



Alex Grimwood, Postdoctoral Training Fellow at the Institute of Cancer

Research, recently qualified as a clinical scientist through the NHS Scientist Training Program (STP) and is currently researching ultrasound guidance in radiotherapy. After graduating from Queen Mary University of London with a BSc (Hons) in Physics, he studied for an MSc in Medical Physics at the University of Surrey. Inspired by the researchers he met, Alex embarked on a PhD at University College London. Here he investigated optical coherence tomography, whilst forging links with the National Physical Laboratory, the

Institute of Cancer Research and even the Royal Institution of Great Britain. The next stage of his career was spent in the private sector, including gaining valuable engineering experience at Elekta, before returning to medical physics. In his current role, Alex divides his time between research and hospital physics.

Alex discovered IPEM when searching for possible career paths towards the end of his undergraduate degree. Through the IPEM website, he learned about the varied specialisations and routes to certification in medical physics and engineering. As a Student Member during his Masters, Alex read Scope magazine to keep abreast of developments and gain valuable medical physics insight beyond the classroom. When it came to his PhD, Alex presented his initial results at IPEM-organised meetings, which helped showcase his early work and network in a friendly and professional environment. Once his research was ready for publication, Alex chose to submit his paper to *Physics in Medicine and Biology*, an IPEM journal. Other IPEM reports and publications have been an integral part of Alex's training and practice throughout his career.

As an Associate Member during the STP, Alex was able to compare experiences with his peers through the IPEM Trainee Network (ITN). The group's activities also encouraged Alex to engage with the broader medical physics community at events such as MPEC. As a result, Alex applied for committee positions within IPEM and now chairs the Membership Committee.

Being a Full Member of IPEM gives Alex the chance to deepen his engagement with the medical physics community. As he grows his expertise, IPEM gives Alex the means to give something back to the medical physics community and contribute to the current knowledgebase. In addition to applying for future Travel and Innovation Grants, Alex is making full use of the IPEM CPD scheme to ensure he meets his HCPC registration requirements. More than this, as an IPEM Member, Alex is supporting an organisation that represents his professional interests to policymakers and external organisations such as NIHR. His current goal is to ensure the next generation of physicists and engineers have a say in what it means to be an IPEM Member and to help IPEM meet the expectations of their younger members.