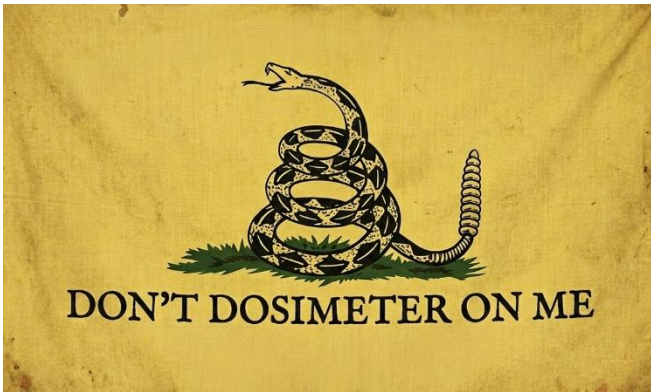


Following ALARA and ALADA, regulators announce the latest radiological protection principle - ALANALDA

The IAEA praised the update as long overdue, noting that the American actor, director, and writer Alan Alda is actually a pretty decent science communicator and Marie Curie stan, plus he was great on M*A*S*H. Asked for comment, Mr. Alda responded "I don't know what's happening, I just asked what a Sievert was." (P.Watson)



NRA releases whitepaper endorsing "step and shoot" for all radiation therapy plans

"Distance, shielding, time" to be replaced with "stand your ground." (J.DeCunha & P.Watson)

HONEST NED'S RADIATION WAREHOUSE

OUR BIGGEST SALE EVER!

ON CYBERKNIFE, CYBERSPOON,
AND CYBERFORK

GET THE COMPLETE SET OF ALL CYBERCUTLERY!*

IT'S THE CYBERMONDAY SALE! OUR PRICES ARE
VARIAN-SANE!

FIRST TEN CUSTOMERS GET A BONUS FREE CYBERKNIFE SHARPENER
*CYBERTRUCK NOT INCLUDED

thedummysource.github.io

Nikki Glaser reveals that she honed her roast comedy skills as Reviewer 2

In a candid interview, the famed insult comic explained that her ability to perform savage roasts all started with refereeing papers ad hoc for a couple of journals. "When you think about it, reviewing academic manuscripts was the perfect training" said Glaser. "I mean, the amount of emotional devastation you can inflict is unreal. Stuff like 'this methodology lacks rigor', 'unacceptable as written', 'major revisions required', how do you even come back from that?" It was only after more than one editor complained that her reviews were "funny, but unnecessarily cruel" did she pivot to stand-up comedy. As we were wrapping up the interview, Glaser remarked "Well, I hope the five people who will read this find it entertaining. I think your newsletter is a great idea, by the way. Having inside jokes is a great way to help you nerds get popular." (P.Watson)

Radiology Department Installs Hostile Architecture to Combat Loitering in MRI

As homelessness rates increase across North America, one hospital is addressing the situation in an unconventional way: hostile architecture. The controversial practice of using structures to discourage undesirable behaviors in public spaces was justified by the hospital administration to "improve safety and cleanliness".



"We have no problem with unsheltered individuals accessing health care, we just want them find more appropriate places to sleep, namely, not here" said one unnamed source. When it was pointed out that these measures would also affect patients, they responded that they were sensitive to our concern, but "...the MRI is for imaging, not relaxing. And besides, comfort isn't a covered benefit under most insurance plans." (P.Watson)



Economic Tidbits
By Ackeem Berry



New cryptocurrency: GyCoin.
Pegged to 1 Gy at dmax. Uses Proof-of-Work. 1 GyCoin is minted for every QA test performed.

Revised report: Roentgenomicists now warn of Dose Deflation in 2026. MUs expected to be worth less than 0.78 cGy by year's end. Experts cite rising plan complexity, extreme hypofractionation, and the "stagflation of the calibration curve"

Pneumatic tube system that you didn't know existed is under maintenance again

Physicists were not inconvenienced Tuesday morning when the hospital pneumatic tube system that no-one knew about went down for what administrators called "routine, perpetual maintenance." Asked how this would impact their work, a physicist we reached out to replied "what?" Another physicist remarked that the only proof they have of these tubes existing are the constant, clockwork emails announcing their maintenance. (P.Watson)

2

Editor-in-Chief:
Contributors:
Jeb Dexter
Allison Toltz
Joseph DeCunha
D. Sparkle

Peter Watson
Ackeem Berry
Trey Chernoff
Lorri Yurkowski

*Submit to Dummy Source!
dummy.source@proton.me

*Refers to submission of content, not of surrendering oneself to.

Digitally Reconstructed Radiographs (DRRs) gain prefix; now called R-DRRs after new registration label guidelines introduced in AAPM TG report

When asked for a comment, the head of the task group responsible for the new guidelines laughed in our faces.

When asked for clarification of "how this headline is even a joke", this writer suggested readers watch (or rewatch) season 1 of the Simpsons. (T.Chernoff)

Overheard at a Party

"Close only counts in horseshoes and stereotactic radiotherapy"
(A.Toltz)



Utah physicist discovers patient specific QA fluence map that looks "exactly like Ringo Starr"

When asked for comment, the physicist stated that they "could not present images of the fluence map due to patient privacy concerns." The physicist also said "trust me though, it's so cool." (T.Chernoff)

A Word from our Sponsor:

Clear. Stretchy. Sticky.



Everything a physicist could want in an adhesive tape, with none of the cost if you "borrow" it from the nurse's station. That phantom ain't goin' nowhere with The Good Tape.

(P.Watson)

Help a Professor Buy Her Own Textbook

(P.Watson & L.Yurkowski)



The Story:

Hi everyone, I'm a professor from the Department of Physics. After several long years of research and writing, my new textbook "Radiation Physics: Principles and Applications" has finally been published! However, the publishing contract, as some of you might know, is very limited, and I only received a digital proof. To hold a physical copy for my own desk reference, I have to buy it at full price.

This fundraiser is simply to raise the funds to purchase one physical copy for myself. Thank you so much for your support! - A Grateful Professor.

\$50 raised of \$300 goal

4 donors 14 days left

Donate now

Share

Donations

-  Daughter Alice
\$20 • So proud of you, Mom! Get your book!
-  Son David
\$10 • Go Mom! Love you.
-  My Parents
\$10 • We are so proud of your hard work, dear.
-  Former Student
\$10 • Best of luck, professor. Great work.

Incident Reported at Elekta AB Research Facility

(Flemingsberg, Sweden) - On the morning of Monday, December 8th, humming was emanating from the Elekta AB research facility in the Stockholm suburb of Flemingsberg. Authorities were first called to the facility Saturday morning, when concerned residents awoke to find furniture in their homes shaking and windows rumbling in their frames.

Products including the Elekta Synergy, Elekta Infinity, Elekta Unity, and Elekta One, were all developed at the Flemingsberg research facility. On the condition that their identities be protected, Elekta AB employees have shared documentation with Dummy Source indicating that Elekta is years into the development of a product known as the Elekta Singularity.

Little is known about the Singularity, but documentation revealed to us indicates that the product uses "relativistic antimatter tauons which trigger a resonance cascade in the [accelerator head]". Through an unclear mechanism, it is claimed that a year's worth of radiation therapy treatments can be treated in just hours on the Singularity. Elekta AB engineers have drafted elaborate plans to construct phenomenally large patient waiting areas and treatment vaults to accommodate the "almost limitless number of patients which can be treated simultaneously".

It is hoped that the Singularity will mark a substantial increase in the reliability of Elekta products as documentation states that "There are no interlocks. Once initiated, the Singularity can not be tamed".

As of 11:00 AM Central European Time on Monday, Elekta staff were still not allowing local police access to the facility. At a press conference held via teleconference, Elekta AB CEO Jakob Just-Bomholt stated that he "appreciated the great deal of enthusiasm about Elekta products" but reiterated that "there is nothing to see here". He also apologized for "any inconvenience caused" and encouraged residents living in the municipality to "leave their homes" and "consider taking a brief vacation of four months". (J.DeCunha)

Disappointed Customer by Trey Chernoff

A gym owner recently purchased a Geiger-Müller counter with the intent to use it for the development of a new personal fitness program. When asked how exactly he intended to use the device, the gym owner responded as follows:

"It's a Geiger counter, right? As in guy-grrr. Like a raw primal growl that can only be delivered after hitting a new bench PR. So when I'm training someone and they start unleashing that tiger energy and raw physical power, I wanna be able to detect that and count it for them. Y'know?"

The interviewer then explained what exactly a Geiger-Müller counter is used for, to which the gym owner responded by adopting a posture akin to that of a child being told that Santa Claus does not exist.

A refund has since been issued.



"The dose to medium is the dose to message"

-Marshall McLuhan, wading in to the dose to water vs dose to medium debate.

What's The Issue?

So, everyone bought (or didn't buy) this copy of Dummy Source under the specific impression that we would be addressing "THE DOSE ISSUE". So, what is this issue plaguing the dosimetry community? This issue that, were we not to address it, would cause uproar, protest, and fires in the streets of the medical physics community?

I'm glad you asked. As everybody knows (or doesn't know), we in the DS writers' room report to one James Jonah Chadwick. He's a pretty neutral guy, except for a few times a year when he goes on a juice cleanse to (in his own words) "rid his physical form of excess beta energy". He's a lot more positive during that period.

Anyways - Oh, pardon me, here comes the boss now!

[20 minutes elapse]

Sorry, I would have liked to continue my story, but I have just been informed that I incorrectly interpreted the word "issue" as its homonymic meaning. There is no issue (that is, no problem) with dosimetry (at least not one to the degree of severity previously described). This is just the Dummy Source DOSE ISSUE.

Read on, scholars! (T.Chernoff)

Have you seen it?

What does it want?

I'm not sure, but I have devised a plan to capture them. It never has enough Monitor Units.



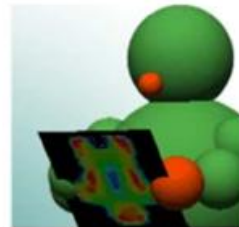
Please help me put a stop to this fiend. If it bleeds, we can kill it.



"It was staring at me in the shower, my environment of safety is ruined." Dr. SoandSo



Artist's rendition



(D.Sparkle)

It appears lovable and harmless. Do not believe it's lies. It murdered my dog.



Ancient alien?

Please call this number if you have information.

- 1-888-Varian5
- 1-888-Varian5
- 1-888-Varian5
- 1-888-Varian5
- 1-888-Varian5
- 1-888-Varian5
- 1-888-Varian5
- 1-888-Varian5
- 1-888-Varian5
- 1-888-Varian5
- 1-888-Varian5
- 1-888-Varian5
- 1-888-Varian5
- 1-888-Varian5
- 1-888-Varian5
- 1-888-Varian5
- 1-888-Varian5
- 1-888-Varian5

The promise of H.R. Roberts is indefatigable

THE PROMISE OF H.R. ROBERTS CARRIES THE WEIGHT
OF TWO HONEST MEN

Ladies and gentlemen, I have travelled over half the globe pursuing QA perfection, and never in this time have my customers accused me of dishonesty. To be true to my nature I maintain the highest level of integrity. This is not a boast, but a statement of fact.



A WORD ON THE COMPETITION

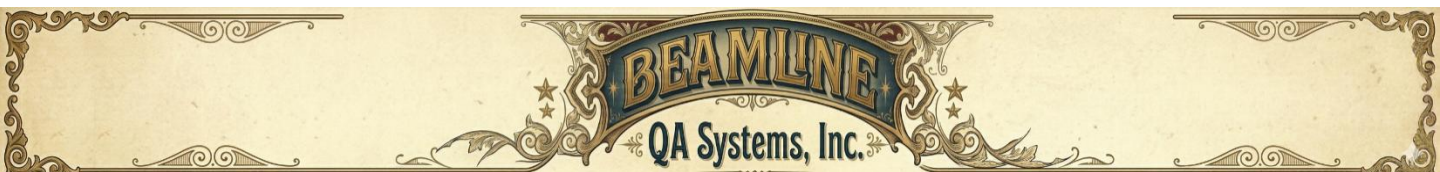
You may be no doubt aware of the profane claims of my chief rival, Dr. R.F. Venables, President of InsightQA. While I consider him a dear friend and confidant, it pains me to tell you that he is a rogue and a cheat, and has achieved success in his business only through deception and subterfuge. I take no pleasure in admitting that I once caught him "data engineering" kV accuracy measurements from an intraoral dental x-ray unit to avoid a non-compliance. I can say without hyperbole that to conduct business with him is to form a partnership with Satan himself. Admitting this uncomfortable truth about my colleague does not come easy, for as evil as he is, he is my best friend. Second only to myself, no one on earth appreciates the beauty of QA tracking software and tools as much as he.

A WORD TO MY ASPIRING ASSASSINS

Word has reached me that R.F. Venables has put a price on my head. This is not the first time the coward has wished me dead, and I assure you that it won't be the last. As a show of honour and sportsmanship, I invite any man who feels so inclined to answer his challenge. But be warned: I protect myself to the same high standards and excellence as I hold my QA tracking software. Proceed if you dare.

H.R. Roberts, PhD, President and Gen. Mgr.
Beamline QA Systems, Inc.

(P.Watson)



Horoscopes by Aceem Berry

Aries: Your beams will run hot this season. Try rotating the collimator; emotionally and literally

Taurus: You discover a new DVH constraint. It judges you harder than your supervisor.

Gemini: Two arcs, two plans, two personalities. Only one will pass QA.

Cancer: Today your arcs will avoid the heart. Tomorrow... who knows

Leo: Your MUs inflate like holiday prices. Someone will blame you. It is your fault.

Virgo: You will alphabetize your beams. No one will notice. But you'll feel peace.

Libra: Balance is key. So is rebalancing optimization priorities.

Scorpio: Your plan will be approved instantly. Suspiciously. Expect a crash immediately after.

Sagittarius: You will forget the bolus. The bolus will not forget you.

Capricorn: A ghost in the bunker will whisper, "Check your couch offset." You should listen.

Aquarius: Someone asks "Is this plan conformal?" You smile, knowing the truth: nothing is conformal.

Pisces: You will cry over a hot spot that literally no one else can see.

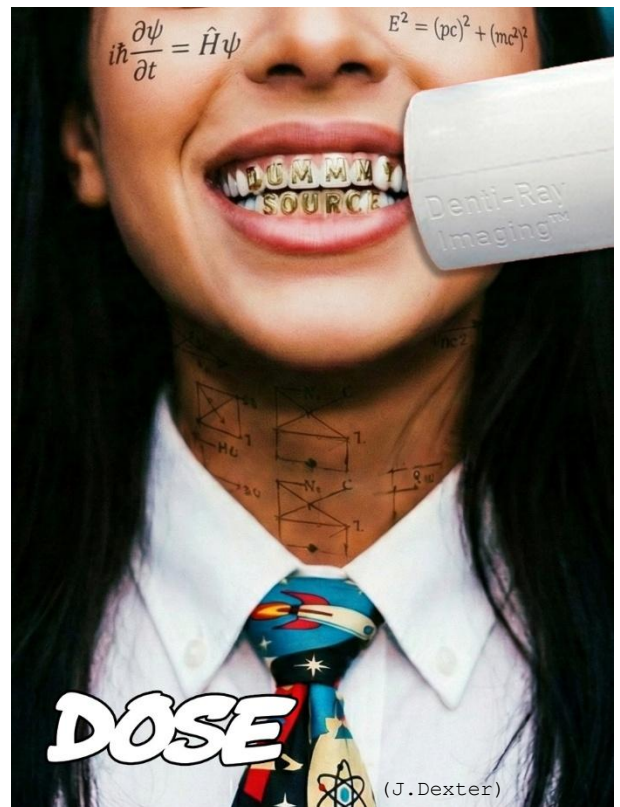
Spontaneous Poetry Breaking

The neighbor of Hig has revealed
the trespassing claim was
revealed:

"My e-tractor's gas-less,
my implements massless.
I don't interact with Hig's
field!"

The neighbor of Hig has revealed
the claim of a tort was
revealed:

"The photons I'm farming
are nothing alarming;
they don't interact with Hig's
field!" (J.Dexter)



Q & A with Dr. Ron Lalonde, PhD, DABR



The Jeopardy fans among us might have taken note that one of the contestants competing last December was introduced as "a medical physicist from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania." The physicist in question was none other than Dr. Ron Lalonde, Chief Physicist at UPMC Shadyside Hospital, who ended up winning an impressive 3 Jeopardy games. We reached out to Dr. Lalonde for a little fireside chat-style Q & A:

How does prepping for the ABR exam compare with prepping for Jeopardy?

There are some rough equivalencies- if you are a longtime fan of Jeopardy (as I am), then you feel like you've been waiting your whole life to get on the show. And of course, when one is studying for the boards, you actually have been working your whole life to reach this

goal. I would say the Jeopardy prep is closer to part 1, where you have to study a relatively broad range of topics, rather than parts 2 and 3, where you focus more thoroughly on your own particular discipline. For the boards, one usually studies pretty hard to make sure everything is fresh in your mind. For Jeopardy, you are studying at a fairly superficial level across a very broad range of topics, but there are some particular topics that come up again and again that you can focus attention on (world capitals, lakes and rivers, recent popular culture, European and American history, and of course, the dreaded opera category). Luckily, at the boards, you don't have to beat someone else to the answer!

I've read that Jeopardy contestants prepare a couple of personal fun facts/conversation starters that Ken Jennings [the host] could ask you about. Do you have a memorable one that never got asked?

Yes, they ask you to prepare 5 formal anecdotes, then they ask you a lot of background questions about your life that might lead to other anecdotes as well. The anecdote that I will tell next time if I get invited back is the one about my surprise 'watch party'. There is a group from my work that goes out to a weekly trivia night on Wednesdays, and as it turned out, my first show aired on a Wednesday. I decided not to tell anyone, and arranged the surprise with the pub owner and the trivia company. I also got a bunch of other friends to come down to the pub on a false pretext. This was a sports pub, so they have roughly 40 TVs all around the pub. Just before my show aired, they hand me a microphone, and I announced to the crowd that I had a little surprise for them, and then all 40 TVs at once started showing Jeopardy. I was at the end of the podium, so the first person they announced was "A medical physicist from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania..."- and the entire pub went absolutely crazy. It was a great rush.

Do you keep in touch with any former Jeopardy contestants? Like, is there a group chat?

Yes, you spend the day hanging out in the green room with the other contestants, and they are by and large a really friendly, interesting group, so we all exchanged email addresses and kept in touch, especially when our shows aired.

If you were invited to do a Medical Physics Point/Counterpoint debate, what would be your "hot take"?

That a bachelor's degree in physics is probably the least relevant training for a medical physicist.

If you didn't go into medical physics as a career, what do you think you'd be doing now?

I've always joked that I'd be in musical theatre. I was part of a theatre group in college, which was great fun, but it's not a way to make a living. I satisfy my theatrical ambitions by being a great ham with a karaoke microphone.

You get one album to listen to for the rest of your life: what is it?

I am going to cheat and say the complete Beatles box set.

What's the last book you read?

I usually read non-fiction, most recently a book about Percival Lowell and the Mars craze of the early 1900s called *The Martians*, but I am currently reading Hemingway, *A Farewell to Arms*.

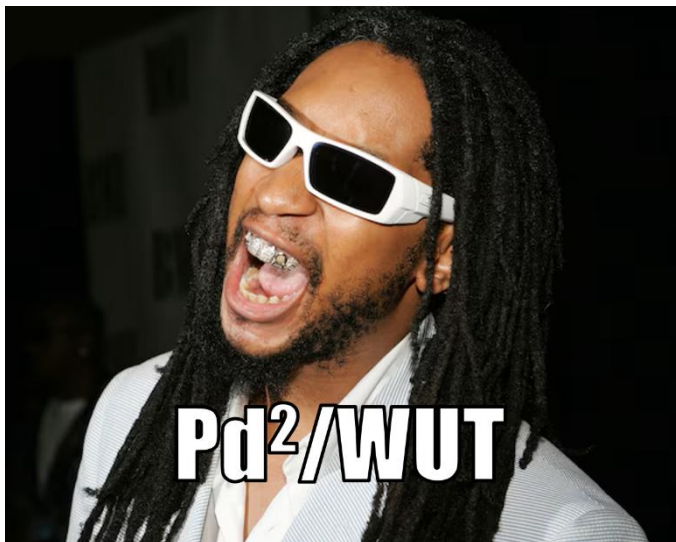
What advice would you give to young people interested in a career in medical physics?

Same advice I would give to anyone wanting to get on Jeopardy- stay curious. The nice thing about medical physics is that it covers such a broad range of knowledge that you can spend your entire career learning new things.

(Ed. note - this isn't satire, we actually interviewed Dr. Lalonde!)

JEOPARDY!

(P.Watson)



How Lil Jon does shielding calculations
(P.Watson)



J.D. Salinger trying to get out of a conversation

Papers that we are reading:

(Ed. note - These are legit published papers/conference presentations that worth a look.)

Corn, B. W. (2016). Tumor humor? *The Oncologist*, 21(12), 1538-1539.
<https://doi.org/10.1634/theoncologist.2016-0413>

Churcher, C. S. (1982). Oldest ass recovered from Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania, and the origin of asses. *Journal of Paleontology*, 56(5), 1124-1132.
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/1304570>

Jerrim, J., Parker, P., & Shure, N. (2019). Bullshitters: Who are they and what do we know about their lives? (IZA Discussion Paper No. 12282). Institute of Labor Economics (IZA).

Krauth, S. J. et al. (2012). An in-depth analysis of a piece of shit: Distribution of *Schistosoma mansoni* and hookworm eggs in human stool. *PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases*, 6(12), e1969.
<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pntd.0001969>

Laack, N. N. I. (2019). Spare the rad, spoil the child (or young adult). *International Journal of Radiation Oncology, Biology, Physics*, 104(5), 969.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijrobp.2018.04.021>

Wang, X. et al. (2018). miR miR on the wall, who's the most malignant medulloblastoma miR of them all? *Neuro-Oncology*, 20(3), 313-323.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/neuonc/nox106>

Watson, P. (2006). Takin' Care of Bismuth: Determination of High Energy Neutron Spectrum using Bismuth Activation at the TRIUMF Neutron Facility. Canadian Undergraduate Physics Conference, Fredericton, New Brunswick.



I managed to corner Pedro Andreo and Jan Seuntjens and get this photograph during their "Monsters of Monte Carlo" Tour.

Sensible Chuckles

By Pete Watson

Don't you hate it when a bunch of new linacs are installed and all of a sudden everything in the hospital gets more expensive? That's gantrification for you.

Neutral particles are called non-ionizing radiation instead of unionizing radiation because they didn't want to pay union dues.

What's worse than finding a worm in your apple? Finding out that the worm isn't traceable to a primary standard.

Did you hear about the veterinary CT operator who was always in such a hurry that he would only bother to scan mice? He had very little patients. (J.Dexter)

Even then, the mice would routinely slip between the couch and gantry. As you can imagine, after a few squeezed through the crack, his patients wore thin. (J.Dexter)

It is told that during Lazzarini's execution of Buffon's experiment to approximate Pi, the audience was so rapt one could hear a pin drop. (J.Dexter)



Nuggets of Wisdom

By Pete Watson

Radiation = bad
Lead = bad
Radiation + Lead = good?
Make that make sense.

Does a hyperchondriac always think that they're healthy?

Making soap without the proper ingredients is hard, show me the lye.

With baking, it's no whisk no reward.

An architectural museum is a complex that houses complex houses.

The Linac of Theseus: if you've replaced the waveguide, klystron, jaws, target, electron gun and bending magnet, is it still the same linac?(D.Sparkle)

Drinking a non-alcoholic beer is like scratching an itch with mittens on. (L.Yurkowski)

Y90 is for that Yttrium you just can't scratchium. (L.Yurkowski)



Try Dummy Source Zero

The same great taste as Dummy Source Classic, with none of the calories

Dear Dummy, I see some of my colleagues posting about their accomplishments on LinkedIn. Should I be doing this too? -LinkedOff

Dear Linked, the way I see it, you have three options:

Option 1) Tumbleweeds - don't post on LinkedIn, don't go on LinkedIn, don't think about LinkedIn.

Option 2) Lurk - only give likes, endorse skills, and occasionally comment "congrats, well deserved!"

Option 3) Go full LinkedInfluencer. Post that you are "very excited to announce" anything and everything that you're doing or tangentially involved in. Claim to be a thought leader in your space. Bonus points if your profile picture was taken in the last five years. Choose wisely.

Dear Dummy, I have a "crazy" friend who thinks that low doses of ionizing radiation are good for you. Are they crazy? -LNTruther

Dear LNTruther, your friend isn't crazy, just a tad bit over-enthusiastic. What they're banging on about is the so-called "radiation hormesis hypothesis", which is one of the most controversial, and therefore most interesting, topics in medical physics. Remember, friendship means accepting people where they're at, but that doesn't mean you need to accept their homemade radium water.

Dear Dummy, I'm starting to wonder if medical physics is really for me. What are some other careers I could consider? -Languishing in Uncertainty

Dear Languishing, lucky for you, medical physicists have more transferrable skills and job options than you might think. Did you enjoy grad school? You could go back and be a career student! Like random trivia? Become a Jeopardy champ like Ron Lalonde! Enjoy weightlessness? Consider becoming an astronaut like Christopher Williams! Expert in phantoms and proton beams? Start a ghostbusting consulting firm! The possibilities are nearly endless. And there's always option of being unemployed; remember, you don't have to pay income tax if you don't make any income ;)

A diamond is forever, but a copy of Dummy Source is free

Dummy Source: Strong enough for RadOncs, Made for a Physicist

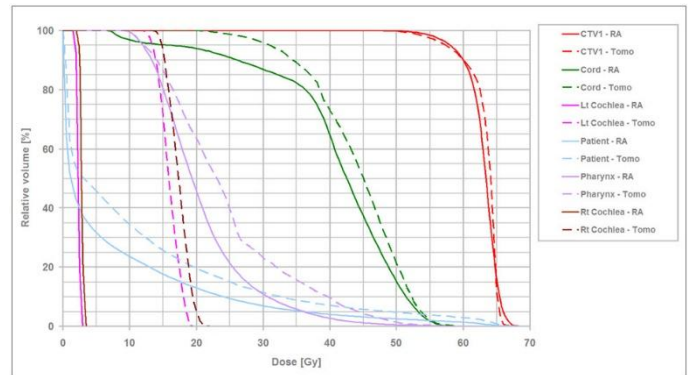
DVH CURVES ARE LYING TO YOU

By Aceem Berry

DVHs have long been marketed as honest, objective summaries of dose. But is that really the case? According to my research (conducted between the hours of 1 and 3 AM, during Eclipse's sacred crash window), the DVH is actually the most deceitful plot in medical physics.

For one, the DVH has no spatial information. None. Zero. It hides more secrets than the shared I-drive folder labelled 'OLD_DO_NOT_USE_FINAL.' It will happily show you that "95% of the PTV receives 100% of the dose," but refuses to tell you where. It could all be in the patient's left ear for all we know.

Worse, DVHs are shape-shifters. Countless physicists have reported that DVHs subtly change shape depending on whether someone is "just taking a quick look." Some even claim DVHs invert themselves in the presence of an MD. Coincidence? Highly unlikely.



And let's not forget that DVHs only exist because the optimizer needed a way to gaslight you. When the DVH says, "Everything's fine," that's when you should worry most.

Stay vigilant. Your DVH is smiling... but it's hiding something.



Coming up in the next and final issue of *Dummy Source*
The Conference Issue!

Send your submissions to:
dummy.source@proton.me
Deadline July 3rd

Me: I just published in a pier-review journal!

Them: Don't you mean a peer-reviewed journal?

Me:...

(P.Watson & L.Yurkowski)



This Page Intentionally Left Blank