AAPM ACTIVITIES, WITH A FOCUS ON SAFETY AND QUALITY

Bruce Thomadsen
AAPM President-Elect
DISCLOSURES

• Professor of Medical Physics at the University of Wisconsin

• The President of the Center for the Assessment of Radiological Sciences, a 501(c)(3) non-profit Patient Safety Organization listed with the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, dedicated to improving quality and patient safety in radiotherapy and radiology. I receive no remuneration from CARS.
LEARNING OBJECTIVES

• Become familiar with some of the issues currently facing the AAPM

• Learn the quality and safety activities of the AAPM
SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE AAPM

• About 30% of our approximately 8,500 members volunteer – This is amazingly high for a professional organization.

• On a recent survey of the membership showed high satisfaction with the Association.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree (1)</th>
<th>Disagree (2)</th>
<th>Neutral (3)</th>
<th>Agree (4)</th>
<th>Strongly Agree (5)</th>
<th>AVG</th>
<th>Std. Deviation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AAPM disseminates scientific and technical information in medical physics.</td>
<td>1.04% 24</td>
<td>0.87% 20</td>
<td>6.15% 142</td>
<td>41.85% 966</td>
<td>48.18% 1112</td>
<td>4.41</td>
<td>0.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAPM promotes the highest quality medical imaging and radiation therapy.</td>
<td>1.13% 26</td>
<td>1.21% 28</td>
<td>8.62% 199</td>
<td>40.77% 941</td>
<td>44.97% 1038</td>
<td>4.36</td>
<td>0.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAPM promotes improvements in patient safety.</td>
<td>0.87% 20</td>
<td>0.95% 22</td>
<td>7.24% 167</td>
<td>45.23% 1044</td>
<td>44.28% 1022</td>
<td>4.35</td>
<td>0.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAPM provides helpful opportunities for members to share cutting edge research.</td>
<td>1.00% 23</td>
<td>3.21% 74</td>
<td>11.79% 272</td>
<td>44.24% 1021</td>
<td>37.13% 857</td>
<td>4.20</td>
<td>0.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAPM encourages research and development to advance medical physics.</td>
<td>1.56% 36</td>
<td>2.25% 52</td>
<td>12.65% 292</td>
<td>43.33% 1000</td>
<td>37.74% 871</td>
<td>4.20</td>
<td>0.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAPM helps keep me informed regarding advances in medical physics.</td>
<td>1.13% 26</td>
<td>2.34% 54</td>
<td>12.39% 286</td>
<td>47.75% 1102</td>
<td>34.79% 803</td>
<td>4.18</td>
<td>0.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAPM provides valuable opportunities for networking.</td>
<td>1.26% 29</td>
<td>2.04% 47</td>
<td>13.99% 323</td>
<td>48.70% 1124</td>
<td>32.63% 753</td>
<td>4.13</td>
<td>0.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAPM supports the medical physics education of physicians and other medical professionals.</td>
<td>1.34% 31</td>
<td>4.55% 105</td>
<td>19.45% 449</td>
<td>39.95% 922</td>
<td>27.25% 629</td>
<td>4.08</td>
<td>1.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAPM provides valuable professional development opportunities to advance the careers of members.</td>
<td>1.56% 36</td>
<td>4.12% 95</td>
<td>16.38% 378</td>
<td>45.71% 1055</td>
<td>29.33% 677</td>
<td>4.05</td>
<td>0.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAPM provides genuine opportunities for members to share best practices.</td>
<td>1.21% 28</td>
<td>4.25% 98</td>
<td>16.51% 381</td>
<td>46.71% 1078</td>
<td>28.64% 661</td>
<td>4.05</td>
<td>0.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAPM helps members to anticipate the challenges and trends that will likely impact the medical physics community.</td>
<td>1.52% 35</td>
<td>6.11% 141</td>
<td>20.58% 475</td>
<td>45.36% 1047</td>
<td>24.57% 567</td>
<td>3.90</td>
<td>0.94</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Do not try to read. Look at the dark squares under Agree and Strongly Agree.
HOW IS EXCOM USING THE SURVEY RESULTS

• Other than shouting about them…
• We use the identification of area that are rated the least positive to work to improve,
• We are paying attention to the comments to also note where improvements can be made.
  • Anticipating changes that would affect medical physicists
  • Connecting AAPM membership and leadership
SO WHAT HAS EXCOM BEEN UP TO?

• Future Numbers
  “Prediction is very difficult, especially about the future.”
  Yogi Berra
  Samuel Goldwyn
  Niels Bohr
  Piet Hein?
  Robert Storm Petersen?
  (Mark Twain? With no evidence)
MEDICAL PHYSICS WORKFORCE NEEDS

• How many new medical physicists are needed now?
• How many will be needed in a few years?
  • A function of Retirements
  • A function of CMS changes
  • A function of NIH changes
…there are known knowns; there are things we know we know. We also know there are known unknowns; that is to say we know there are some things we do not know. But there are also unknown unknowns – the ones we don't know we don't know…it is the latter [sic] category that tend to be the difficult ones.

Donald Rumsfeld
February 12, 2002
MEDICAL PHYSICS WORKFORCE NEEDS

• How many new medical physicists are needed now?
• How many will be needed in a few years?
  • A function of Retirements
  • A function of CMS changes
  • A function of NIH changes
• How many should be, or could be, minted each year?
• How good is the match between:
  • Number needed and number coming out of residencies
  • Number of graduates and residency slots and other types of jobs
  • Balance between therapy, imaging and nuclear, and other types
• We need to get numbers.
AND VISIONARY ACTIVITIES

- Future Working Group
- Medical Physics 3.0
QUALITY OF MEDICAL PHYSICS TRAINING

• There is some concern about the background preparation of new medical physicists. (Some of that is from grumpy of physicists.)
• Trying to work with CAMPEP and ABR to get some information.
INTERACTIONS WITH THE WORLD

• With the NRC:
  • Responses to several requests

• NIH Budget Cuts

• ARRT Exam Content

• IAEA on several topics, mostly training

• ACGME on resident training and the participation of medical physicists.

• States:
  • Dermatology exemptions
  • Changes in regulations on CT dose and QMP
INTERACTIONS WITH THE WORLD

- With the NCRP on LNT
- With COMP, ESTRO, IOMP, and on.
- With RSNA, ASTRO, and on.

- AAPM may be submitting a proposal for the World Congress 2025.
A LITTLE MORE

- Medical Physicist's Scope of Practice.
  - Medical Physicist's Assistant Scope of Practice.
A LITTLE MORE

• Medical Physicist’s Scope of Practice. Well, Professional Council is dealing with this, but we tag along.
• Medical Physicist’s Assistant Scope of Practice.
A LITTLE MORE

• Medical Physicist’s Scope of Practice. Well, Professional Council is dealing with this, but we tag along.
• Medical Physicist’s Assistant Scope of Practice.
• A new Code of Ethics.
Current AAPM Board Structure

Board of Directors

EXCOM (reports to the Board)
- Executive Director
- Presidential Chain, Treasurer, Secretary (5)
- Chapter representatives (21)
- Member-at-Large board member (12)
- Non-voting board member (11)

Non-voting board member (11)
PRINCIPAL BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

• Governance and leadership
  • Evaluate composition, knowledge, and effectiveness of the board
  • Develop future board members and organizational leaders

• Strategic direction, thinking and plan
  • Develop and clarify organizational goals
  • Evaluate opportunities and formulate organizational strategies
  • Assess performance of strategy via critical success factors and benchmarks

• Monitor ethics and financial integrity of the organization
• Ensure needs of the members are being satisfied
• Provide oversight and support of the Executive Director
• Evaluate organizational performance and operational results
AAPM INITIATIVES IN PATIENT SAFETY
ASPECTS OF PATIENT SAFETY

Addressing patient safety can be:

• Proactive or
• Reactive.
• Overall, the importance of safety culture cannot be overstated.
SAFETY CULTURE

The AAPM developed a Safety Profile Assessment (SPA)

- A member can create an account and answer 92 questions about culture and climate in a facility. It takes about 1h 20m, give or take.
- The tool has four major sections: 1) Institutional Culture, 2) Quality Management, 3) Managing Change and Innovation and 4) Clinical Performance.
• The tool’s questions use a 5-point scale based on compliance with standards and gives a measure of culture.
• The score is archived so at future times the culture can be re-assessed to evaluate changes in culture.
• Passwords cannot be retrieved to maintain anonymity!
• The tool lives at
  http://spa.aapm.org
or on a button on the bottom of your AAPM home page
Most of the AAPM proactive initiatives focus on the implementation of the recommendations of TG 100.

Recap (since you have had presentations on this before)
• Scope-Start small, probably stay small
• Methodology
  • Assemble a team of representatives from each discipline involved.
  • Map the process (can use any type of mapping to help understand what is done)
Radionuclide Mold/Custom Made Applicator Brachytherapy Process

1. Pre-treatment preparation
2. General Preparation
3. Target definition
4. Applicator Construction
5. Applicator Placement
6. Immobilization
7. Applicator Placement
8. Imaging
9. Sim report and Prescription
10. Catheter measurements
11. Treatment Planning
12. Contouring
13. Catheter reconstruction
14. Activation
15. Normalization
16. Optimization
17. Tx Plan approval in R&V
18. Treatment Delivery
19. Plan import/Program unit
20. Patient and Plan verification
21. Position Applicator
22. Deliver Treatment
23. Record treatment

Finish
PROACTIVE INITIATIVES

Recap of TG-100 Methodology

• Assemble a team of representatives from each discipline involved.
• Map the process and identify potential failures at each step.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Preparation</th>
<th>General Preparation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Target definition</td>
<td>1. Wrong treatment depth, 2. Wrong treatment site or margins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applicator conceptual design</td>
<td>Applicator conceptual design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forming Mask and Mold</td>
<td>1. Inappropriate materials, 2. Poor alignment, 3. Inappropriate thickness, 4. Poor conformality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applicator Placement</td>
<td>1. Applicator not placed as fabricated, 2. Applicator placement not documented adequately</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imaging</td>
<td>1. Imaging not show patient and applicator adequately, 2. CT slice thickness too large for accurate catheter reconstruction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sim report and Prescription</td>
<td>1. Incorrect positioning of patient or applicator, 2. Incorrect dose distribution or fractionation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catheter measurements</td>
<td>Length to first dwell incorrect</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PROACTIVE INITIATIVES

Recap of TG-100 Methodology

• Assemble a team of representatives from each discipline involved.
• Map the process
• Assess the risks.
  • AAPM suggests FMEA only because it has a good track record in health care and many hospital staff know it.
  • It really only serves to give an understanding of the relative risks of potential hazards.
  • It does tell you when the risks are too low to bother addressing.
## Failure Modes and Effects Analysis - FMEA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Potential Failure</th>
<th>Potential Cause of Failure</th>
<th>Potential Effects of Failure</th>
<th>Current Controls</th>
<th>O</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>RPN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Local</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>End (Patient)</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PROACTIVE INITIATIVES

Recap of TG-100 Methodology

• Assemble a team of representatives from each discipline involved.
• Map the process
• Assess the risks
• Make a fault tree
Brachytherapy Custom Mold Preparation Fault Tree
(Please, don’t try to read it)
PROACTIVE INITIATIVES

Recap of TG-100 Methodology

• Assemble a team of representatives from each discipline involved.
• Map the process
• Assess the risks
• Make a fault tree
• Insert interventions to eliminate causes or intercept the propagation of failures
Mold Brachytherapy Fault Tree with Correctives
PROACTIVE INITIATIVES

• Training Sessions
  • 2013 Summer School
  • Training workshops at the Annual and Spring Clinical Meetings and several Chapters
  • Participants usual pick up the techniques quickly and feel confident doing them in their facility
  • Sessions at the ASTRO, RSNA, ABS and Chapter Meetings
PROACTIVE INITIATIVES

- Training Sessions
- Implementation Guide in preparation
- Videos to walk through the steps
  
  https://www.dropbox.com/s/heph33cutu5ybme/Process%20Maps%20v1.mp4?dl=0
PROACTIVE INITIATIVES

- Training Sessions
- Implementation Guide in preparation
- Videos to walk through the steps
- Liaisons to all relevant organizations
- Working with CRCPD to bring them along
- Working to place vetted model analyses on the website
- Working to provide access to tools
“Reactive” should not be seen as a pejorative. It only means addressing issues uncovered by analysis following some deviation from an intended treatment for a patient.

Much can be learned from such an analysis.

Often referred to as a root-cause analysis, the intention is to delve deeper than the immediate actions that caused an incident to find the weaknesses in the procedures and environment of a facility (the system) that led to those actions and did not protect the patient from them.
While mastering the TG-100 methodology is accomplished easily, root-cause analysis has a long learning curve.

Most facilities do not have sufficient incident rate to get good at it.

Most interventions narrowly address what would have prevented the given incident but not the deeper issues.
AAPM REACTIVE INITIATIVES

- With ASTRO, established RO-ILS, the second radiotherapy incident reporting database, through the PSO Clarity
- Has ROHAC to look for trends over time and major issues
- Has WROIILS to look at the operation of RO-ILS
- Subsidizes RO-ILS so it is free for member’s facilities
- Has a TG to provide guidance for writing narratives
- Is working at establishing an imaging incident taxonomy to extend a reporting system to radiology
AAPM PATIENT SAFETY GROUPS

• Working Group for the Prevention of Errors in Radiotherapy
• Working Group for the Implementation of TG 100
• Both work through many committees and councils
SUMMARY

• The AAPM has many initiatives to assist members improved the quality and safety of radiotherapy.
• The AAPM is a very active and happy organization, but we are trying to make it happier and better.
• You have the responsibility to let us know how you think the AAPM could improve.