



STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

2019

At its meeting in St. John's, Newfoundland in July 2016, the COMP Board approved a three-year strategic and tactical plan. The plan was created by COMP to articulate its ambitions and guide its actions. Four strategic priorities were established and they continue to serve as the focus for the work of the Board and guide the Board's decisions. The plan is reviewed at each Board meeting in terms of the accomplishment of the plan's activities against the metrics set. This review also takes into consideration any significant changes to the external environment which may warrant an adjustment of strategies or tactics.

The following document highlights COMP's accomplishments in the third year of the plan as they related to each of the strategic priorities.



COMP STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1:

Advocate for medical physicists as **leaders** in innovation and technology implementation in health care.

- Through its annual inter-professional Winter School on Quality and Safety, COMP continues to demonstrate leadership within Canadian healthcare.
- COMP plays a leadership role in the Canadian Partnership for Quality Radiotherapy (CPQR).
- COMP participates in both Canada Safe Imaging and the Medical Imaging Team.
- COMP provided input to Health Canada Safety Code 26 (MRI).
- COMP facilitates knowledge transfer and the following resources are under development: QC guidelines for bone mineral densitometry, x-ray pamphlets for patients, educational material for discontinuing the use of gonadal and fetal shielding for x-ray exams and an MRI site planning document.
- The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) recognizes COMP as a leader in safety. COMP and CNSC have renewed their funding agreement for an additional 3 years.
- The Radiation Sub-committee has been expanded and is COMP's voice on radiation safety issues with regulators and partner organizations.
- COMP maintains close ties with its provincial medical physics associations via its Professional Affairs Committee and by providing administrative support to the provincial organizations.
- COMP continues to profile the role of medical physicists across Canada through its celebration of International Day of Medical Physics.
- A noteworthy section in *InterACTIONS* highlights achievements of members.
- COMP has created a taskforce through the Professional Affairs Committee to review its Code of Ethics.
- COMP has representation on the AAPM Leadership working group.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2:

Ensure medical physicists in Canada can create and have access to **relevant scientific and professional content.**

- COMP provided members with high quality medical physics and professional content through a variety of vehicles:
 - Annual Scientific Meeting – A joint ASM was held with CARO and CAMRT in Montreal in 2018. The theme of the 2019 ASM is Exploring Big Data, Harvesting Big Impacts and the meeting was held in Kelowna, BC.
 - Annual Winter School – In February 2019 the annual Winter School was held in Ottawa and focused on Quality and Safety on MRI.
 - A Mammography Workshop in partnership with the Canadian Society of Breast Imaging was held in Quebec City in May 2019.
- COMP provided financial and/or marketing support for the following regional continuing education programs:
 - AQPMC 2018 annual meeting.
 - WesCan - Edmonton.
 - The International Conference on the Use of Computers in Radiation Therapy and the International Conference on Monte Carlo Techniques for Medical Applications – Montreal.
 - New Avenues in Brachytherapy – Montreal.
 - Special Techniques: SRS/SBRT, TBI and TSEI, A Joint Course for Clinicians and Physicists - Hamilton.
- Through CPQR, COMP continues to provide members with tools to guide quality and safety in radiation therapy:
 - Development of two new TQC documents is underway: MRI and PET CT.
 - An audit tool is being developed that can be used to provide feedback about a centre's quality assurance program and to COMP's Quality Assurance and Radiation Safety Advisory Committee on the usefulness of the TQC documents.
- A task group has been established to develop QC guidelines for Bone Mineral Densitometry.
- Through its ongoing partnership with Sosido, COMP provides a means to share published research and clinical knowledge within the COMP community.
- COMP published the 2018 professional survey. 539 members responded to the survey which is more than double the number of responses received for previous survey which was published in 2014.
- A Competency Profile Working Group has been created to define the core clinical competencies of a qualified medical physicist. The objective is to establish a common clinical skill set that will better integrate resident training, CCPM examinations, continuing education and the clinical duties of medical physicists across the country.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3:

Connect the entire Canadian medical physics community: to each other, to COMP, to other professionals, and to resources.

- COMP's Annual Scientific Meeting continues to be the networking highlight in our Canadian medical physics community. The ASM has introduced specific programming targeted to: students, young professionals just beginning their careers, imaging physicists and women in medical physics.
- Science Spoken Succinctly (S3) is a new session at the 2019 ASM. Presenters are required to share the significance of their research in 3 minutes or less using only one slide. Presentations are judged by well-known locals outside of the medical physics community.
- COMP provided support for the 2018 Young Investigator's Symposium winner to present at special medical physics session at the Canadian Association of Physicists (CAP) Annual Meeting.
- COMP's Science Committee has established a taskforce with a mandate to develop strategies to foster medical physics research culture in the clinical environment.
- COMP's Imaging Committee has made a concerted effort to connect with the MR community and engage MR physicists. COMP hosted a social gathering at the 2019 ISMRM meeting in Montreal to introduce MRI physicists to COMP and encourage them to get involved so that MRI expertise is increased within COMP in order to improve quality and safety for patients as MRI scanners become more integral in radiation therapy.
- The Education Committee has established a sub-committee of Residency Program Directors as well as a Resident Network to enable Residents to connect, share resources and discuss relevant issues.
- The Jerry Battista Award was introduced to encourage Canadian physics associates/assistants to engage with the larger medical physics community by facilitating the attendance of a Physics Associate at the Canadian Organization of Medical Physics (COMP) Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM).
- Community news is broadcast via the weekly Sosido Digest, monthly e-blasts and by social media, in addition to the quarterly newsletter, *InterACTIONS*.
- *InterACTIONS* has introduced new content including articles on professional matters, opinion pieces, articles highlighting COMP on the world stage and annual updates from COMP committee Chairs.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4:

Engage in strategically aligned international initiatives.

- COMP has initiated joint meetings between the AAPM Executive Committee and the COMP Executive Committee.
- Many of our members are doing work on the international stage and this work is showcased in *InterACTIONS*.
- COMP is providing support for Medical Physics for World Benefit.
- COMP is a member organization of IOMP and is an active participant in International Day of Medical Physics initiatives.