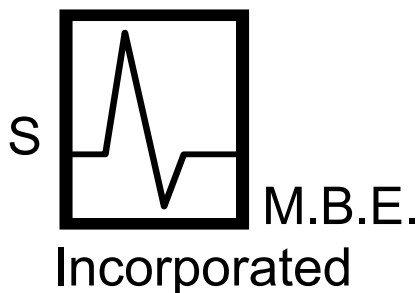


The Society for Medical &
Biological Engineering
S.A.



PO Box 19, Woodville, SA 5011
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ABN 78 256 253 854

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2001

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Affiliations

*Australian Federation for Medical and Biological
Engineering*
*International Federation for Medical and Biological
Engineering*
Institution of Engineers Australia

Australian College of Physical Sciences
in Medicine



Joint Meeting

July 24, 2001

PROTONS IN THE TREATMENT OF CANCER

Presenter: Assoc Prof Tim Van Doorn

Tim van Doorn is the Chief Physicist at the Department of Medical Physics, Royal Adelaide Hospital, an Affiliate Associate Professor with the Dept of Physics and Mathematical Physics, University of Adelaide and currently the President of the ACPSEM. Prior to coming to Adelaide, he was a Senior Lecturer at the Queensland University of Technology and before that the Physicist in Charge, Division of Diagnostic Physics at the Royal Brisbane Hospital.

Abstract:

Interest in the use of high-energy protons for the treatment of cancer has been steadily increasing over the past few years. A self appointed group has been attempting to gain Federal funding for a national facility in NSW. The Victorian government has recently announced the allocation of \$150M for a synchrotron research facility in conjunction with Monash University. In South Australia, the feasibility of establishing a proton therapy facility has been under investigation for over two years.

This presentation will outline some of the details of the system being considered by South Australia along with its unique features that comprise its competitive edge.

Venue: 11 Bagot St, Nth Adelaide

Time: Refreshments 5:30pm, meeting starts 6pm.

Contact: Chris Fox, Medical Physics Department,
Royal Adelaide Hospital.
Phone 8222 5541
Cfox@mail.rah.sa.gov.au

CAREER DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY IN MALAYSIA

Flinders Biomedical Engineering (FBE) is the hospital based biomedical engineering facility of Flinders Medical Centre and Flinders University.

FBE has been invited to train the biomedical engineering technicians (100+) of a large South East Asian Biomedical Engineering provider, which provides hospital based biomedical engineering activities in over 40 hospitals throughout Malaysia. Part of the training to be provided will take place in Malaysia and will be provided in a mentoring, show & tell type fashion by experienced technicians/engineers. These mentors will assist with a backlog of in-house repair work and guide the existing staff in how to successfully repair and support biomedical devices.

I have been asked to assemble a team of seven technicians/engineers with over five years experience in a hospital based biomedical engineering program for a twelve month placement in Malaysia. In particular, experience in the maintenance of either clinical devices or laboratory devices is sought.

The mentor trainers will be employed under the security of Flinders University and will work closely with the ECRI South East Asian headquarters in Kuala Lumpur. Salaries and employment conditions are negotiable, based on the experience and seniority of each mentor, however, an attractive and flexible package is available.

The mentors will work in three teams of two plus a Malaysian based senior consultant who will supervise and coordinate this part of the program whilst delivering short courses. The three teams will rotate from hospital to hospital around the central (Kuala Lumpur) and eastern regions of the Malaysian peninsula. The earliest this program will commence is September 2001 but a more realistic in-country placement date will be at the beginning of 2002.

As a South Australian initiative I am keen in the first instance to give local colleagues an opportunity to participate and would like to hear from interested persons before I search further a field.

I can be contacted on 8204 4061 (W) and would like to speak with prospective South Australian candidates before July 27th, 2001. If you prefer,

send me an e-mail at John.Robson@flinders.edu.au with contact details and I will provide further information.

Regards, John Robson, Flinders Biomedical Engineering.

Report on meeting-Visit of Mr. Mike Flood

Mr. Mike Flood recently visited South Australia and addressed us with a couple of hats on. The first was that of the Therapeutic goods Administration (TGA) the Commonwealth regulator of medical devices. The second was as current chair of the College of Biomedical Engineers within the Institution of Engineers Australia. In that latter role he become signatory to our memorandum of understanding with IEAust setting the example once again for SMBE's in other states to follow, forging stronger links with our peer organisations. Details of this MOU were in a recent newsletter.

Mike had a wealth of insight and information to share with us on what is happening on the regulatory scene here within Australia. It is soon to undergo a massive overhaul with legislation currently pending that represents many years of effort by the TGA in a drive to align Australia's requirements and systems more closely with the approach taken in many other countries. The current system is a two-tiered one that has medical devices either registered, typically requiring significant pre-market evaluation and testing, or listed which in practice has little requirement to demonstrate anything in terms of functionality or standards compliance. Products that require registration are embodied in legislation and hence adding to or subtracting from this quite short list is a slow and cumbersome process. This overall mechanism also does not dovetail at all well with the approach that is being taken globally, best demonstrated by the CE system within the European Union.

A risk based system is proposed that will classify all medical devices into a number of categories with the requirements varying, becoming more "stringent" as one moves up the list into higher risk devices. As in other like systems there will be an increasing emphasis on self-regulation, with the onus on the manufacturer to prove or have evidence of standards compliance, good manufacturing practice, quality control and the like. One very noticeable outcome for purchasers of medical devices is that there may not be an inherent requirement for products to have been

independently type tested for conformance to relevant standards. What is common practice now, and indeed embodied in standards such as AS3551, the demanding of documented evidence of such testing, may well become a thing of the past. That documentation simply may not exist. What should exist however is a much more robust, responsive and structured regulatory approval system in which we can have a high degree of confidence. Whereas currently a device being TGA listed doesn't mean a whole lot in practice under the new order it hopefully will be all that we need to know. For further information contact the President.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General meeting of the Society is scheduled for Tuesday 28 August. More information will be sent out closer to the date but please make a note in your diary for this night. The format will be as normal with a meal, meeting and guest speaker. Our guest speaker this year is a local winemaker.

As usual several council positions will become vacant and nominations are being sought for a number of positions. The positions becoming vacant this year are Vice President, Treasurer and two councilor positions. If you wish to nominate yourself or someone for a council position could you please complete the nomination form at end of the newsletter.

Advertising rates	
Full page	\$100.00
1/2 page	\$50.00
1/4 page	\$25.00
Business card .	\$25.00

Drager/SMBE(SA) Biomedical Engineering Encouragement Award

Nominations are being sought for this very worthwhile award for 2001.

PHILOSOPHY

This annual award is to be made as a means of acknowledging and encouraging excellence amongst Biomedical Engineering practitioners.

PROCESS

The recipient shall be selected by the council of the SMBE (SA) and a representative of Drager Australia from amongst candidates who shall:

Be nominated by a peer who deems them worthy of such recognition, and,

Author a short technical or topical article on a subject either nominated by themselves or chosen from a list provided by the council for publication in its newsletter.

THE AWARD

The award shall comprise a funded visit to the annual SMBE (NSW) technicians seminar.

CONDITIONS

Open to all BME practitioners, from within SA and the NT, be they SMBE members or not. The recipient must be in a position to attend the seminar, in either their own or employers time. The award may be forfeited if this requirement cannot be fulfilled. The nomination by a peer must give a clear indication or evidence of the nominees abilities, skills, motivation or commitment that, in their mind, sets them apart and makes them deserving of particular recognition.

Individuals holding position on the council of the SMBE (SA) at the time of judging are ineligible for consideration.

All entrants are eligible for minor awards of complimentary SMBE (SA) membership for a one year period.

The SMBE (SA) council reserves the right to not make the award whether the submitted articles have been published or not.

CONFERENCE CALENDAR

"EPSM 2001" Fremantle, WA. Sept 30-Oct 4

Information on the above is available from the editor or president

E.& O.E.

Nomination for Council position 2001/2003

Inominate for the position of

Vice President/Treasurer/Councilor

Signednominee/...../.....

Signedproposer/...../.....

Signedsecondar/...../.....

Send to Robin Woolford, Biomedical Engineering, Repatriation General Hospital, Daws Road, Daw Park, SA 5041 or fax to same on 8277 2306.

Nominations to be received by COB 24th August 2001.