

Raphex history

1968 1st Raphex exam. Exam prepared by Raphex committee, Shirely Vickers, first Chair, typeset and printed at Memorial Hospital and distributed by Memorial staff. The printing and distribution was done by Memorial for at least 5 years.

In the early 1970s, Morris Hodara became the editor and an attempt was made to have the exam published at AIP and distributed by AAPM. This did not succeed and the exam compilation and distribution reverted to RAMPS.

1987 Morris Hodara resigns as editor, after 19 years of working on Raphex, and Sue Brownie takes over. Exam is still compiled, printed and distributed by Ramps volunteers.

Somewhere in this period, the exam was broken into the general section and specialty sections.

1993-97 Medical Physics Publishing contracts to typeset and print exam from our manuscript, and to distribute exams and answer sheets to proctors.

1994. Due to lack of new questions, SB creates Raphex compilations – Therapy and Diagnostic-compiled from last 10 years of exams, and edited by various members of Ramps – from which to select questions for current exam.

1994 Key MPP staff members leave to form Advanced Medical Publishing. Raphex compilation published by AMP

1997 AMP took over publishing the exam from MPP.

1999 Switched back to MPP (Julie Bogle leaves AMP; conflict with Siamak Shahabi re Ramps royalties).

Therapy and General question databases compiled from 1999 on.

2004? Proctors have choice of results by email or snail mail. Surprising number opt for snail mail.

Results are still identified by resident's names, so that results for each proctor's site must be mailed separately to protect examinee's confidentiality. About 1-2% of the examinees fail to correctly fill out the header on the exam sheet, and therefore cannot receive their results. Several sites routinely send back their results well after the deadline. However, all proctors receive the exam statistics, including the grades vs. percentiles. Percentiles are based on data for that year and specialty only.

2006 Proctors surveyed re proposed changes to content, format and timing of exam. Majority voted to keep June exam date, match the ABR format more closely (2 exams, all multiple choice questions, fewer calculations), and to keep the hardcopy rather than change to an online exam.

2008 Grading was no longer possible at Queen's College. Academy Technologies contracted to provide score sheets, grade exam, and supply grades and statistics to Raphex editor, who distributes them to proctors by email.

Sites are now asked to identify examinees by site ID and their own student ID, making it possible to send the entire spreadsheet of results and statistics to all proctors by email, considerably reducing the work involved in sending separate results to each site.

2008. Based on correspondence with Phil Heintz, chair of AAPM's *RRPSR* committee (Review of Radiation Physics Syllabi for Residents), format of 2009 exam changed from 3 exams (General, Diagnostic and Therapy) each with 100 questions, to 2 exams of about 140 questions each, incorporating general physics, and based on the AAPM syllabi.

2009. After 22 years as editor of *Raphex*, Sue Brownie resigns, and Adel Mustafa becomes new editor.