

Reviewer' s opinion on the dissertation by Carmel J. Caruana

**A strategic development model for the educator role of the biomedical physics-engineering academic in faculties of health science in Europe**

I confess that I find the topic of the thesis somewhat unusual among those submitted at the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics in Prague but nevertheless it is a great achievement on the part of its author, Ms Carmel J. Caruana. It addresses a subject that is gaining importance in the field of biomedicine, viz. the educator role of an expert in medical physics and engineering in the various faculties of health science all over Europe.

The author addressed teaching scientists in France, Italy, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Ireland, Portugal, Spain and Czechia and prepared an overview of the research design in the various countries, together with their strong and weak aspects. The dissertation also contains recommendations on how to improve the interaction between education and scientific research in the field of medical biophysics but it is certainly applicable to other fields of medicine and engineering. .

The dissertation is accompanied by tables and an extensive eleven-page generic biomedical physics and engineering elements-of-competence directory for healthcare professional users of biomedical devices. There is a list of some 250 references and copies of author' s nine original publications.

On the whole, it attests to the author' s unusual indulgence in this topic and to her ability to process the often heterogeneous data into a well coordinated thesis. I can agree with most conclusions including that on page 121 claiming universities as highly political system. Consequently, one could expect the leading BMPE educators to be dependent on political and power interests of ruling university bodies. How can the author explain the conclusion on page 78 that no treats arising from political factors have been identified?

The study reflects the current situation. However, a significant development in educational systems throughout Europe is highly probable. Do you intend to repeat a similar study?

The award of the PhD degree to her is most enthusiastically recommended.

Doc. RNDr. Evžen Amler, CSc.

m.p.

Prague, November 13, 2006