**AAPM Government Relations: A Focus on Radiation Protection and Safety**

Update on current issues impacting medical physics practice

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**Advocacy**

- **Challenge:** Educating legislators and others on safe and secure use of radioactive materials and benefits of sources in cancer treatment and quality patient care
- **Leveraging Resources:** Aligning with other stakeholders to maximize impact/focused outreach
- **Support risk-informed, science-based policy that balances benefits of radiotopes with safe secure usage**

**Congress**
- Medical Physicists/Who are they?/What do they do?
- Source Security/Safe Handling
- DOE Low Dose Research/ appropriations
- Radiation Therapy/Imaging
- Related Research

**Source Security Working Group**
- Steering Committee Member of Coalition of Diverse Stakeholders
- Periodic Meetings/Discussions with Hill Staff regarding Medical Use of Isotopes/Radiation Medicine
- Capitol Hill Briefing Jan. 15, 2019 with Medical, Industry, and Regulatory Representatives on Beneficial Uses of Radiation

**Nuclear Regulatory Commission**
- Training and Education
- Medical Events/Reporting
- Patient Release
- Source Security/SAO Report

**Food and Drug Administration**
- IEC Standards/Transition
- Rulemaking/Classification of Devices/Guidance Documents and Other
- Network of Experts
- Annual Meeting Exhibit Hall Tour

**The Joint Commission**
- Comments on Proposed Standards

**National Academies of Science**

**State Legislatures**
- Medical Physicist Licensure (PA and MA bills pending)

**State Regulatory Agencies**
- QMP/Medical Physicist Practice
- Training and Experience (e.g., Electronically-Generated Low Energy Radiation Sources (ELDER) for skin cancer)
- Other safety issues
CONFEREE OF RADIATION CONTROL PROGRAM DIRECTORS

- AAPM Training at CRDF Annual Meeting
- Suggested State Regulations
- Collaboration on Medical Event Reporting Data/Analysis
- QMIP Registry

GAO REPORT: COMBATING NUCLEAR TERRORISM: NRC NEEDS TO TAKE ADDITIONAL ACTIONS TO ENSURE THE SECURITY OF HIGH-RISK RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL (GAO-19-236R, PUBLISHED MARCH 14, 2019)

- Restricted access
- Text available only to relevant agencies and committees of jurisdiction
- May include information regarding specific threats with different isotopes, how each might be used in radiological dispersion attacks, other technical information
- GAO expected to release public version of report on April 3 or 4 with sensitive information redacted

POST-SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 ENVIRONMENT

- Concerns mount about radiological dispersal device/dirty bomb/radiological exposure device
- Reports of terrorists attempting to acquire sources give urgency to efforts to secure and reduce
- Push for development of non-radioactive alternatives

POST-9-11 IMPACT

- U.S. implemented increased physical security program that included existing regulations for safe use with enhanced security

NAS: THE CONVERGENCE OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND RADIATIONAL SECURITY

- Workshop on convergence of violent extremism and radiological terrorism
- Secular, religious, anarchist, and separatist groups may access radiological sources
- Regularized national trends: where extremist and dissident/una-group members access radiological sources
- What, when, and where radiological terrorism could be a near-teen outcome of spread of violent extremism
- Opportunity for international collaboration to prevent terrorism

GAO LAUNCHES SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT, AND ANALYTICS TEAM (JANUARY 29, 2019)

- Congressional watchdog deepens science and technology capabilities
- Combines technology assessment functions and science and technology evaluation into single office
- Conducts technology assessments and provides technical assistance directly to Congress
- Consider implications and potential policy options of emerging technologies
- Reviews science and technology programs in federal government
### Radiation Therapy
- Stereotactic radiosurgery (Co-60)

### Irradiators
- Blood/ Sterilization/Research Applications (Cs-137, Co-60)

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### THE THREAT: DIRTY BOMB LEGISLATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Limit</th>
<th>Limit use of radioisotopic sources</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mandate</td>
<td>Mandate use of non-radioisotopic alternatives</td>
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<tr>
<td>Restructure</td>
<td>Restructure agency authority over source security and protection</td>
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### NRC 10 CFR PART 37
- Pre-Licensing Activities including screening/site visits
- Background checks/personnel access
- Documented security programs to address unauthorized access
- License Verification System (LVS)
- National Source Tracking System

### ADEQUACY OF CONTROLS REPEATEDLY QUESTIONED
- NRC re-assessment of Category 3 source security and accountability (March 2017)

### NRC RE-EVALUATION OF CATEGORY 3 SECURITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY (MARCH 2017)
- Staff Memorandum (August 2017)
- Safety and security equipment in place prior to licensing
- No expansion of License Verification System (LVS) or National Source Tracking System (NSTS)

### POST-GAO REPORT STRATEGY
- Meetings with relevant committee staff that received restricted report and NRC staff/commissioners
THANK YOU
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