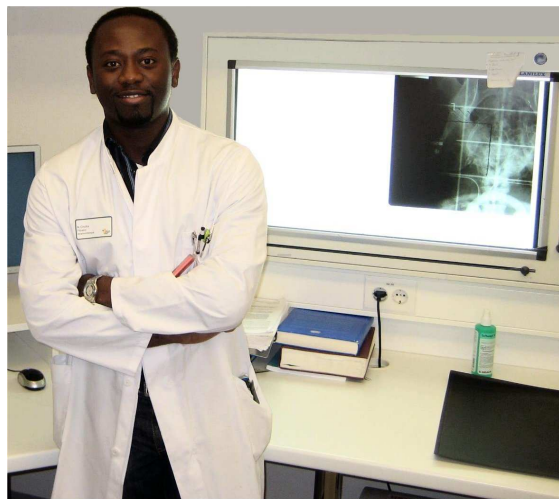


**Interview with the Winner of the PTW Dosimetry Award 2009,
Mr. Ndimofor Chofor, M. Sc., Carl-von-Ossietzky University /
Pius-Hospital Oldenburg**

"Clinical Routine and Research: The Combination Is Optimal!"



Ndimofor Chofor, M. Sc. (Picture: N. Chofor)

Mr. Chofor, you come from Cameroon. What motivated you to go to Oldenburg and study there?

My older brother had studied one year previously in Oldenburg and only had good things to say about it. As a result, my decision in favor of Oldenburg was easy to make. In addition, I was interested in the major of "Engineering Physics". It offered me a combination of subjects, which had already filled me with enthusiasm during my school days: medicine and physics.

What do you find so fascinating about medical physics?

On one hand, medical physics provides a very wide-ranged field of tasks. As medical physicist,

I have many very different responsibilities such as imaging diagnostics, therapy planning, quality assurance and even training and further education of medical professionals. Of course, one special attraction of my work is my research work under the guidance of my dissertation supervisor Professor Poppe and the renowned medical physicist Professor Dietrich Harder.

Which scientific issues and development projects are you currently working on?

The main focal point of my research work is determining the dose contribution of low-energy scattered radiation and its influence on dosimetry and the increase of a secondary cancer risk. In my doctoral dissertation, I am developing a method for determining the change of photon quality with the help of ionization chambers by means of a twin-chamber method. Parallel to this dosimetric procedure, I am performing Monte Carlo simulations on linear accelerators. In this, I am investigating the spectrum quality with respect to the contribution of low-energy radiation.

What do you like about your work?

As medical physicist and radiation protection commissioner at Pius-Hospital Oldenburg, the range of my responsibilities is very varied and continually presents me with new challenges, resulting from the introduction of new treatment methods such as IMRT and IGRT as well as imaging procedures that are becoming increasingly more complex. In addition to routine hospital duties, for example, I advise students about their thesis work and projects and teach at the MTRA school (Note of editor: School of Medical Radiography) of Oldenburg Hospital. As a research assistant, I also have the chance to attend interesting scientific conferences, make my own contributions there and further my education by sharing experiences and knowledge with other scientists. I also find personal satisfaction in being able to contribute directly with my work as a scientist to help ill people.

Interview

Is there a specific challenge in your field that you find especially interesting?

Since I started working with the Monte Carlo procedure, I have been interested in applying this procedure to phantom-based models. I believe that dose calculation within a body and the determination of the change of the spectrum quality is of pivotal significance for predicting secondary cancer risk in persons already exposed to radiation. My fondest dream is to develop individualized radiation treatment planning further.

What goals have you set for yourself in your career?

My dissertation supervisor, Professor Poppe already asked me this question four years ago when I started my internship in Pius Hospital. At that time, I answered that I wanted to get a Ph.D. after my Master's to expand my professional spectrum. I believe I would like to continue to work in research and teach in addition to my routine hospital work in the future.

Imagine that you had the choice: What would your dream job be?

I already have my dream job. But I still have other dreams, which I would like to make reality. This includes improving radiation therapy in my native country of Cameroon. I would like to be involved in acquiring and setting up operation of modern and affordable equipment. I would also like to become involved in training and providing further education for medical physicists and technicians in developing countries.

How do you like life in Oldenburg?

As the city of science 2009 and - as I consider it - "Germany on a miniature scale", Oldenburg is a very modern, lively metropolis and university city, which has a lot of cultural activities. You can also experience the tolerant, cosmopolitan ambience of the city in a very nice way at the annual international summer festival of Oldenburg University.

We would like to thank Mr. Chofor for the interview and wish him lots of success in his further career.



Personal

Ndimofor Chofor, born in Cameroon in 1983, started his studies in "Engineering Physics" at Carl-von-Ossietsky University in Oldenburg in 2001. Following completion of his B.S. in 2004, he continued his studies in a two-year Master's degree program.

Mr. Chofor has been working as research assistant in the medical radiation physics team headed by Prof. Dr. Björn Poppe at Carl-von-Ossietsky University and Pius-Hospital since 2007. He is currently working on his Ph.D. dissertation. Early this year, he was also appointed radiation protection commissioner.

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