

The Radiation Oncology Safety Stakeholders Initiative: A New Approach to Safety Issues

Benedick A Fraass PhD, FAAPM, FASTRO, FACR

**Vice Chair for Research, Professor + Director of Medical Physics
Department of Radiation Oncology
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA**

Clinical Professor, Radiation Oncology, UCLA

Professor Emeritus, University of Michigan



CEDARS-SINAI

LEADING THE QUEST

Disclosures

- **Member, Varian Patient Safety Council**
- **Previous research and/or travel funding:**
 - **Varian**
 - **Elekta**
 - **Sun Nuclear**

Learning Objectives

- Understand the structure and mission of the RadOnc Safety Stakeholders' Initiative (RO-SSI)
- Learn how the clinical community and vendors are collaborating to help improve usability, quality, + safety of medical devices and clinical practice
- Understand safety risk management, the product lifecycle,+ how it applies to products + clinical practice
- Understand the basics of usability and its relationship to the safety of medical devices, including problems and recommended improvements with content + frequency of software error messages

The New York Times

January 24, 2010

THE RADIATION BOOM

Radiation Offers New Cures, and Ways to Do Harm

By WALT BOGDANICH

**It's been 4+ years since the NY Times helped
focus Radiation Oncology on safety and errors**

Some Recent RadOnc Safety Efforts

2010: AAPM: Safety Summit in Miami

2010: FDA meeting w/ vendors and users, re-eval of 510K process, etc.

2011-14: ASTRO Safety White Papers

2012: ASTRO Meeting with FDA Commissioner

2013: IHE-RO Safety profile “QA with Plan Veto”

2014: ASTRO/AAPM Incident Learning System

2014: Strengthened RadOnc accreditation, new ASTRO accreditation process

2010: Radiation Oncology Safety Stakeholders Initiative

Radiation Oncology Safety Stakeholders Initiative

- **A Brief History**
- **Goals and Motivations**
- **The (sic) Organization of RO-SSI**
- **Progress (So Far)**
- **Conclusions**

Safety Stakeholder's Initiative

- **FDA Public Meeting (6/10):** During the discussion, many vendor-user issues identified
- **AAPM Therapy Physics Committee (7/10):** Industry presentation on two small safety initiatives
- **Suggestions for safety initiatives collected by Fraass (8/10)**

User-Requested Topics for First Meeting

Issues from Users and Vendors (~8 pages):

- Speed of Vendor Responses to Problems
- Vendor Responsibilities (QA, Training...)
- Testing and QA Guidelines
- New Safety-related Tools
- Error Messages, Warnings
- Feedback from Vendors to Users

Safety Stakeholder's Initiative

- **Held meeting at ASTRO (11/10), organized by Fraass + Stephen Vastagh (MITA), with room and time donated by MITA/AdvaMed**
- **Invited vendors, MITA, AdvaMed, ASTRO, AAPM, ASRT, ACR, physicists, physicians...**
- **Meeting was very well attended, successful in identifying issues, with many people interested in working on those issues**
- **This was first meeting of the “Radiation Oncology Safety Stakeholders Initiative, now with annual meetings at AAPM + ASTRO...**

Radiation Oncology Safety Stakeholders Initiative

- **A Brief History**
- **Goals and Motivations**
- **The (sic) Organization of RO-SSI**
- **Progress (So Far)**
- **Conclusions**

Safety Stakeholder's Initiative

Initial goal: talk !

Then, organize working groups to address issues:

- **Try to identify problems which can be addressed**
- **Try to reach consensus on solution(s)**
- **Publish (journals, web)**

Goal: try to avoid all the potholes by having everyone work together using a grass-roots bottom up collaboration

Radiation Oncology Safety Stakeholders Initiative

- **A Brief History**
- **Goals and Motivations**
- **The (sic) Organization of RO-SSI**
- **Progress (So Far)**
- **Conclusions**

RadOnc Safety Stakeholder's Initiative

Members from:

Academic Centers
Free-standing Clinics
AAPM
ASTRO
Vendors
AAMD
ASRT
MITA, AdvaMed
SROA
FDA

Members are:

Physicists
Physicians
Therapists
Dosimetrists
Administrators
Vendors
Regulators

Safety Stakeholder's Initiative: an Ad-Hoc Self-Governing Collaborative Effort

Co-chairs:

Alf Siochi

University of Iowa

Rajinder Dhada

Elekta

Benedick A. Fraass

Cedars-Sinai

Safety Stakeholder's Initiative

Working Groups

- 1. Error Messages: Art Olch + Christina Negrut**
- 2. QA: Jim Galvin + Clif Ling**
- 3. Training: Jean Moran + Joel Goldwein**
- 4. Usability: Gig Mageras + Geoff Dalbow**
- 5? Risk Assessment: Tim Prosser, Jean Moran, Jim Schewe**



<http://info.radoncssi.org>

 Search this site[Home](#)[About](#)[Working Groups](#)[Publications](#)[Minutes](#)[Contact Us](#)[Members](#)[Home](#)

Mission Statement

To recommend and facilitate safety improvements in radiotherapy through a common, independent and impartial vision broadly based on diversity of experience and knowledge among radiation oncology professionals.

Internal Links

- [About](#) - a brief description of the organization.
- [Publications](#) - a list of all approved documents.
- [Contact Us](#) - Leave us a message.
- [Membership](#) - Become a RO-SSI member.
- [Leadership](#) - Contact information and org structure.

Our Next Meeting

TBD - TCON - 12/2013

News

[New Publications](#) We have two documents that have just been published! They are from the Error Messages Working Group and discuss the Appropriate Frequency of Error Messages and Error and Message Dialogs ...

Posted Aug 9, 2013, 10:49 AM by Sa Rossi

Showing posts 1 - 1 of 1. [View more »](#)

Thanks to Alf Siochi

Questions about this site? Contact the webmaster and domain administrator ralfredo-siochi@uiowa.edu



Leadership

Organization

RO-SSI has three co-chairs that manage the operations and help provide vision for the group.

There are currently four Working Groups. Each working group has two co-chairs.

Leadership is represented by radiation oncology professionals and manufacturers.



Dick Fraass
benedick.fraass@cshs.org



Alf Siochi
ralfredo-siochi@uiowa.edu



Rajinder Dhada
rajinder.dhada@elekta.com

WG Chairs



Art Olch
aolch@chla.usc.edu



Christina Negrut
cnegrut@accuray.com

Training



Jean Moran
jmmoran@med.umich.edu



Joel Goldwein
Joel.Goldwein@elekta.com

Messages

Usability



Gig Mageras
magerasg@mskcc.org



Geoffrey Dalbow
dalbow@oncologyowl.com

QA



Jim Galvin
james.galvin@jeffersonhospital.org



Clif Ling
lingc@mskcc.org



Showing 9 items

Date	Place	Minutes Link
Sort ▾	Sort ▾	Sort ▾
September 24, 2013	ASTRO meeting, Atlanta, GA	RO-SSI 9-24-2013 ASTRO Minutes
August 6, 2013	AAPM, Indianapolis, IN	ROSSI 08062013 AAPM Minutes
October 30, 2012	ASTRO, Boston, MA	ROSSI 10302012 ASTRO Minutes.pdf
July 31, 2012	AAPM 2012, Charlotte, NC	ROSSI 07312012 AAPM Minutes.pdf
February 1, 2012	Teleconference	TCON 02012012
October 4, 2011	ASTRO, Miami, FL	ROSSI 10042011 ASTRO Minutes
August 2, 2011	AAPM, Vancouver, British Columbia, CA	ROSSI 08022011 AAPM Minutes
June 2, 2011	MITA TCON	MITA TCON 06022011
November 2, 2010	ASTRO, San Diego, CA	ROSSI 11022010 ASTRO Minutes

Showing 9 items



Publications

Document Lifecycle

Documents are managed through commenting and revision cycles, first by the workgroup, then by the membership. After approval, they are publicly available for comment. Comments will be used to plan revisions.

Endorsements

Click [here](#) to see the endorsers for various publications.

Commenting

1. Click on the link to the google doc.
2. Highlight the text to be commented.
3. Right-Click to open a menu.
4. Select the "Comment" menu item.
5. Type the comment in the textbox.
6. Click the button labeled "Comment."

Showing 2 items

Working Group	Number	Google Doc
Sort ▾	Sort ▾	Sort ▾
Error Messages	RO-SSI-EM-P002-2013-06-16	Appropriate Frequency of Error Messages
Error Messages	RO-SSI-EM-P001-2013-06-15	Error and Message Dialogs Content Usability Guidelines

Showing 2 items

Shared Document Editing+Commenting: Google-Docs

LM081913 proposal _stake in the ground_ ☆

File Edit View Insert Format Tools Table Help Last edit was on January 2

100% Normal text Times New... 11 B I U A

Document No. ROSSG-2012-02-XX V2
Last Updated: 6/2012,

LM080613

Standard "Prescription" Proposal

Usability Guidelines

[Draft 080613]

Foreword to the Radiation Oncology Safety Stakeholder's Initiative

The following document has been developed by a Working Group of the Radiation Oncology Safety Stakeholder Initiative (Stakeholders). The Stakeholders goal is to improve patient safety in radiation oncology. The Stakeholders meet twice a year (at AAPM and ASTRO Annual Meetings). The meetings are attended by therapists, dosimetrists, medical physicists, biomedical and software engineers, clinical application experts, physicians, and therapy product manufacturers' experts. The attendees are affiliated with cancer centers, radiation therapy departments of hospitals, radiation therapy product manufacturers, regulatory agencies, independent physician and physicist practices as well as manufacturers' associations, professional associations and societies.

PROBLEM DEFINITION

There is a lack of consistency in the way in which radiation oncology professionals speak to each other. A reduction in ambiguity will

Alf Siochi
7:39 AM Nov 14
Ellen Yorke:
I'm not clear on how this relates to the Stakeholders. It could be an ASTRO White Paper - but the vendors don't have much to do with "Rx", except insofar as giving us tools by which to make the tables that appear further in the document and - for TPS - ways to document the tables more clearly in
[Show more](#)

benedick.fraass
11:46 AM Jan 2
I think the forward should include all the text about the goals of the stakeholders, not this shortened version.

swhadley
2:18 PM Nov 12
I think this is great. You may also want to add written and electronic communication to this as well. Much like the a, b, c, d in the section below.

Safety Stakeholder's Initiative: Output

- **Documents posted on the RO-SSI website**
- **Educational symposium talks on safety-related topics**
- **Internal vendor discussion and/or use of RO-SSI guidance**
- **Manuscripts submitted to scientific and organizational publications**
- **Anything else you can think of**

RadOnc Safety Stakeholders: Document Review Process

- **WG approves document by consensus, with individual authors listed**
- **Review by all Safety Stakeholders**
- **Revision by WG**
- **Released after vote by Safety Stakeholders (majority)**

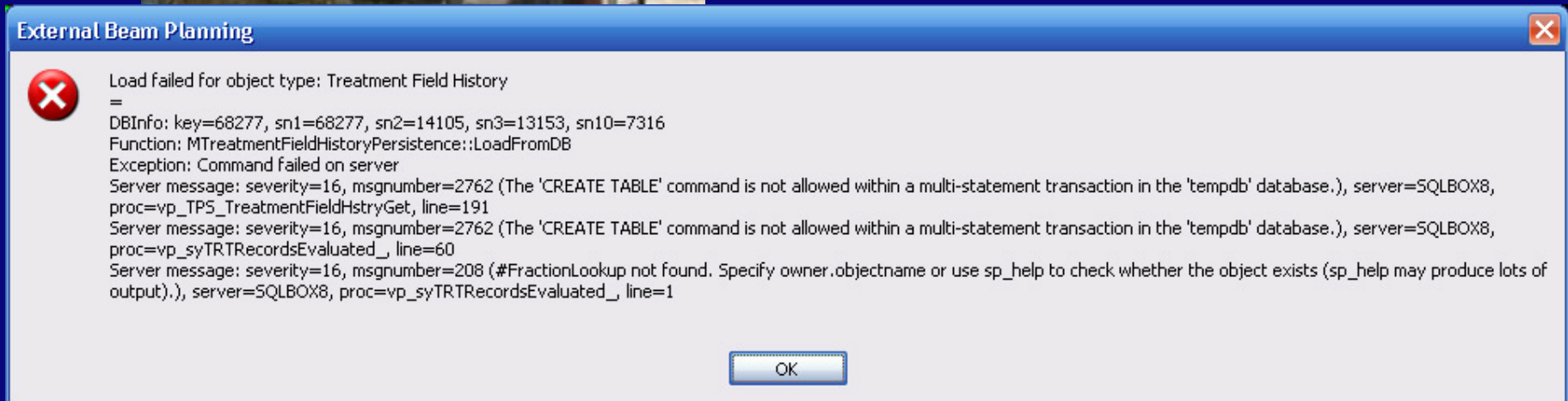
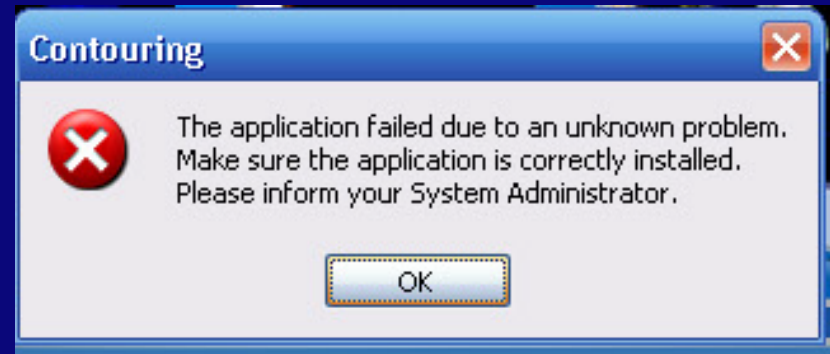
RadOnc Safety Stakeholders: Document Life-cycle

- **Main release: posting on Stakeholders' website**
- **We hope organizations (and individuals) will support the documents – by posting their support on the website**
- **Documents will be sent to organizations asking for support – after release by Stakeholders**
- **Documents will be versioned, and updated often (we hope)**

Radiation Oncology Safety Stakeholders Initiative

- **A Brief History**
- **Goals and Motivations**
- **The (sic) Organization of RO-SSI**
- **Progress (So Far)**
- **Conclusions**

Error Messages WG



Error Messages WG

Radiation Oncology Safety Stakeholders Initiative
Error Messages Working Group
Subcommittee of the Frequency of Error Messages

Document No. RO-SSI-EM-P002-2013-06-16

Appropriate Frequency

Alf Siochi (1), Scott Hadley

G

Freq

Error M

Radiation Oncol

1 University of Iowa, 2 University of

Radiation Oncology Safety Stakeholders Initiative
Error Messages Working Group
Content Subcommittee

Document No. RO-SSI-EM-P001-2013-06-15

ERROR AND MESSAGE DIALOGS Content Usability Guidelines

Cristina Negrut (1), Nzhde Agazaryan (2), Julie Clift (3),
Niklas Hardenborg (4), Denise Monks (5), Arthur Olch (6),
Jim Schewe (7), Alf Siochi (8)

Content Subcommittee,
Error Messages Working Group,
Radiation Oncology Safety Stakeholders Initiative

1 Accuray Incorporated, 2 UCLA School of Medicine, 3 Varian Medical, 4 Elekta, 5 Beth Israel Deaconess
Medical Center, 6 Children's Hospital Los Angeles, 7 Philips Medical, 8 University of Iowa

QA WG

- **Examine QA processes now in place, make recommendations on how they can be updated to improve patient safety.**
- **Particular emphasis on timely development + dissemination of QA procedures for new RT products**

Steps for Developing QA Procedures for New Radiation Oncology Technologies

Stakeholders QA Working Group

Jim Galvin¹, Clifton Ling², Alan Cohen³, Ellen York⁴, Eric Klein⁵, Bruce Curran⁶, Geoff Dalbow⁷, Sonja Dieterich⁸, Jose Luis Dumont⁹, Eric Ford¹⁰, Craig Hust⁹, Paco Hernandez¹¹, Todd Holmes², Chuck Lindley¹², Moyed Miften¹³, Mark Pepelea¹⁴, Kellie Russell¹⁵, Christof Schadt¹⁶, Seth Rosenthal¹⁷, Raymond Wynn¹⁸

¹Thomas Jefferson Univ, ²Varian, ³Accuray, ⁴MSKCC, ⁵Wash U St. Louis, ⁶Brown Univ., ⁷Oncology Owl, ⁸UC Davis, ⁹ Elekta, ¹⁰Univ. Washington, ¹¹Siemens, ¹²IBA, ¹³Univ. Colorado, ¹⁴Philips, ¹⁵Nucletron, ¹⁶BrainLab, ¹⁷Radiological Assoc Sacramento, ¹⁸UPMC

QA WG

Recommendations:

- **Need adequate resources: both effort + equipment**
- **Accelerate QA protocols for new technologies:**
 - **Clinical partners work with vendors to propose guidelines for initial clinical QA process**
 - **Vendors forward QA procedures to AAPM, and AAPM establish a mechanism to review QA info and procedures for new devices so they are available when device is available**
- **Complete system end-to-end test as a safety net**

Training WG: What's the Issue?

- **Training – for new equipment and processes, was a major issue identified by users and vendors at the June 2010 FDA meeting**
- **Everyone is dissatisfied with the way training works**
 - **Users: Vendors don't train well**
 - **Vendors: Users don't pay attention or even come to training**

Training WG:

Roles and Challenges of Industry in Safety Training

Joel Goldwein, MD

Senior Vice President, Medical Affairs, Eli Lilly

Adjunct Professor

Pennsylvania

in multiple

of Training in

Published Errors, Human Factors and Training

Jennifer L. Johnson

Senior Medical

Department of

M.D. Anderson

All men make mistakes

Addressing Clinical Problems: The Roles of Individuals and Training

Jean Moran, PhD

Associate Professor and

Associate Division Director of Clinical Physics

Department of Radiation Oncology, University of Michigan

Usability WG

- Usability is the ease of use and learnability of a human-made object
- Can apply to software app, machine, process, or anything a human interacts with
- Is connected to safety in the sense that products that are easier to learn and easier to use are less prone to error or can be designed to expose errors or near misses

Usability WG

- Hardware – Medical accelerators
- Brachytherapy Devices
- Software – Treatment Planning
- Treatment Management Systems

Standard “Prescription” Proposal

Usability Guidelines

[Draft 080613]

Foreword to the Radiation Oncology Safety Stakeholder’s Initiative

The following document has been developed by a Working Group of the Radiation Oncology Safety Stakeholder Initiative (Stakeholders). The Stakeholders goal is to improve patient safety in radiation oncology. The Stakeholders meet twice a year (at AAPM and ASTRO Annual Meetings). The meetings are attended by therapists, dosimetrists, medical physicists, biomedical and software engineers, clinical application experts, physicians, and therapy product manufacturers’ experts. The attendees are affiliated with cancer centers, radiation therapy departments of hospitals, radiation therapy product manufacturers, regulatory agencies, independent physician and physicist practices as well as manufacturers’ associations, professional associations and societies.

Radiation Oncology Safety Stakeholders Initiative

- **A Brief History**
- **Goals and Motivations**
- **The (sic) Organization of RO-SSI**
- **Progress (So Far)**
- **Conclusions**

Conclusions

- **The Stakeholder's Initiative is an ad hoc group which is creating its own process, deciding on problems to address at the working group level**
- **The group is attempting to work by consensus, in a very democratic, grass-roots way**
- **The group is trying to avoid the huge barriers to formal approval by all the participating organizations (vendors, regulators, purchasers, users...)**
- **If we're successful, RO-SSI recommendations will affect future developments**

Conclusions

- The unique vantage point of the Stakeholders is a useful complement to all the standard organizational efforts toward safety and QA
- Both mechanisms have their place – with very different problems to address
- Progress with either mechanism takes lots of care and feeding – to avoid bureaucratic inertia, organizational dynamics, and other political type issues that can derail useful efforts and progress