Radiation Oncology Accreditation in the USA

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Definition from Wikipedia

• **Accreditation** is the process in which certification of competency, authority, or credibility is presented.

• **Hospital accreditation**: A self-assessment and external peer assessment process used by health care organizations to accurately assess their level of performance in relation to established standards and to implement ways to continuously improve.
Why getting accredited?

• Administrators
  – I need something to advertise our program
  – All other Rad Onc centers in town already got accredited
  – Is our staffing level appropriate?
  – How about our Policy and Procedures?

• Radiation Oncologists
  – Is our technology up to date?
  – How about the quality assurance program?
Reasons by Medical Physicists

- We need to hire more physicists
- How is my QA activity compared to national standard?
- How about the safety procedures?

My boss told me to do it
Data Gathering Process

• Information were gathered from the websites of the three accreditation organizations
• Questionnaire were then sent out by email to confirm or add the information
• Acknowledgement for their response
  – ACR: Michael Ray
  – ACRO: Shannon Sperati
  – ASTRO: Samantha Dawes
Rad Onc Accreditations in the USA

- ACR: Radiation Oncology Practice Accreditation (ROPA)
- ACRO: Practice Accreditation Program (PAP)
- ASTRO: Accreditation Program for Excellence (APEx)
When was the accreditation first offered?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACR</th>
<th>ACRO</th>
<th>ASTRO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
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</table>
## Cost and Length of Accreditation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>ACR</th>
<th>ACRO</th>
<th>ASTRO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Main</td>
<td>$9500</td>
<td>$8750</td>
<td>$14000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satellite</td>
<td>$3000</td>
<td>$3500</td>
<td>$5000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel Cost of Surveyors</td>
<td>Included</td>
<td>Not included, bill separately</td>
<td>Included</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## Profession of On-site Surveyors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>ACR</th>
<th>ACRO</th>
<th>ASTRO</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Profession</strong></td>
<td>Radiation Oncologist Medical Physicist</td>
<td>Administrator Medical Physicist</td>
<td>Radiation Oncologist Medical Physicist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Multiple physician (typically 8) perform the chart review. Physician are organized into disease-site specific teams. Chart reviews are performed remotely using an encrypted web interface.</em></td>
<td><em>For very large facilities, may send an additional surveyor (dosimetrist, therapist, or another physicist)</em></td>
<td></td>
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</table>
How Long is the Process (in months)?

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<th>ASTRO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Application</td>
<td>3-6</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>6-9*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survey and Report</td>
<td>2-3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>5-9</td>
<td>4-5</td>
<td>9-12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Self-assessment is rigorous
Total Number of Accredited Centers (as early 2018)

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>723</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>73 (221 in the program)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ACR in Fiscal Year 2017

• Received Applications
  – 29 initial and 183 renewals
  – 15% increase from previous year

• Decisions
  – 92 (66%) accredited
  – 43 (31%) deferred
  – 1 denied
  – 1 Mini-Audit
  – 3 Scheduled On-Site Surveys (SOSS)
ACRO in 2017

- Full: 18%
- Provisional: 79%
- Denied: 3%
- Most practices moved from Provisional to Full accreditation when they provide documentation of meeting the Required Corrective Actions.
ASTRO

• 65% accredited
• 35% deferred
• no denials
What’s next?

• ACR: Dr. Maria Chan
• ACRO: Dr. Matthew Podgorsak
• ASTRO: Dr. Sean Zhang
• SRS/SBRT Specialty: Dr. Stan Benedict