

**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION  
FOR  
MEDICAL AND BIOLOGICAL  
ENGINEERING**



**DIRECTORY**

**2001**

## THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR MEDICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENGINEERING

In 1959 a group of medical engineers, physicists and physicians met at the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference of Medical and Biological engineering, in the UNESCO building, Paris, France to create an organisation entitled *International Federation for Medical Electronics and Biological Engineering*. At that time, there were few national biomedical engineering societies and workers in the discipline joined as Associates of the Federation. Later, as national societies were formed, these societies became affiliates of the Federation.

In the mid-sixties, the name was shortened to *International Federation for Medical and Biological Engineering*. Its international conferences were held first on a yearly basis, then on a two-year basis and eventually on a three-year basis, to conform to the practice of most other international scientific bodies. The past and future scheduled conferences are listed on the inside back cover of this Directory.

As the Federation grew, its constituency and objectives changed. During the first ten years of its existence, clinical engineering became a viable subdiscipline with an increasing number of members employed in the health care area. The IFMBE mandate was expanded to represent those engaged in Research and Development and in Clinical Engineering. The latter category now represents close to half of the total membership.

In June 1997, the Federation had an estimated 25,000 members in 43 affiliated organisations. The category Honorary Life Member is given to individuals who have served the Federation in various ways as affiliate members.

*Observer* status may be temporarily granted to a society or organisation (pending the determination of their definitive application) to attend the General Assembly. The Federation actively looks at ways to assist national or regional groups encountering some difficulties in qualifying for affiliation.

The IFMBE has also achieved a close association with the *International Organisation of Medical Physics*. Its international conference, commencing with the 11<sup>th</sup> in 1976 have been aligned or combined with those of the IOMP. The two international bodies have established an *International Union for Physical and Engineering Sciences in Medicine*.

## **THE STRUCTURE OF THE FEDERATION**

The direction of Federation business is the responsibility of the *Administrative Council*, which comprises eight elected members plus the president, vice-president, past president, treasurer and secretary general.

The *General Assembly*, which is the ultimate authority of the IFMBE, must ratify major decisions of the Administrative Council. The General Assembly comprises representatives of council action and providing policy to guide their representation on pending decisions.

A *Committee of Secretaries* of the member organisations serves as a link between the Administrative Council and the member organisations, advising the representatives of Council action and providing policy to guide their representation on pending decisions.

The Administrative Council and the Secretaries Committee generally meet once each year; the General Assembly at each three-year international conference. Between meetings, business is conducted by mail ballot.

The administration of the Federation is conducted through its Secretariat, at present located in Stockholm, Sweden.

## **THE FEDERATION JOURNAL**

**Medical and Biological Engineering & Computing (MBEC)** incorporating Cellular Engineering is sold to hospitals, universities and research establishments throughout the world. A reduced subscription rate is available to all IFMBE members. Enquiries regarding subscriptions should be addressed to Subscriptions office: Peter Peregrinus Limited, P.O. Box 96, Stevenage, HERTS SG1 2SD United Kingdom, Tel.: +44-438-313 311, Fax: +44-438-742 792. Web: <http://www.ice.org.uk/publish/journals/profjrnl/#mbec>

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**IFMBE News** appears as a supplement to each issue of the journal, and is distributed separately to all affiliated societies and also on the web:  
<http://www.iee.org.uk/publish/ifmbe>

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**SPECIALISED DIVISIONS AND WORKING GROUPS OF THE FEDERATION**

*Specialised Divisions* are established to address continuing and long term needs. A Charter of Specialised Divisions has been developed which details procedures and policies.

A **Division of Clinical Engineering** has been established with members elected by the member organisations. Meetings are held at the IFMBE regional or international meetings. A bulletin "Clinical Engineering Update" is published as an inset to the MBEC News on a regular basis. Monographs produced by the Division are for sale through the Secretariat.

A **Division for Technology Assessment in Health Care** has been established with the election of Board members having taken place 1993.

*Working Groups* are established in a special area. A Charter outlines policies and procedures. Working Groups have clearly defined objectives, and are usually limited on size to ensure effective and dynamic progress. They have a maximum period of operation of three years. Current Working Groups are the Working Group for Cellular Engineering, the Working Group on Developing Countries in transition, the Working Group on Developing Countries and the New Initiatives Working Group, while regional activities are dealt with by the European and Asian-Pacific working groups, African liaison and CORAL (Latin America). There is also two special groups: the Ad Hoc Group Women in BME and the Task Group History Book.

## **COMMITTEES OF THE FEDERATION**

*The Publication & Publicity Committee* co-ordinates all aspects of publications of the federation, e.g. monographs, reports and proceedings.

*The Federation Journal Committee* co-ordinates business policy for the journal *Medical and Biological Engineering & Computing* incorporating *Cellular Engineering*.

*The International Liaison Committee* maintains contacts with international agencies such as UN, WHO, UNIDO, ECE, etc. The IFMBE has Non-Governmental Organisations status with the UN and WHO and consultative status with UNIDO.

*The Constitution and Bylaws Committee* drafts, interprets and revises the statutes of the Federation, at the direction of the Administrative Council and subject to the approval of the General Assembly.

*The Secretaries Committee* is convened on an annual basis, to inform the affiliated societies of current affairs within the Federation and to obtain an interchange of viewpoints.

*The Finance Committee* advises on the investment of Federation funds, establishes budgets and reviews expenditures. The Treasurer chairs the committee.

*Nominating Committee* is appointed to supervise and scrutinise the election of officers and members of council at the time of General Assembly.

## **MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

The affiliated societies and organisations are listed in this directory. Membership of an affiliated society constitutes Federation membership, including the reduced membership rate for the IFMBE journal: *Medical and Biological Engineering & Computing* incorporating *Cellular Engineering* and for conferences for which a reduced rate is applicable.

Groups or organised societies in countries not at present affiliated with the Federation are invited to contact the Secretary General for information on the procedure.

There are no individual memberships in the Federation with the exception of the Honorary Life Members. Individual who wish affiliation with the Federation where there is no national or regional affiliate are encouraged to become members of the nearest affiliated Society.

## HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

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Dr. A. Remond  
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Prof. O.H. Schmitt (deceased)  
Mr. B. Shackel  
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- 1976 Ir. Jan Kuiper (deceased)  
Dr. Jack A. Hopps (deceased)  
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- 1979 Dr. David Dewhurst (deceased)  
Dr. Dennis Hill
- 1982 Mr. Lester Goodman (deceased)  
Prof. Joseph Weinman  
Dr. Kenkichi Suhara (deceased)
- 1984 Dr. Zoltan Katona (deceased)
- 1985 Mr. Keith Copeland  
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- 1988 Prof. David Simpson
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