

The Swedish Society for Medical Engineering and Physics



The Swedish Society for Medical Engineering and Physics (MTF) is working in the fields of medical physics, biomedical engineering and biophysics. The society was first founded in 1956 and it was called at that time "The Swedish Society for Medical Physics and Medical Engineering". The society was also affiliated to the Royal Swedish Society of Medicine in 1956 and hence, MTF is one of their oldest sections. In the beginning, the members of MTF had technological, medical or scientific background and their main interest was in the fields of research and higher education. In 1971 a subdivision, "The Division of Engineering in Health Care" was founded to meet the demands, not only from the persons who were working with clinical engineering at the hospitals and engineers from industry manufacturing biomedical equipment, but also from the medical doctors working with biomedical equipment in their every day life. Since the activities of these two groups within the main society served the same purpose the annual meetings 1981 decided, that the groups should join together and establish a mutual society named The Swedish Society of Medical Engineering and Medical Physics. At the annual meeting 2009 the name was changed to The Swedish Society for Medical Engineering and Physics.



Clinical Engineering and Health Care Technology Assessment
Division, participants in Umea

MTF has about 1000 members and five sister societies, Denmark, Norway, Finland, Iceland and Estonia. The association arranged an annually recurring event called "The Biomedical Engineering Days". This event attracts about 350-500 participants from health care, research, industry and a large number of exhibitors. In addition, MTF participate at the "Sweden X-ray-week" and contribute with both own sessions as well as in conjunction with other compounds.

One of the association's main goal is to increase understanding and knowledge of security and safety in use of medical devices. MTF arranges several post graduate courses during each term. Some of these courses are recurrent like "Medicine for Engineers" and some are arranged only once, often required by new laws and regulations or new technologies. Most of the courses are organised by the members at their hospitals or at the local universities. MTF's program deals with actual issues in the clinical engineering for example Quality Assurance (QA), Quality Audit and accreditation of hospital laboratories. A topic of today is how Biomedical Engineering and Information Technology will work together on the issue of ensuring patient safety. Furthermore, MTF support the Swedish Medical Association with advice on referrals concerning medical and biomedical technology.

In 1993, the Annual Meeting approved a proposal according to which members have possibility to apply for Certification in Clinical or Biomedical Engineering. Each application to become a Certified Clinical or Biomedical Engineer is assessed by an Accreditation Panel. This panel place considerable emphasis on checking that the candidate has not only the formal education, but also the competence to be certified.



Clinical Engineering and Health Care Technology Assessment
Division teleconference, participants in Brazil

The engagement of MTF in international co-operation is formalised through the International Federation for Medical and Biological Engineering. However, several research institutes have contacts with other organisations and institutes. In 1967 the society arranged a World Congress in Biomedical Engineering in Stockholm and applied for 1997 World Congress. But in Kyoto meeting 1991 the application was

withdrawn and MTF did offer full co-operation for Nice'97. MTF have hosted the Nordic Baltic Conference in Biomedical Engineering (NBC) three times; 1981, 1993 and 2005. These meetings have the status of IFMBE regional meeting. MTF also support other Nordic-Baltic countries arrangements of the Nordic Baltic Conference on Biomedical Engineering and Medical Physics. MTF intends to always have members who are active in the IFMBE divisions and committees.