



## **Women in Medical Physics: their contribution to improving the quality and safety of medical services using ionizing radiation.**

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Since 1995, when the Peruvian Institute of Nuclear Energy (IPEN) identified the need and importance of training specialists in Medical Physics at the Master of Science level in our country, it has been very positive to see the interest awakened in female professionals in science, who identified a good opportunity to specialize and contribute with their knowledge to improve the safety and quality of medical radio diagnostic services using X-rays, nuclear medicine and radiotherapy. The IPEN, as the governing body specialized in promoting the peaceful and safe use of ionizing radiation, was the promoter of its implementation, through an agreement with the prestigious National University of Engineering (UNI) and the National Institute of Neoplastic Diseases (INEN), with the important support of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

On International Women's Day, it is very gratifying to identify and recognize the contribution that female Medical Physicists have been making through their professional participation to benefit the general population. Therefore, this publication seeks to highlight their presence and professional contribution. Many of them have also participated in fellowships promoted by IPEN but financed by the IAEA, which permanently supports its Member States, to reinforce and strengthen the knowledge of nuclear technology in its multiple peaceful applications in the health sector, for the benefit of the population.

I have had the opportunity to meet the female medical physicists interviewed in this publication, and I cannot fail to mention how gratifying it has been to see their commitment and enthusiasm to work within a multidisciplinary team of healthcare professionals, knowing that this contributes to improving patient care but also

to increasing and consolidating their human sensitivity. I would even say that more than a commitment, it is a passion for the work they carry out on a permanent basis. In this sense, they follow in Marie Curie's footsteps, who was twice awarded the Nobel Prize and is considered the pioneer of Medical Physics as well as an inspiration for women in science.



*Marie Curie, winner twice of Nobel Prize*