

RSNA 5K Fun Run to Introduce Qualifying Standards

"I get that it's supposed to be a casual fun run, but it's more fun if you win."

Beginning this November, prospective fun runners at the 2026 RSNA Annual Meeting will be required to submit certified race results achieved in the previous 18 months, with qualification times based on age group and conference registration category.

When asked about the move, the Chair of the Fun Run Organising Committee explained "...it was inevitable, the run was already getting pretty competitive, so why not make it official and bring a little prestige to the event?" They remarked that in recent years, people were talking more about their placing in

the fun run standings than the content of the scientific sessions. "I've seen people putting their RSNA Fun Run times on their LinkedIn, this is the level we're talking about."

There are rumblings that some of the industry vendors will be leaning into this competitive running trend, offering electrolytes and branded-compression socks as conference swag at their booths. "I don't think the spirit of the fun run has changed, we've just enhanced the experience by adding qualifying standards, chip-timing, prize money, and elite athlete invitations. Who would complain about that?" (P.Watson)

Flexitron Source Unchanged After 222 Days. Half-Life 3 Confirmed?



(D.Sparkle)

Accuray is Now an AI Company

Pivot to AI follows in the 'footsteps' of Allbirds, with hopes to goose stock price.
(P.Watson)

We've cracked the QR code:

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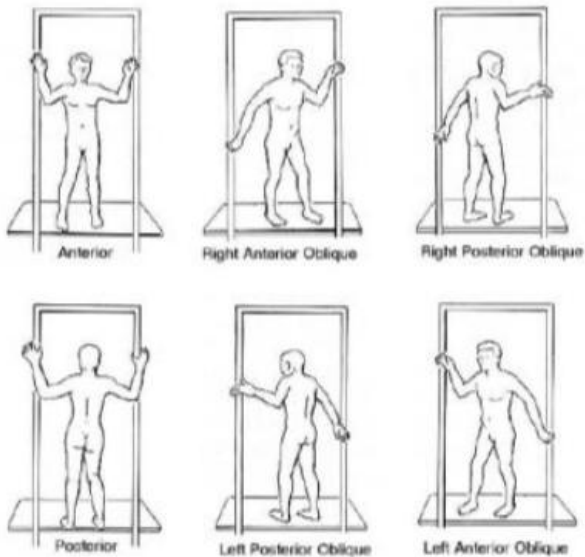
Perimeter Institute Researchers Successfully Generalize Movies to n -dimensions.

The partnership between Canada's Perimeter Institute and cinema technology company RealD has yielded a significant breakthrough in visual storytelling across an arbitrary number of dimensions. The impact of this technology is expected to be huge; there are already rumours that they might win both a Nobel Prize and an Oscar for their achievements, putting them in the same company as George Bernard Shaw and Bob Dylan (google it).
(J.Dexter & P.Watson)

thedummysource.github.io

BREAKING NEWS!

THIS JUST IN: Sasquatch revealed to be mycosis fungoides patient with hypertrichosis who was being treated using total skin electron therapy. The famous "bigfoot" photo just so happened to capture said patient as they were preparing to be treated in the Right Anterior Oblique position:



(T.Chernoff)

Does your Medical Physics Department pass the Bechdel Test?

- 1) Are there at least two female physicists on staff?
- 2) Have they ever spoken to each other about a topic other than another male physicist?

If you answered 'yes' to both questions, then congrats, your department passes the Bechdel test!

If not, first double check to make sure you're not a character in a Christopher Nolan film. If you've ruled that out, don't despair; the Bechdel test isn't a reliable measure of gender equality. However, feel free to put pressure on your administration to hire more women who aren't just one-dimensional plot devices. (P.Watson)

Overheard at a Party

"A medical physicist being called 'scatter-brained' is actually a compliment, as it implies they're often thinking about scatter." (J.DeCunha)



Chekhov's Phantom - If you introduce a phantom at the start of your QA, you must scan it before the end of the QA.

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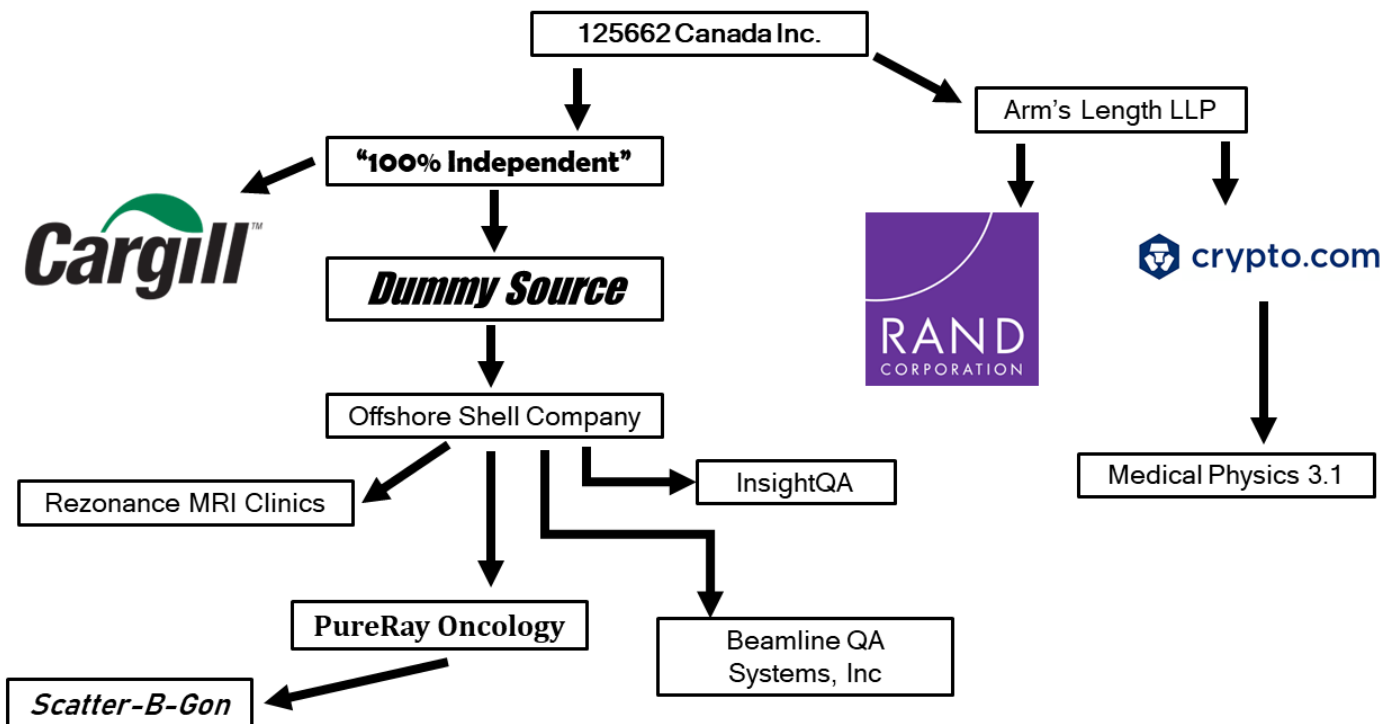
- 1) Send content to dummy.source@proton.me
- 2) Get published in next issue
- 3) ?????
- 4) Profit

Who Actually Owns Dummy Source?

It's conference season, the time of year we all start to see disclosures and conflicts of interest quickly flashed before our eyes at the start of talks without time to really register how biased the speakers are going to be. In the spirit of transparency, we thought we'd clear the air about the circumstances of Dummy Source's ownership and corporate involvement. While we've always taken pride that Dummy Source is 100% Independently owned, this is technically because our parent holdings company is called "100% Independent", which is in turn owned by a numbered corporation

"125662 Canada Inc." domiciled somewhere near Ottawa. We're not too sure who owns that company, and frankly, we don't care to know. Ignorance is bliss, etc. We also should admit that we have some vested interests in a few commercial ventures via a subsidiary company in the Cayman Islands, which may or may not receive ad space in some of our issues. Rest assured, however, that we remain impartial in our coverage of medical physics news and technology, no matter how much people are willing to bribe us*.

(P.Watson)



*Please send bribes to dummy.source@proton.me

Dummy Source: Our product is satire. Our strength is physicists avoiding work.

Awkward!

Why Not?



Conference Night Out

Live music by DJ Tenure Trak

Two free drink tickets!

**Maybe more if someone
who doesn't drink gives
you theirs!**

**Complimentary shots
if you're presenting
the next morning**

Free shuttle bus to venue*

***Pickup for unmarked shuttle bus in same location as bus to seedy racetrack
and slots on the city outskirts**

(P. Watson)

"It's Getting So We Can't Hear Akron!"

Amateur radio operators "charged up" about interference from renegade imaging clinics.

Cleveland's Chester Kent (callsign VL0CO) is among a group of ham operators "radiating" rage at the proliferation of discount MRI clinics throughout northeastern Ohio. Raising Kent's ire are budget imaging centres operating uncertified gear with inadequate electromagnetic shielding. Dummy Source's investigation confirmed a number of pop-up diagnostic imaging sites using previously decommissioned scanners, modified prototypes, and in one case, thousands of D-cell batteries and wires wrapped around nails. For Chester Kent, of particular nuisance are 0.5 Tesla systems having a Larmor frequency around 21 MHz, overlapping with the 15 meter short wave band. With fourteen competing clinics operating in his townhouse complex, daytime use of his radio is out of the question. Kent says he hasn't the stamina at his age (26) to spend the night hoping for clear skies: "I can't be waiting until midnight to have my railway history chat over Morse code! Train time happens after breakfast!" (Kent stares intensely, hands balled into fists) "Trains After Breakfast!"

Fellow ham Daisy Truong (callsign KLEPT0) has been particularly inconvenienced since the opening of a new MRI clinic in the commercial space below her second

floor apartment. "Rezonnance" reads the hand-written sign taped to the papered-over windows of the commercial space below Truong's suite. Upon visiting the aging strip plaza, Dummy Source discovered that, like most of these uncertified clinics, Rezonnance is unstaffed. The unlocked front door leads to a cramped vestibule with a wall mounted CRT and keypad. Part way through the patient sign-in process, the screen resets, displaying a 1981 copyright notice and a request to set the system clock. Later, in the scanning area, a second interface, with parts obviously scavenged from a slot machine, directs the patient to disrobe, and before they can don a smock from the dispenser, a sexy cartoon alien excitedly prompts them to "Give that lever a GOOOOOD TUG!"

Upstairs, Daisy Truong's kitchen is within the scanner's five gauss line. Truong points to a significant scar and depression in her kitchen flooring where the entirety of her cast iron cookware had violently relocated on the clinic's opening day. Truong has since painted a no-go circle on the floor and no longer puts a metal chain collar on her ailing dog. (continued on next page...)

How a Roman shipwreck could help unlock the Universe's biggest mysteries

Two thousand years ago, a Roman cargo ship carrying tonnes of lead ingots sank in the Mediterranean. Today, that lead is being used to identify the source of cosmic neutrinos and, maybe, answer some of science's biggest questions.



(P.Watson & T.Chernoff)



**THINKING
ABOUT THE
ROMAN EMPIRE**



**THINKING
ABOUT THE
LEAD FROM
THE ROMAN EMPIRE**

(Continued from Page 4)

An online forum search returns thousands of similar situations throughout the region: spinning chandeliers, vibrating box-springs, and crushed hamster wheels. A recent report ("Ghost in the machine", Aykroyd 2025) found that adjacent MRI scanners account for 83% of reported "hauntings" throughout the Lake Erie region. (Another 2% of clinic neighbors experience actual paranormal activity, as those commercial spaces were "already haunted").

To escape the "pull" of low-rate clinics, Kent, Truong, and others eventually resorted to transporting their radio sets to remote areas, but have continued to be plagued by obtrusive mobile clinics, or "Fields on Wheels" as Truong calls them. The mobile clinic is, typically, an older, converted family van or commercial shuttle. The multiple, large windows

make the vehicle an ineffective Faraday cage. Truong shows our reporter a video she took of a gaudy mid-70s Chevrolet van displaying a disorienting light show and blaring EDM. Low effort side art identifies the vehicle as "ScanVan" and features a cheetah trailed by a stylized lightning bolt.

With Kent's loss of airwaves, so goes his (claimed) means of "keeping in touch with his girlfriend" only 30 miles to the south: "It's getting so I can't even hear Akron." Truong plays a static-filled radio recording from her phone and adds with disdain "Oh, and SpeedyScan or whatever you're called, it sounds like the guy you had in yesterday at 11am has a herniated disk at C3". (J.Dexter)



Reject the "progress" your elitist vendor wants you to think will improve patient care. This country produced some of the best medical devices seen the world over. Now some pinko Swedish company wants to convince you to buy a CT scanner that can scan a horse? Well I say, let's take care of PEOPLE first before we waste our healthcare on some country club owner's prized stallion. The only thing big about big-bore is the price tag let me tell you.

(D. Sparkle)

The Old Boys Club: How to Get Through That Work Dinner

By Pete Watson

Congrats, you've finished your degree and managed to find a job. After a short while you're learning the ropes, getting to know people at work, and eventually you'll be invited to attend a work function. Unless you're working for a trendy startup, the reality is this will probably mean hanging out with a bunch of older guys who kind of remind you of a more sexist and racist version of your dad. Anxiety-inducing, I know. But don't worry, I've got you covered. Just follow this guide and I guarantee that things will go so well that the next time you pass by one of them in the hallway you'll receive a solid head nod and/or be addressed by your last name. High praise.

First tip, don't show up early. As keen as you may be to get this over with, getting there 15 minutes early will mean you have the maximum amount of time to fill with small talk to avoid awkward silences. You don't want to be wasting your A-material while waiting to be seated and end up playing your B-game at the table. Arriving fashionably late eschews any need for pre-seating chit chat and empirically demonstrates that you're cool and hip and have a life outside of work (no one needs to know that you were intentionally killing the past 30 mins at the Starbucks next door staring at your phone).

So you're here. Find your party, take a deep breath, and buckle up (seriously though, make sure your belt is properly buckled. This is what the French call a "faux pas"). If you want to establish yourself as alpha, greet the group as "ladies" even though they clearly self-identify as men. Be warned though, if you go this route there will be the expectation that you're a bro and will need to feign bro-ness going forward in perpetuity. Alternatively, a familiar but respectful greeting of "fellas" will do in a pinch.

When it comes time to order drinks, get a pint, even better if they serve full litres. Ordering a half-pint is not an option, unless you want to be labeled as a little bitch. Don't be a hipster beer snob and complain that they don't have any decent IPAs. As the night goes on and the service picks up, casually remark that you're lucky you beat the rush.

You remember those huge forwarded emails full of inappropriate jokes that you used to get from your uncle, back when the mass-forwarding emails was a thing? Well I hoped you saved at least one of them, because tonight those chuckles will be your golden tickets for admission to the old boys club. Nothing bridges the generational gap quite like an off-colour joke premised on outdated gender roles. If you had to delete all those forwards to make space in your 10 Mb Hotmail account inbox, or to preserve mental bandwidth, no sweat, I got you. At the right moment, drop one of these bad boys and get ready for beaming smiles and maybe even a knee-slap:

- A police officer called the station on his radio. He told the dispatch that he had an interesting case: an old lady had shot her husband for stepping on the floor she just mopped. When asked if he had made the arrest, the officer responded, "Not yet, the floor is still wet."

- I haven't spoken to my wife in three weeks. I didn't want to interrupt her.



(Continued on next page)

(Continued from Page 6)

The night goes on. Politely and understandingly nod while they vent about their kids playing too many video games, and their wives spending too much money and forcing them to eat kale. Time for some dinner conversation. Avoid talking about:

- Politics. This is a no-brainer.
- Immigration. Also a no-brainer. You are probably better off not knowing which one of your co-workers is racist.

Do talk about:

- The problem with kids these days. Even though you might only have graduated a few years ago, I know you have strong opinions about today's youth. Good news, so do your co-workers!
- Your first computer. This will initiate a cascade of competitive reminiscing worthy of Monty Python's Four Yorkshiremen, with each trying to one-up the other in how old and pathetic their first PC was. Watch the shock and exasperation in their faces when you tell them your first computer was so old, it only had Windows 95 and a 1 gig hard drive. Be prepared for aggressive bragging about 5 1/4-inch floppy disks and Commodore 64s.
- Classic rock. Were the 60s better than the 70s?
- Sports. Did you see that ludicrous display last night?
- If you happen to drive a manual, make sure to casually drop that into conversation. Respect will abound.

When the bill finally comes, you can breathe a sigh of relief. You got through it! Don't sell yourself short, socialising with colleagues outside of the workplace is not for the weak of heart. Treat yourself to some guilty pleasure watching when you get home to recover. But don't rest on your laurels yet, that company team building exercise is coming up...

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Drew Carey Expressway, Cleveland
(216) 555-MGNT
Ask for Vince (AI Receptionist)



AAPM/COMP Joint Annual Scientific Meeting 2026: Alternate Titles

We realized that sometimes physics talk titles can be a wee bit drab. As such, we at Dummy Source sat down with a group of lay-persons in order to focus-test the names of some of the keynotes planned for the upcoming COMP-AAPM Joint Scientific Meeting. Some selected "honest titles" for some of this year's keynote presentations:

Original Title	New Focus-Group Tested Title
Rethinking Evidence: Working Towards Equitable Practice of Medical Physics through Understanding Limitations of Past Research	Evidence: Who needs it?
New NCRP Recommendations for Patient Shielding in Medical Imaging	Turns out we actually weren't shielding patients properly this whole time sorry :/
Artificial Intelligence for Disease Characterization and Longitudinal Assessment in Medical Imaging	Skynet product demos
Proton Therapy	A live demo of the sunk cost fallacy
No, I Know the Real Mechanism of the Flash Effect - A Mini-Debate	No, you don't
Translating Phantoms and Phantom-Derived Measurements from Bench to Bedside	Medical physicists? No... Ghost Hunters? Yes!
Teamwork By Design: Scheduling Tools for Physicists	How to use a calendar
Foundation Models in Radiation Oncology: Applications, Challenges, and Path to Trustworthy AI	More Skynet product demos
Burnout, Boundaries, and Balance - How to Set Boundaries and Lead a Balanced Life While Achieving Your Career Goals	Treat yourself once in awhile, it's ok :)
The Road Less Chosen - Alternate Pathways to Certification for Internationally Trained Medical Physicists	Perpetuating a misunderstanding of Frost's classic poem
Partners in Solutions Therapy: Fast Track Treatment Planning: Dose Predictions and Automated Planning for Non-Adaptive Workflows	It takes a lot of nerve to use two colons in a single title. But guess what? That's the kind of nerve we like around here.
Beyond CIEDs: Assessing Risk to Patients with Electronic Devices	What to do when you can't pry the smartphone out of your patient's hands because of their TikTok addiction
Glomerular Filtration Rate: Fundamentals and Clinical Implementation Using Radiopharmaceuticals	No one enters this session without being able to say "glomerular" five times fast
Canadian Night Out (which costs \$200)	I just got a letter from my professional organization. Which was fun, cause mail, y'know? So I open up the letter. And they said: 'hey, it's COMP. Remember us?' I say: 'yes, of course. I pay to be a member of your organization and to come to your conference every year.' And then they said... how did they phrase it... 'GIVE US SOME MONEY!' I found this peculiar.

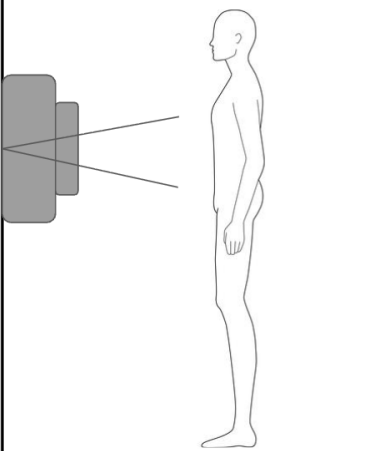
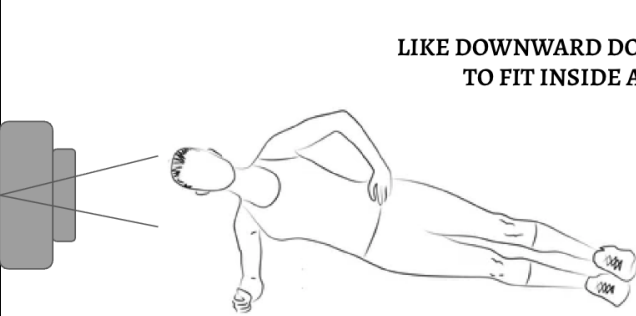
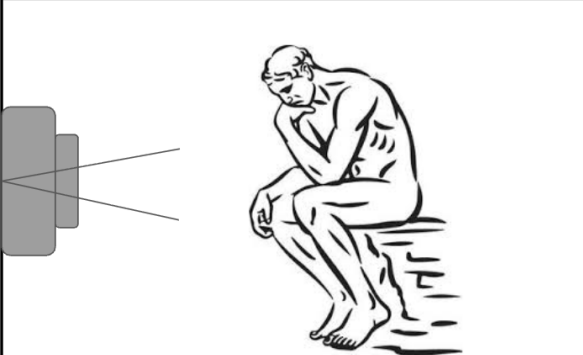
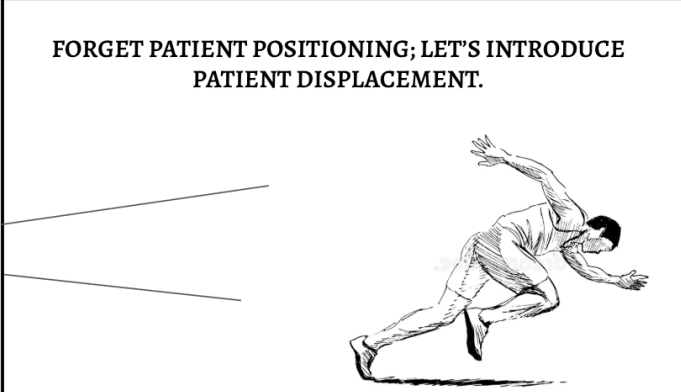
(Note: THIS IS FOR PARODY/ENTERTAINMENT PURPOSES ONLY, and is all IN GOOD FUN. We at Dummy Source are IN NO WAY affiliated with COMP or the AAPM. DON'T HAVE A COW, MAN!)

(Anonymous Antelope)

Top 5 Patient Positions for Radiotherapy

By Alaina Bui

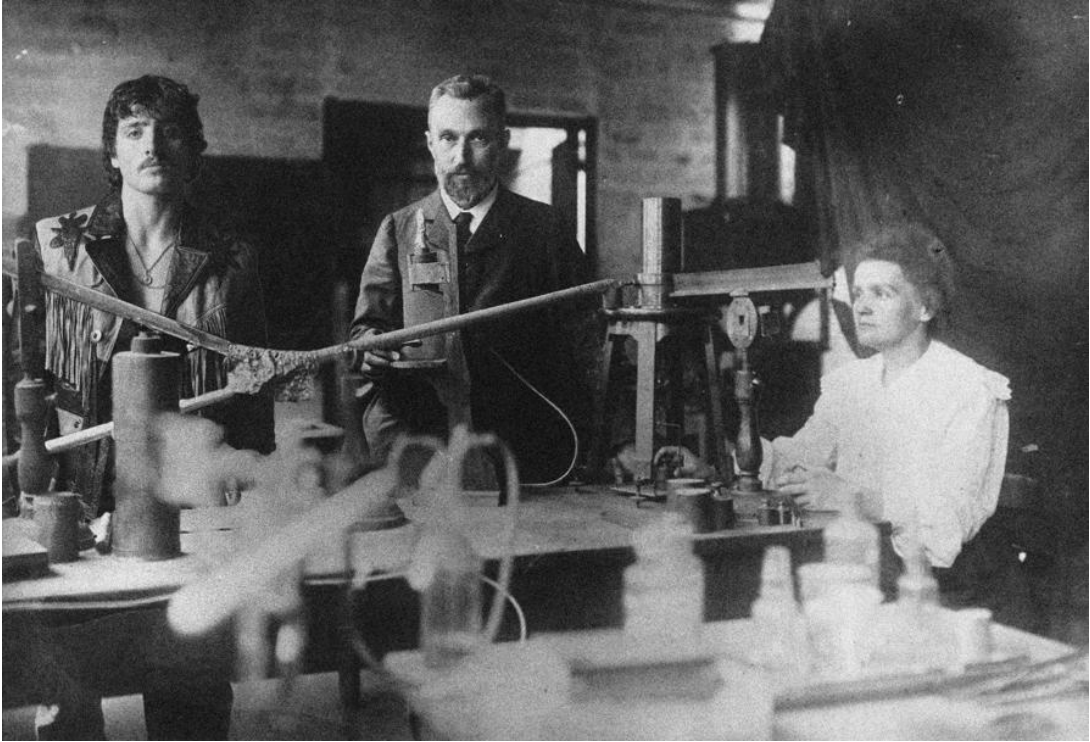
To combat the ennui of patients set in the supine position during radiation therapy, an increase in usage of 'upright' patient positioning has been implemented worldwide. "It helps mitigate motion," some say, "and gravity makes your lungs small, or something like that." But why stop there? Here are our TOP 5 PICKS for PATIENT POSITIONING SUPREMACY:

1. <i>STANDING</i>	2. <i>DOWNWARD DOG</i>
 WHY DID HOMO SAPIENS EVOLVE BIPEDALISM IF NOT FOR THIS EXACT PURPOSE? Who are we, really, to argue with nature.	 IDEAL FOR CONVINCING PATIENTS THEY'RE AT A WELLNESS RETREAT. Namaste while we acquire the scan.
	3. <i>PLANCK</i>
	 LIKE DOWNWARD DOG, BUT OPTIMIZED TO FIT INSIDE AN MRI BORE. The image guidance is excellent. The abdominal shaking, less so.
4. <i>THE THINKER</i>	4. <i>RUNNING</i>
 IT'S LIKE UPRIGHT TREATMENT – BUT WITH THE UNMISTAKABLE ENERGY OF SOMEONE CONTEMPLATING THE COLLAPSE OF MODERN CIVILIZATION. For patients who wish to appear intellectually burdened during treatment.	 FORGET PATIENT POSITIONING; LET'S INTRODUCE PATIENT DISPLACEMENT. Preliminary data suggests that irradiating moving targets: • Removes setup uncertainties (there is no setup) • Opens avenues for luck-based plan optimization • Improves hand-eye coordination for therapists • Reports significant enjoyment for pediatric patients.

Benson Boone: Mr. Cerenkov Blue

By Kayla O'Sullivan-Steben

It is a little-known fact that before his meteoric rise to stardom, Benson Boone spent several years in Paris in the late 1890s studying under Marie and Pierre Curie. He was, by all accounts, a gifted physicist, yet his contributions to the field remain uncredited to this day. What frustrates him most, though, is that nobody understands what his songs are actually about.



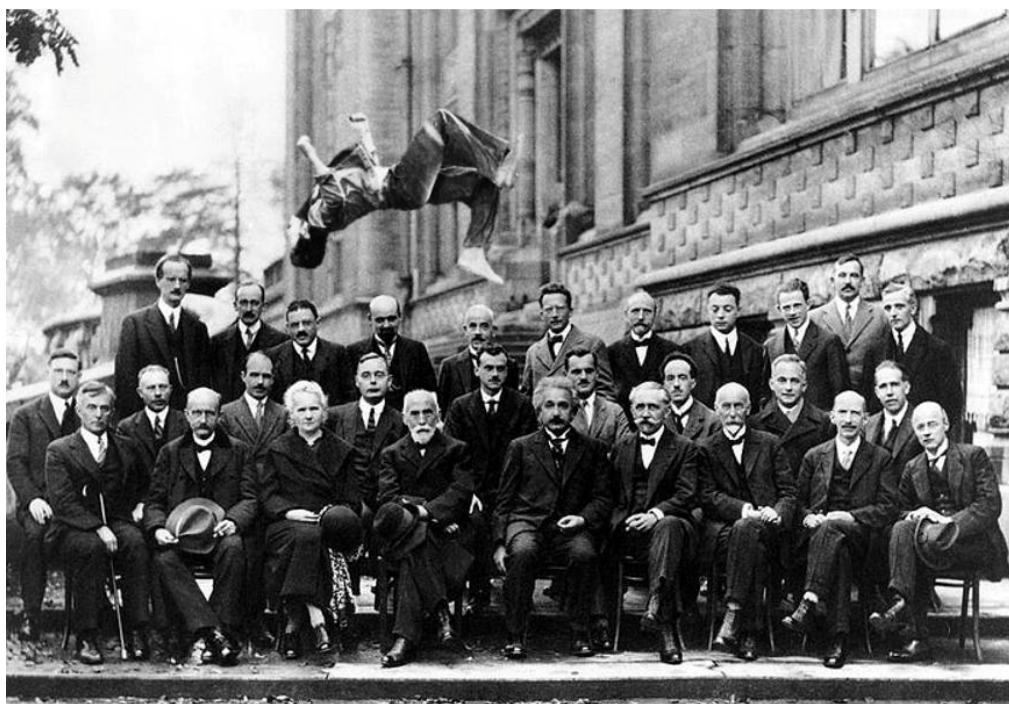
*Benson, Pierre and Marie in the laboratory.
Most people have only seen the cropped version of this photograph.*

Mr. Boone sat down exclusively with Dummy Source to set the record straight. "People always think that 'Beautiful Things' is about a girlfriend," he told Dummy Source. "It's obviously about radioactive decay."

Boone says the most pivotal moment in his life was when Marie showed him a glowing vial of radium for the first time. He described it as "mystical, magical". From that moment, he started filling his lab notebook (still radioactive to this day) with poetic lyrics instead of data.

When asked why he ultimately left physics for music, Boone said he could never properly express himself through scientific articles. "The true beauty and power of radiation can only be expressed through song," he said, before a haunted look washed over his face. "That, and the 1906 backflip incident involving Pierre...". Mr. Boone declined to elaborate further.

Among his overlooked contributions was the development of the mobile X-ray units deployed in World War I, known as "Little Curies". Though Marie Curie did most of the work, he still wishes they had gone with his proposed name, "Little Bennies". Despite these X-ray units saving countless lives on the battlefield, Boone maintains that his music has been the greater contribution to humanity. (Cont'd on next page)



The 1927 Solvay Conference.

(Continued from Page 10)

Boone confirmed that his entire music catalogue is based on his time with the Curies. He hopes listeners will revisit his songs with fresh ears. "'Slow it Down' is about Bremsstrahlung, 'Ghost Town' is about attenuation. These are not love songs, they are physics songs. I don't know how many times I have to say this."

When asked what Marie would think of his music success, Boone told Dummy Source: "I wrote a song about that, actually. I'm having the time of my life, I just wish she were here to see it."

Benson Boone's latest single "The Time Of My Life" is available now on all streaming platforms. His contributions to the field of medical physics remain uncredited.

Why Was My NSERC Discovery Grant Application Rejected?

Probably shouldn't have included this pic with my application :S



Dear Dummy: An Helpful Advice Column

By Pete Watson, Lorri Yurkowski, Trey Chernoff, and Kayla O'Sullivan-Steben

Dear Dummy, I hate networking at conferences and professional events. Do you have any advice on how to network like a pro? -Antisocial Scientist

Dear Antisocial, I feel your pain on this one. Striking up casual conversation with someone you don't know doesn't come easy to many of us introverts. What you need is a killer ice breaker question that will get the chit chats flowing. Try following these simple steps:

- 1) Locate someone/a small group of someones that you'd like to network with.
 - 2) Make your way over to their vicinity, real casual-like.
 - 3) Once you're close by, make eye contact and smile.
 - 4) Drop one of these DS-guaranteed conversation starters and get ready to mingle!
- do you believe in the LNT model?
 - how much dose do you figure you got on the flight over to [CONFERENCE HOST CITY]?
 - what's the average energy transfer of a 1 MeV photon?
 - what's your favourite nuclear accident?

Note that if you're approaching a small group that's already in the middle of a conversation, it's best practice to spend a few minutes smiling and nodding at the edge of the circle before you dive in with questions of your own.

Dear Dummy, could you give me some tips on dealing with anxiety before giving a conference presentation? I just get so darn nervous before those things! -Butterflies in my Belly

Dear Butterflies, first off, congrats on getting an oral presentation! Unless it's for a sketchy predatory conference like the kind I'm always getting spammed about, this means that your abstract was of the highest quality and/or the abstract reviewer was in a good mood that day. Here are some ideas to try to take the edge off of your nerves:

-Follow the three Ps of preparedness: plan, practice, and prepare.

-All the world's a stage, in particular when you're literally on stage giving a talk. Imagine that you're an actor playing the role of a charismatic, confident scientist giving a groundbreaking talk of staggering genius. Make sure not to break character until after the Q&A, or never.

-Pretend that the audience is a bear that you need to intimidate: act big (power pose with open chest, hands on hips, etc.), speak loudly, and make eye contact. Unless, of course, the audience is a grizzly bear; in that case: speak softly, avoid direct eye contact, and back away slowly. If the audience unfortunately decides to attack, play dead on the floor and make sure to cover your head and neck.

-Chug a beer right before you go on stage! Liquid courage, amirite? If the talk goes well, have another beer to celebrate! If the talk goes off the rails, how about a beer to drown your sorrows?

-If none of this works, then just let yourself be anxious. Wallow in the anxiety. You are become stress, destroyer of worlds. This just means that you're pumped and ready to rock, so don't kill that buzz, use it!

Honest Conference Abstract Titles

By Kayla O'Sullivan-Steben

- Preliminary Findings from an Ongoing Study That Will Definitely Be Completed Before My Talk.
 - A Novel AI-Driven Cloud-Based Digital Twin Architecture Paradigm Shift for Robust Generative Personalized Adaptive Theranostic Optimization in the Era of Patient-Centered Care (N=2).
 - A Significantly Scaled-Back Analysis from What Was Originally Proposed Because I Need to Graduate.
 - Monte Carlo-Based Dosimetric Simulations Conducted Last Night to Justify This Trip to Vancouver: A Feasibility Study.
 - A Novel Investigation into Something That Was Already Investigated in 2016, 2019, 2021, and 2024 (and We Have Fewer Samples).
 - Multi-Institutional Framework Applied to a Single-Institution Dataset: Toward a Not-So-Generalizable AI Model
-

AITA?

My dosimetrists are annoyed with me when I make them recalculate their plans because they used the wrong CT HU curve. I'm annoyed with them for using the wrong one in the first place. AITA? (A.Toltz)

MISSED CONNECTIONS

Speaker with the Red Shirt? (Brighton)

Saw you at the FRPT conference. You were screaming about the oxygen hypothesis. I realise this is a rather broad description, as this narrows it down to roughly 60% of attendees, but know that I felt something when you mentioned hypoxia three times in one sentence. Let me know if you need help.

Tall Italian (deep in the Acadian woods)

Do people still read these?! Anyway, you rejected my paper in 2024 and I recognized your gait immediately, you slimy coward. You called my methodology "ambitious". I haven't slept since.

Cobalt-60 unit (dark corner in the basement)

Saw u today. Still miss you bro. You wer my Best friend.
Love you

14
(A.Bui)

New for '82

Barry-Yum!

Celebrity Themed CT Contrast Agent



Uncooperative CT patients taking the fun out of diagnostic imaging?

There's a better way! Barium sulfate bottles featuring everyone's favourite Barrys!

Many options to suit the interests of your patient:

Popular music: Mango Manilow, Grape Gibb

Musical theatre buff: Banana Bostwick

For the cinephile: Lemon-Lime Lyndon

And for the kiddies...

...Durian Drew (Barrymore)!



"CT phone home!"

Scans can be a pain, but they don't have to be...with Barry-yum contrast agents from Melfi Diagnostics!

"Goes down as smooth as the melodies of Barry White"



©Melfi Diagnostics, 1981

WHAT YOUR EMAIL SIGN-OFF SAYS ABOUT YOU - MEDICAL PHYSICS EDITION

By Alaina Bui

Best,

You answer emails in under 4 minutes and know every linac's output drift from memory. You have not experienced a complete thought since your first solo commissioning as a resident.

Cheers,

You are beloved by students, associates, therapists, and at least one machine vendor. All trainees look up to you and whisper, "When I grow up, I want to be just like them," at which you chuckle darkly to yourself. Those naive quarter-aged youths. If only they knew the horrors within you.

Take care,

You have seen things in the tomotherapy bunker that have changed you religiously.

Sincerely,

You still refer to IMRT as "new technology".

Thanks,

You are either frighteningly competent, or about to rotate the collimator instead of fixing the problem. No one knows which. Not even you.

Regards,

You have the emotional affect of a full-body phantom that people leave lying in the linac backrooms. You always appear composed, but your heart rate increases every time someone says "the MLCs look a little off today."

Love,

You should not be granted Mosaic access unsupervised.

[No Sign-Off]

You are either a legendary physicist or an over-achiever trying to email like one. Your messages arrive at 2:17 AM with subject lines like:

| "beam"

You also probably say "fun fact" before discussing catastrophic historical radiation accidents.



The First Medical Physics Conference

The first meeting of the AAPM was in 1959 (as a submeeting at RSNA), and the first (and only) meeting of the Canadian Association of Medical Physicists was in 1955, but what was the very first medical physics conference? My findings suggest it was the meeting of the UK's Hospital Physicists' Association in 1943. However, one could argue that the Solvay Congress of 1911 was the first medical physics conference, as both Marie Curie and Ernest Rutherford were in attendance, and radiation was discussed.

Excerpts from the Diary of Marie Curie Brussels, First Solvay Congress, 1911

October 30

Arrived in Brussels. As I entered Belgium I asked the customs officer if they have Brussels sprouts here. Apparently they do, but they just call them "sprouts". Makes sense I guess.

Looking forward to this Congress, hopefully there are some good talks and I'm not the only woman again.

October 31

Attended a session on atomic structure. Rutherford is completely convinced the atom contains a dense nucleus. I pointed out that if that were true, then why doesn't the atom simply collapse as the orbiting electrons radiate away EM power? He told me to ask him a question he knows the answer to.

November 1

There has been a lot of discussion about radioactivity and X-rays. I brought up the fact that beyond the laboratory, there are therapeutic and diagnostic uses of radiation. One unnamed attendee (who had had more than a few glasses of wine at lunch) drunkenly mused if one day hospitals would hire a dedicated physicist responsible for the medical application of radiation. We all had a good laugh!

November 3

Already the last day! They've made a big deal about taking a photograph of all the attendees, but I don't see what all the fuss is about, it's not like anyone outside of the congress will care about it.

(P.Watson)

Sensible Chuckles

By Pete Watson

-A timidly flirty girl admitted to sneaking something in my hair, though feeling very sheepish in doing so.

I smiled: "Sheepish? (pointing at my pompadour) What's a ewe-like girl placing in a 'do like this?" (J.Dexter)

-So, my friend's wife Beth is an amazing figure skater. She can even do a triple axel! The thing is, I've never seen her do one before because she's kind of shy and doesn't like to perform in front of people. Which is kind of weird, because talk to her for more than five minutes and she'll bring up the fact that she can triple axel. Go figure.

Anyway, one day she was bragging about the axel again, and someone who overheard her dared her to put her money where her mouth is and prove it. And she agreed! So, I'll finally get to see her do a triple axel, and it was satisfying to see her get called out.

It's the boast of Beth's whirl.

-Why did David Lynch cross the road?

Because he didn't know where the road ended and the chicken began.



Nuggets of Wisdom

By Pete Watson

Polka dots are probably my favourite musically-themed dot.

Why are 'smart ass' and 'smart alec' synonyms, but not 'dumb ass' and 'dumb alec'?

If a puppy mill was a place where puppies were ground up to make puppy flour, then an actual puppy mill doesn't seem too bad in comparison.

I went to a tough high school; you couldn't throw a rock down the hallway without hitting someone who wanted to beat you up. Mind you, that was a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Should a humble person who often changes their opinion to agree with others be called a 'simple harmonic vasculator'?

If a midwife is really good at her job, does she eventually get promoted to fullwife?

Those who cannot remember to lather and rinse are condemned to repeat it.

Saskatchewan is a good place to live if you are passionate about trapezoids.



In response to the unfounded claims of H.R. Roberts



It has been brought to my attention that noted fabricator, mountebank, and occasional software salesman H.R. Roberts has chosen to libelously debate my good name in a public forum. Naturally, I dismissed his comments immediately, as I have larger proverbial fish to fry. Nevertheless, his remarks have caused distress among my shareholders, my customers, and most importantly, my horse.

Allow me therefore to set the record straight: I reject the insinuation that I have placed a bounty on Mr. Robert's head; the sum in question would be offered as a year's free subscription to our latest version of InsightQA Web.

A CHALLENGE IS ISSUED

Since Roberts has invited assassins and adventurers to test his mettle, Let me propose a more civilised alternative: **I challenge him to a duel on-site at the World's Fair.** The winner will walk away with their honour, while the loser must publically admit that the other's QA software is superior, and also will unfortunately most likely die from their injuries. It pains me to think that we have come to this juncture, as I hold H.R. Roberts in the highest possible regard. Indeed, he is among the finest professionals I have ever countenanced. Should he perish in our contest, I will be first in line to carry his coffin, marry his widow, and raise his nine orphan children.

Yours faithfully,

R. F. Venables, PhD, DABR, FAAPM
President, InsightQA

(P.Watson)

The banner features a central illustration of a doctor in a white coat and glasses holding a tablet, surrounded by various icons representing QA features: a microscope, a robot, a clock, a bar chart, and a speech bubble. The text on the banner includes:

- InsightQA** (with a magnifying glass icon and a heart)
- Radiotherapy Quality Assurance**
- Smarter Radiotherapy QA, Simplified!**
- Radiotherapy QA: Precise, Smart & Simpler!**
- President: R.F. Venables, PhD, DABR, FAAPM**
- QUALITY YOU CAN TRUST** (on a blue ribbon)
- ACCURACY** (with a microscope icon)
- INSIGHTS** (with a bar chart icon)
- Automated Checks** (with a robot icon)
- Comprehensive Reporting** (with a bar chart icon)
- Speed & Efficiency** (with a clock icon)
- PATIENT SAFETY**
- REQUEST A DEMO** (on an orange button)
- CTA** (on a blue button)
- See how InsightQA can transform your workflow.**
- Join the cheerful side of QA!** (with a phone and envelope icon)

The Medical Physicist's Hippocratic Oath

By Pete Watson

I swear to fulfill, to the best of my ability and judgment, this covenant:

First, I will do no harm. But, if I must do a little harm, I will make sure it is in the low dose region.

I swear to uphold the sacred texts of the AAPM, IAEA, and all the other important acronyms, even when they contradict one another.

I will respect the privacy of patients, and will strive to only show de-identified images in conference talks, unless I'm in a rush and forget.

I shall repeat every failing QC test before reporting a non-conformity to the authorities. Likewise, I shall not weep when my QA report is filed directly into the void.

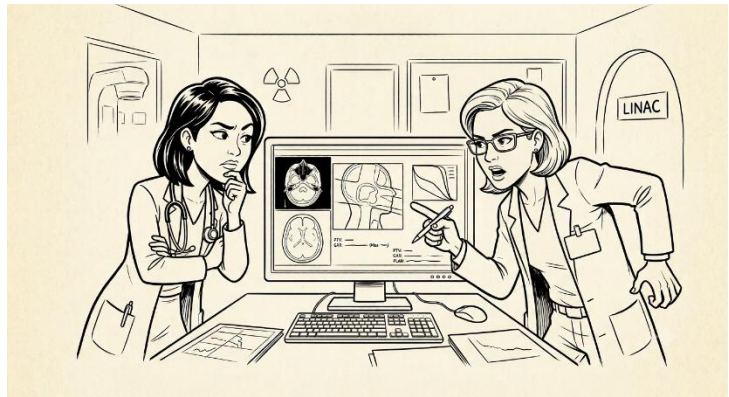
If I do not violate this oath, may my ionisation chambers remain calibrated, my machine outputs stable, my Excel files auto-saved, and my annual inspections brief.

Dummy Source Caption Contest!

Send us your best caption to this cartoon, along with your name and city. The winning caption will be published in the next issue!

Send captions to:

dummy.source@proton.me



From the Editor

If you can believe it, four issues have passed us by! I must admit, after the third issue I was ready to throw in the towel and call it quits, but your support and submissions have made this perhaps the best issue yet. So keep sending me stuff and I'll keep doing this! Dummy Source Lives On!

-P