

Physics Summit: Physics Education of Radiation Oncologist

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Summary Comments – Day 3

1. Physics education in Radiation Oncology is quite good → but it can be improved.
2. Klein pointed out 3 forces driving physics learning in Radiation Oncology. But we would agree the ABR exam is the stronger. How can this be changed so the mastery of core knowledge in physics to satisfy career needs is strongest?
3. Increase clinical commitments and changing priorities (e.g., research) are decrease time for physics education. How can this be accommodated?
 1. Emphasize importance of physics – Teaching must take precedence and must be taken seriously
 2. More physicist – resident interaction
 3. Ancillary on-demand teaching aids (e.g. SAMS)
4. Communication needs to be improved
 1. ASTRO-AAPM – joint curriculum committee – ASTRO in the lead.
 2. Committee in (1) with ABR – therapy physics trustee on committee (to correlate course syllabus and exam blue print)
 3. ABR Assoc. Executive Director with NRC/CRCPD/ACMUI/OAS, etc. – with organization governmental liaisons.
 4. Communicate with ACGME/RRC regarding importance and unimportant topics in check list.
5. Tag-team physicist/physician teaching of complex technology topics should be explored (principles and applications). Also, physics rotation where possible.
6. A major challenge is to identify the correct depth for teaching the physics underlying the increasingly push button technologies of radiation oncology.
7. Physics instruction should be molded to the needs of Radiation Oncologist not sending Radiation Oncology residents to other sites for learning
8. A website for sharing “how I teach physics” should be created by AAPM. In addition, a list serve with organizational representative (AAPM, ASTRO, ARRS, ACR Residents section, ACROP, APCR, SCAROB, SCARD) to improve communication.
9. A major need is for assessment methods to evaluate and act on the effectiveness of physics instructions and the assessment of physics learning.
10. Input into the certification process for persons who have recently taken the ABR/physics/certification examination should be encouraged.