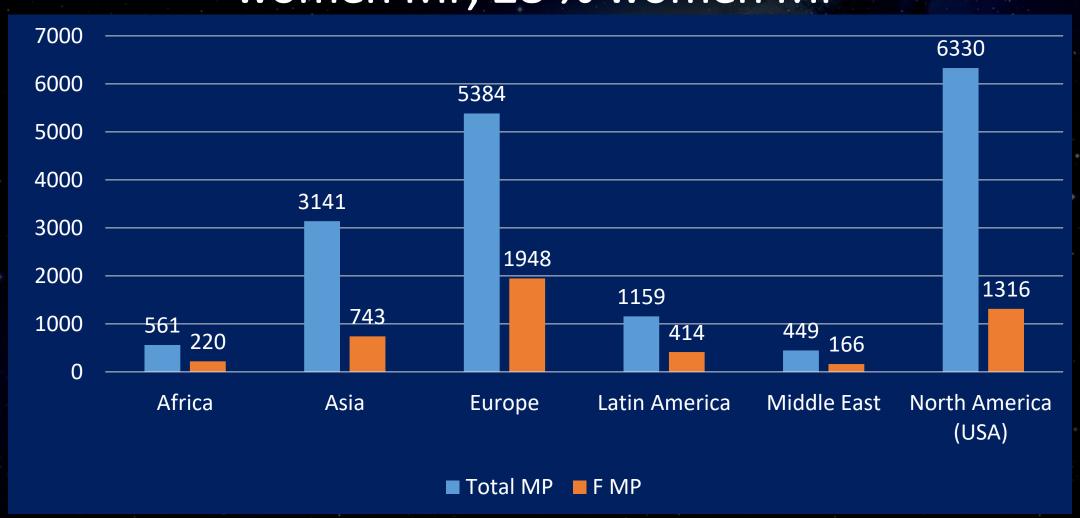
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> Medical Physics Unit, Konstantopoulio General Hospital, Agias Olgas 3-5, 14233 Nea Ionia, Greece

b Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston, USA





# IOMP 2015 Survey 66 countries, 17024 medical physicists, 4807, women MP, 28 % women MP



## EC Communication 1999

Communication from the Commission COM(1999) 76 Final of 17.02.1999.



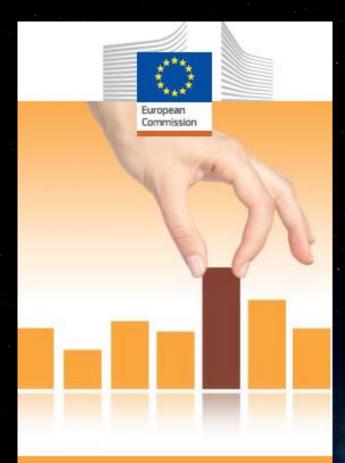
Brussels, 8.5.2013 SWD(2013) 171 final

#### COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT

Report on Progress on equality between women and men in 2012

Accompanying the document

2012 Report on the Application of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights



#### She Figures 2012

Gender in Research and Innovation

Statistics and Indicators

Research and Innovation

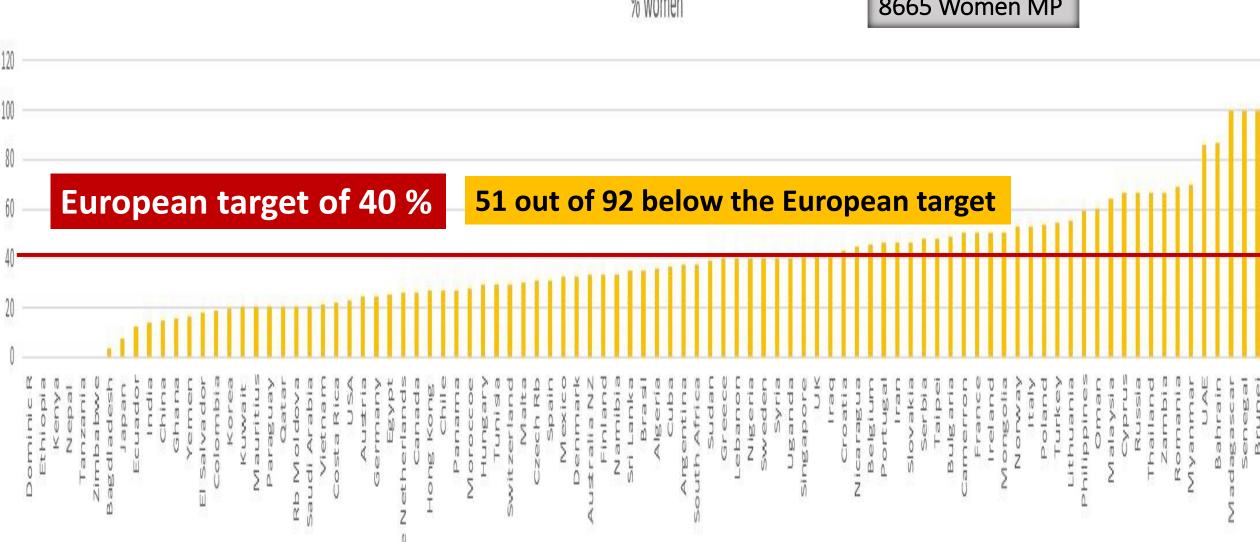
### **She Figures**

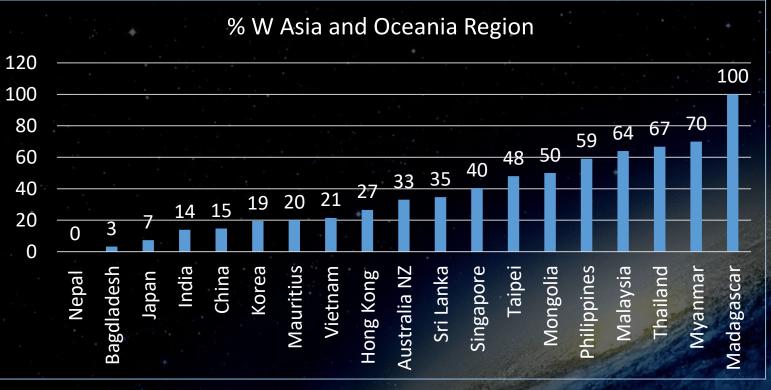
The only major publication presenting a Europe-wide data collection on women in science from tertiary education through to the job market.

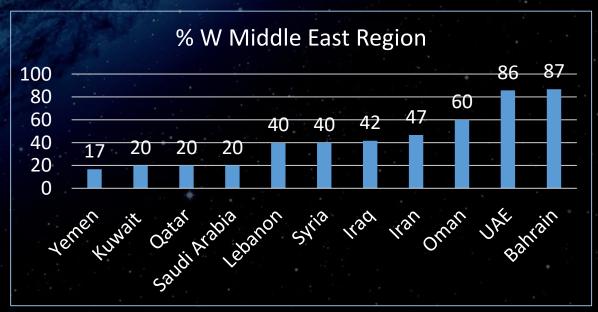
European Commission. She figures 2003/2006/2009/2012 women and science statistics and indicators. Directorate-General for Research, Science and Society

"Although the country figures generally show an improvement over 2002, a profound gender imbalance is still observed in a vast majority of countries"









# IOMP 2017 preliminary results "Comments received"

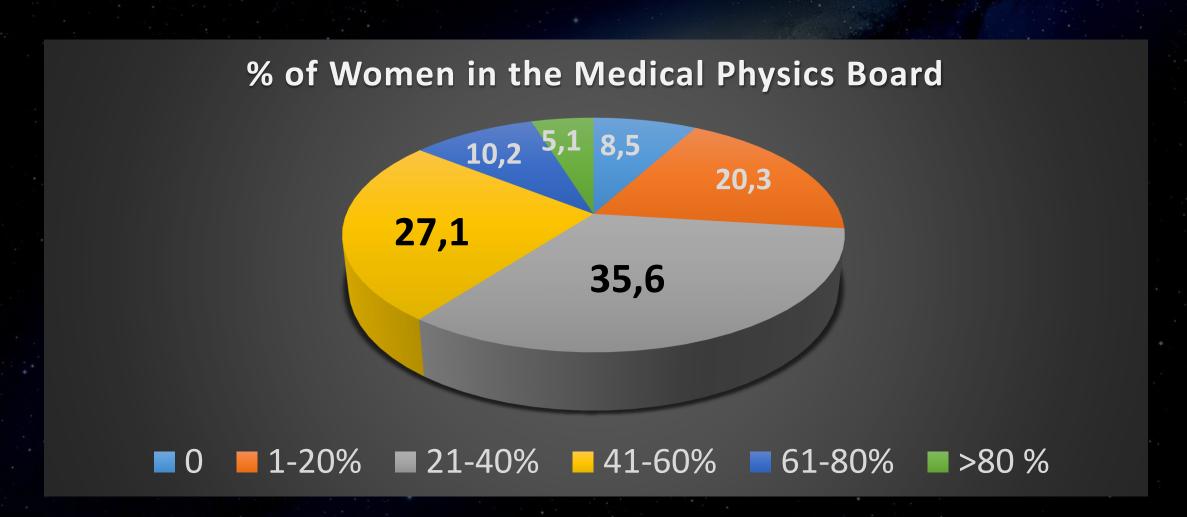


- Not interested.
- Cultural reasons did not allow for the growth of women MP.
- In certain countries, it is a traditionally male dominated field.
- their family don't feel happy to send their daughters studying in radiation field.
- Women usually show interest in Sciences more than men because men have other options such as Military, Police and Administration.

# Leadership issues

- Only 29 % of National Medical Physics societies have a woman President
- 8 % of National Medical Physics societies did not have a single woman in the board

# Leadership issues



# "Comments received"

- There are countries in which % women MP increased in the last years.
   This was due to higher percentage of women studying physics and/or contributing growth of foreign MP women integrating in the local national job market.
- Medical physics is certainly one of the subjects in physics that seems to be more attractive to women than others.

# IOMP 2017 preliminary results "Comments received"

### One country specifically, ACTIONS:

the % of women was fairly consistent over the past several years as there has been no intentional strategy to increase this number.

In 2016, a Women's Committee was established to address professional issues faced by women in medical physics and to explore equity, diversity and inclusivity in the national medical physics community.

Furthermore, the particular organization of MP has sponsored and provided speakers for conferences focused on Women in Physics.

## **EXCELLENT EXAMPLE!**

# Platoni P et al. Participation of women medical Physicists in European scientific events: The European experience. Eur J Med Physics: Physica Medica 46 (2018) 104–108

Category	Female participant:
Organizing committee	36.4%
Scientific committee	14.3%
Invited speakers	25%
Oral presentations	33.8%
Satellite lectures/Satellite symposiums	23.5%
Review courses	33.3%
Symposiums	18.5%
Chairpersons	23%
EFOMP working with the EC	20%
EFOMP meets MEFOMP	50%
Workshops-Round Tables	18.8%

## Eur J Med Physics: Physica Medica 46 (2018) 104–108

Participation of wMPS in the	3rd ESTRO forum.		
Category		Female participants	
Scientific Advisory Group t	Scientific Advisory Group for the Physics Biennial meeting		
Teaching lecture	Chair	37.5%	
_	Invited	16.7%	
Symposium	Chair	40%	
	Co-Chair	25%	
	Invited	22.2%	
Proffered papers	Chair	33.3%	
	Presentations	32.9%	
Poster discussion	Chair	0%	
	Presentations	41.9%	
Debate	Chair	100%	
	Co-Chair	0%	
	Invited	0%	

## Eur J Med Physics: Physica Medica 46 (2018) 104–108

		s in summer		

School	Category	Female participants		
Summer school 2013	Teachers	11.1%		
	Participants	43.8%		
Summer school 2014	Teachers	0%		
	Participants	50%		
Winter school 2015	Teachers	33.3%		
	Participants	52.5%		
Summer school 2015	Teachers	0%		
	Participants	50.7%		
Winter school 2016	Teachers	22,2%		
	Participants	51.9%		
Summer school 2016	Teachers	0%		
	Participants	46.4%		
Winter school 2017	Teachers	11.1%		
	Participants	45.5%		

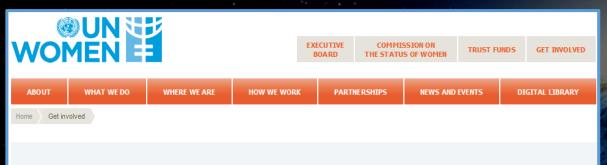
## Eur J Med Physics: Physica Medica 46 (2018) 104–108

Overall results of wMPs' participation in Scientific events.

Category	Mean value
Organizing committee	50.0%
Scientific committee	18.7%
Invited speakers	22.0%
Oral presentations	33.7%
Symposiums	18.5%
Chairpersons - Moderators	29.4%
Satellite lectures/Satellite Symposiums	23.8%
Review/Refresher Courses - Teachers	18.2%
Course directors	0%
Participants (Courses)	50.2%

### http://www.unwomen.org/en/about-us

- Help UN Member States to implement standards by providing expertise and financial support.
- Assists other parts of the UN system in their efforts to advance gender equality.



# PLANET 50-50 STEP IT UP FOR GENDER EQUALITY

We envisage a world where all women and girls have equal opportunities and rights by 2030. Step It Up asks governments to make national commitments that will close the gender equality gap – from laws and policies to national action plans and adequate investment. NOW is the time to Step It Up!

- Member State commitments
- Additional partner commitments (regional organizations, civil society, private sector)
- Step It Up for Gender Equality Media Compact
- About Step It Up
- Planet 50-50 by 2030 Campaign logo
- World leaders agree: We must close the gender gap (27.09.2015
- Robust actions mount, at one year mark of landmark meeting on gender equality and women's empowerment (27.09.2016)





### IOMP and IOMP Women Subcommittee make a lot of efforts to:

- Develop, implement and coordinate tasks and projects related to the role of females in medical physics scientific, educational and practical aspects.
- Disseminate the experiences, good practice and learning within IOMP NMOs and other relevant accessible areas/across the globe.
- Popularize the role of the women in medical physics and encourage female medical physicist to advance in the profession.
- Organize international cooperation in medical physics and related specialities.
- Provide regular status/progress updates to the IOMP on all tasks and projects related to the IOMP Female Group.
- Promote the contribution of female medical physicists at major scientific conferences such as WC and ICMP.

# International Organization for Medical Physics women survey: From participation to leadership

THANK YOU

Dr Virginia Tsapaki