

The Brazilian Congress of Medical Physics and the 50th anniversary of ABFM

The XXIV Brazilian Congress of Medical Physics and other satellite events took place between August 18th - 24th, 2019. This intense week began with the launch of the Marília Teixeira da Cruz Courses, which took place at Quintal da Bela, which was the residence of Professor Marília. The name was specially chosen to honour this teacher who has influenced several generations of Medical Physicists in Brazil. The 1st Marília Teixeira da Cruz Course took place on August 19th and 20th at the Radiology Institute of the Clinical Hospital of the USP School of Medicine, with courses in the areas of Radiotherapy Physics, Computed Tomography and Breast Imaging. In addition to several national teachers, the courses had special participation from speakers Cynthia McCollough, PhD and Luis Fong de los Santos, PhD, from the Mayo Clinic in the United States, and Ioannis Sechopoulos, PhD, from Radboud University, in the Netherlands. More than 120 Medical Physics professionals, residents and graduate students attended the courses.



Fig. 1: Group photo of the participants

August 21st was dedicated to the holding of an important Workshop on Teaching in Medical Physics, held on the USP Polytechnic School in Santos, which brought together teachers, undergraduate, graduate and residency coordinators and students to discuss strategies for improving the training of professionals in Brazil. The space was dedicated to the presentation of experiences in the different areas of training of Medical Physicists and the debate of ideas.

The opening ceremony of CBFM2019 took place on the evening of August 21st, bringing experiences outside the traditional areas of physics or medical physics, with more general approaches to women's leadership experiences in medical physics and the challenges of balancing family life with competitiveness in the academic environment. For this, the event had the testimony of the Professor Cynthia McCollough, president of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine Physicians (AAPM), and Professor Fernanda Staniscuaski, from the "Parents in Science" group. The opening program also included a performance from the "Guri Project" guitar ensemble.



Fig. 2: Impressions of the main program

The main program of the Congress took place from August 22nd to 24th, with the participation of more than 600 attendees, 15 international and 15 national speakers. At the entrance of Mendes Convention Center, the attendees found a huge "timeline" with photos that helped tell the history of Brazilian Medical Physics since the foundation of ABFM. In this large poster, the congress participants could write their own stories and record the historical moment of ABFM's 50th anniversary celebration.

Mornings were dedicated to short courses in the areas of Radiotherapy, Radiology and Nuclear Medicine; 23 lectures, 8 round-table discussion sessions and 6 events sponsored by exhibitors were held. The scientific presentations had 42 oral presentations and 146 posters distributed in the various areas of knowledge of Medical Physics. In addition, a trade fair with 13 companies that provide equipment and services to the healthcare community.



Fig. 3: "Timeline" with photos telling the history of Brazilian Medical Physics since the foundation of ABFM

The final two days were crowned with special sessions commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Brazilian Association of Medical Physics. In these sessions, tribute was paid to the founders of ABFM and movies were presented that told the trajectory of this Association since its foundation in 1969, to the present day. They were moments of great emotion and, at the same time, fun, with stories told by important pioneering characters from the Association.



Fig. 4: The Founders of the ABFM

Several other activities rocked the CBFM2019, such as a beach volleyball tournament in the mornings of the event, the "Laura Furnari" Prize for photography, a board-game room, and various activities organized by exhibitors at the trade fair. For dads and moms, a babyscare service was offered. Finally, a big party ended Friday with great joy to celebrate ABFM's 50th anniversary. All this in a very festive, happy and relaxed atmosphere.

The event program is still available at www.cbfm.net.br and photos illustrating the atmosphere of the event can be found at facebook.com/cbfm2019.



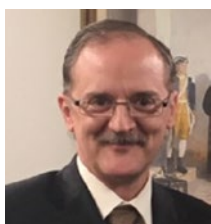
Paulo Roberto Costa

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Alessandra Tomal

She is PhD in Physics from the University of São Paulo. She is Assistant Professor at Institute of Physics Gleb Wataghin at University of Campinas. Her research work is focused in mammography imaging, x-ray spectroscopy and Monte Carlo simulation. She was Program Coordinator of the 2019 Brazilian Congress of Medical Physics.



Homero Lavieri Martins

He is MSc in Physics from the University of São Paulo. He was president and radiotherapy director of the Brazilian Association of Medical Physics (ABFM) and he is Certified Specialist in Radiotherapy by this Association. He is currently the President of the Brazilian Association of Medical Physics.

Some Impressions can be found via the following links:

[General view](#) | [Interviews](#) | [Round tables I](#) | [Round tables 2](#) | [Special talks](#)