Healthcare Technology Assessment Division – HTAD
of the
International Federation for Medical and Biological Engineering
IFMBE

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Second WHO Global Forum on Medical Devices
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Was established in 1959, initially under the name of: International Federation for Medical Electronics and Biological Engineering

IFMBE has now 58 member societies, with estimated 120,000 individual Biomedical Engineers as members worldwide. Approximately half of them are Clinical Engineers.

IFMBE has 12 Committees and 6 Working Groups active on many subjects related to medical devices, has created the:
• International Academy for Medical and Biological Engineering (IAMBE)

and has Two Divisions:
• Clinical Engineering Division- CED
• Healthcare Technology Assessment Division - HTAD
• HTAD – was created in 1993 in recognition of the importance of the field and the interest that it presents for BMEs, but also the role that they could play in HTA.

• The division was quite active during the first period, but rather silent during the last years.

• A couple of years ago the Administrative Council of IFMBE decided to reactivate the division and in June last year a new board has been elected.
The main objectives set by the new board are in brief:

• To stimulate HTA amongst its members.

• To reveal the importance of the role of Biomedical Engineers in many aspects of HTA

• To facilitate sharing of information on Health Technology Assessment and promote capacity building.
Planned activities include:

- Organizing specialised meetings, educational courses, and publications in Health Technology Assessment.
- Acting as a liaison body between International organizations and Institutions performing HTA and the BME societies.
- Promoting education and training of Biomedical Engineers in HTA.
- Reveal the potential of the role of Biomedical Engineers in HTA.
- Creating an updated catalogue of BMEs working on HTA worldwide.
- Start an International Journal on Clinical Engineering and Health Technology Assessment.
Work progress so far:

- **A workshop on:** “The role of Biomedical Engineers in HTA” has been successfully organized during the MEDICON 2013 Conference in Seville last September.

- A report on the same subject is prepared and will be published soon.

- Discussions with Springer on the International Journal on Clinical Engineering and Health Technology Assessment have started.

- A proposal to include the topic of HTA in the harmonized curriculum in BME educational programs in Europe, is part of the recommendations of the EU Tempus project on BME Education.

- A survey of BMEs working already in HTA is under preparation.
Why BMEs are well placed in HTA for MDs?

Due to their:

• Education and skills

• Working experience
BME programs in Europe in 2011

• 148 Universities across Europe offer
• 310 BME programs
• 2/3 created after year 2000

  – 85 Undergraduate - BSc
  – 225 Postgraduate - 160 MSc, 65 PhD
Biomedical Engineer

10-year job growth: 61.7%

What they do all day? Science fiction is a little less fictional in the day-to-day work of biomedical engineers, who design prosthetic limbs and artificial organs or regenerate tissue. They also create drug formulations, develop pharmaceuticals or collect and analyze biological data, among other work. In this field lies the intersection of biology and engineering, which helps crack tough problems in medicine and health.

How to get the job? A bachelor’s, master’s or Ph.D. in biological engineering will get prospects in the door, but engineers with more traditional degrees -- such as electrical, mechanical or chemical -- are also a good fit.

What makes it great? Not only is it one of the highest-paid engineering jobs, it's a career that gives back to society by helping to improve world health. It's also highly flexible, with positions in universities, hospitals, labs, industry and regulatory agencies.
Curriculum Reform & Harmonisation in BME studies
An EU Tempus Project 2011

Core topics

• Biomechanics
• Biomaterials
• Biomedical data and signal processing
• Biomedical instrumentation and sensors
• Health technology design, assessment and management
• Information and communication technologies in medicine and healthcare
• Medical imaging and image processing
The application of organized knowledge and skills in the form of devices, medicines, vaccines, procedures and systems developed to solve a health problem and improve quality of life (WHO).
Life cycle time of MDs is decreasing. Innovation is increasing.
Biomedical Engineers in HTA

- Recognition of the differences in HTA for MDs
- New regulatory initiatives by the EU
- The importance of HB HTA
- Early Stage HTA
- Usability testing
HTAD is here to promote collaboration of BMEs in HTA activities for the benefit of the Field, the Society and the Patient

Thank you