

AAPM Spring Clinical Meeting: 8th March 2015

Quality in Medical Physics and Beyond.

Peter Dunscombe
University of Calgary

Disclosure

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Peter Dunscombe

Director, TreatSafely, LLC

Director, Center for the Assessment of
Radiological Sciences.

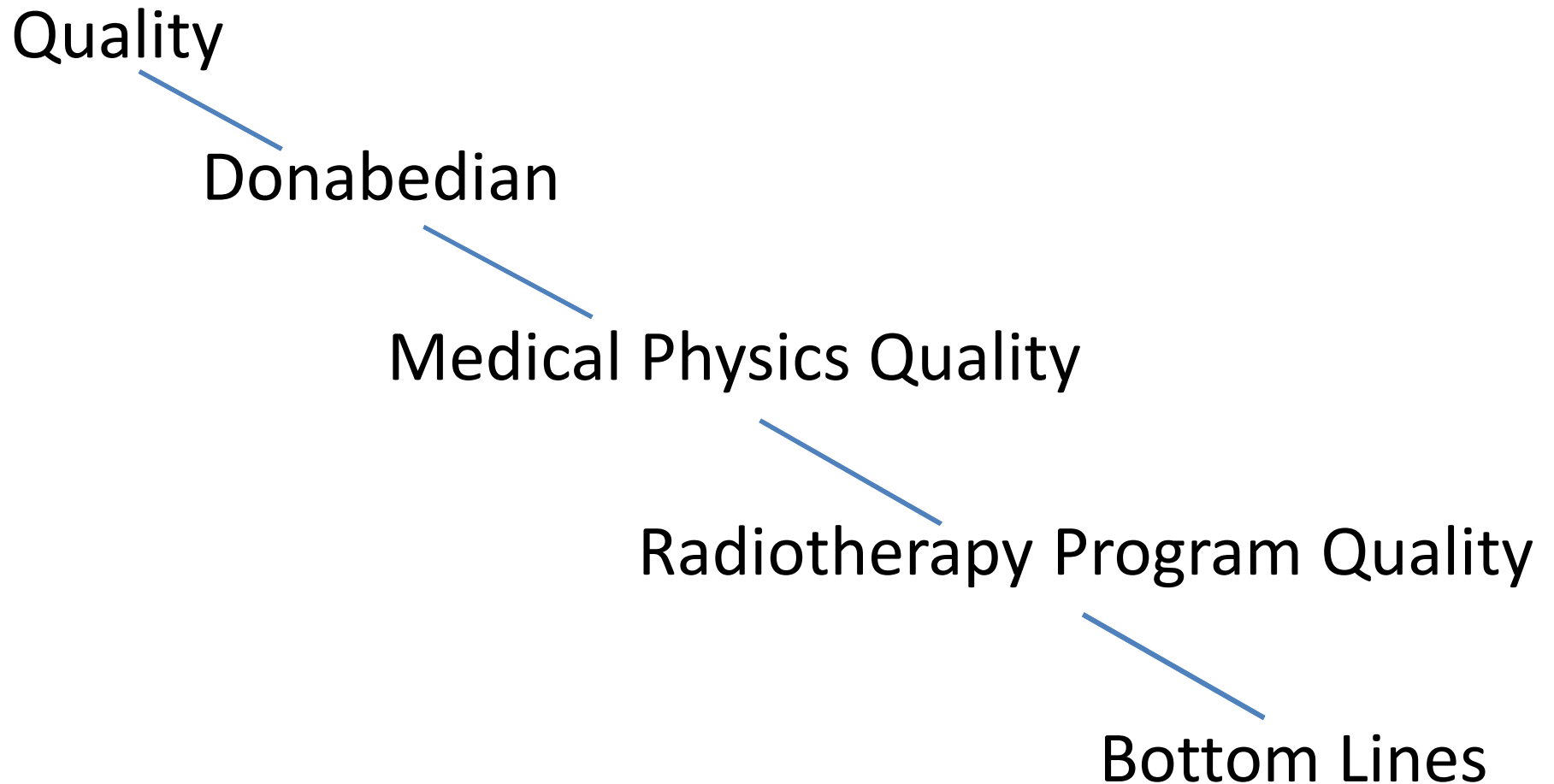
Occasional Consultant to IAEA and Varian.

Objectives

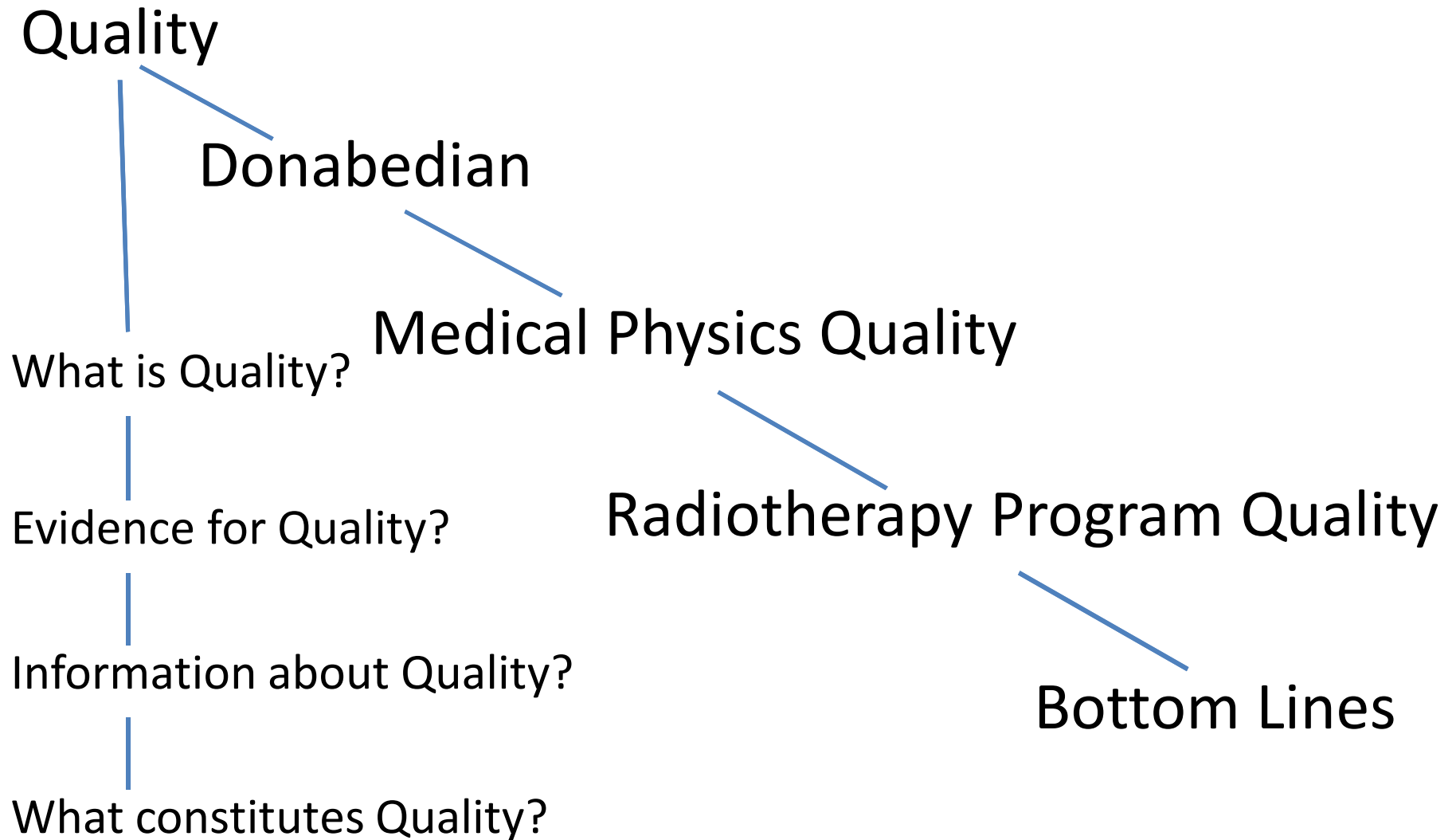
3

- “ To explore the concept of quality in radiotherapy.
- “ To describe Donabedian’s dimensions of quality.
- “ To examine selected quality indicators in the U S, Europe and developing countries.
- “ To take a peek the AAPM’s Safety Profile Assessment results.

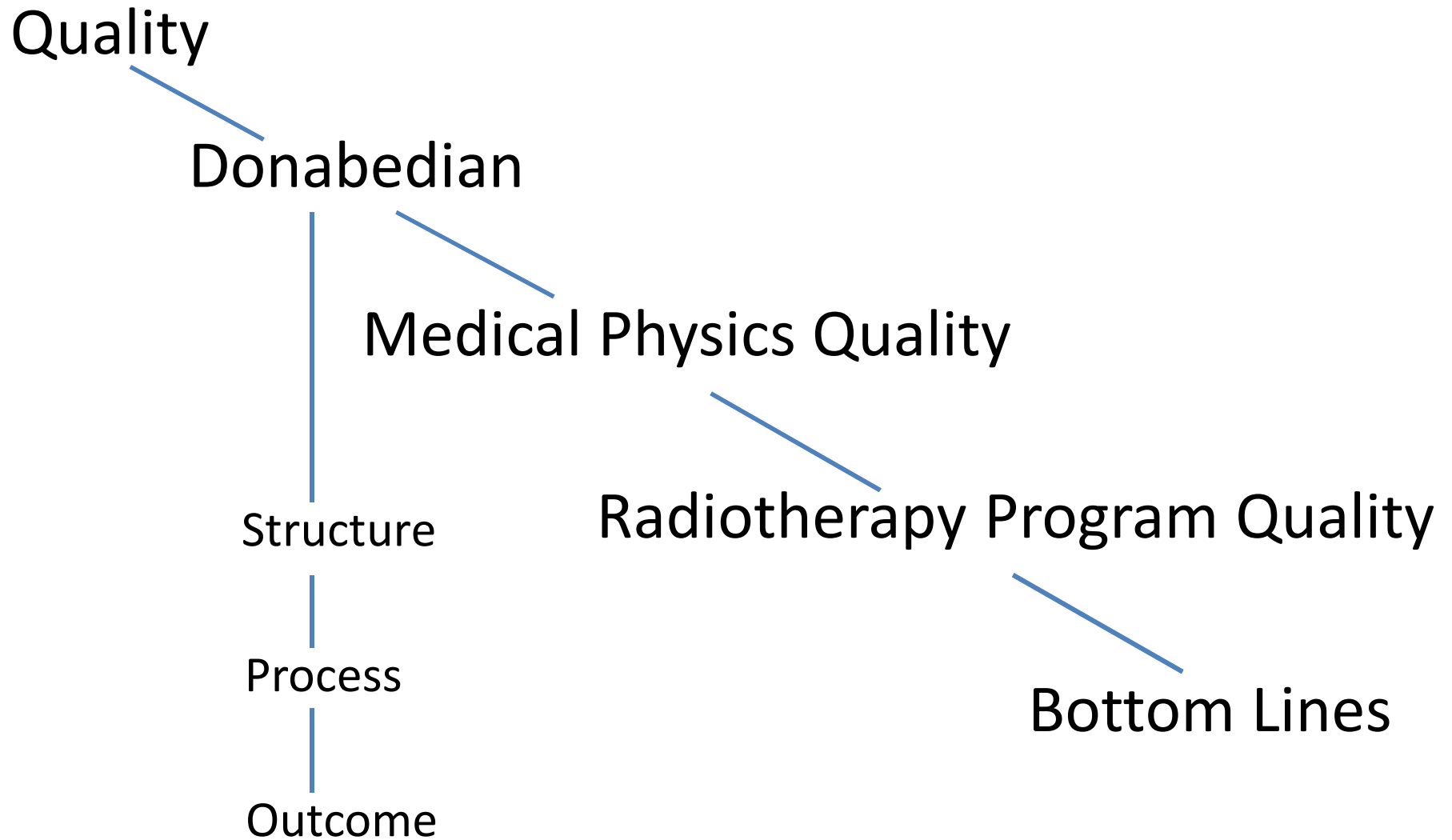
Quality in Medical Physics and Beyond



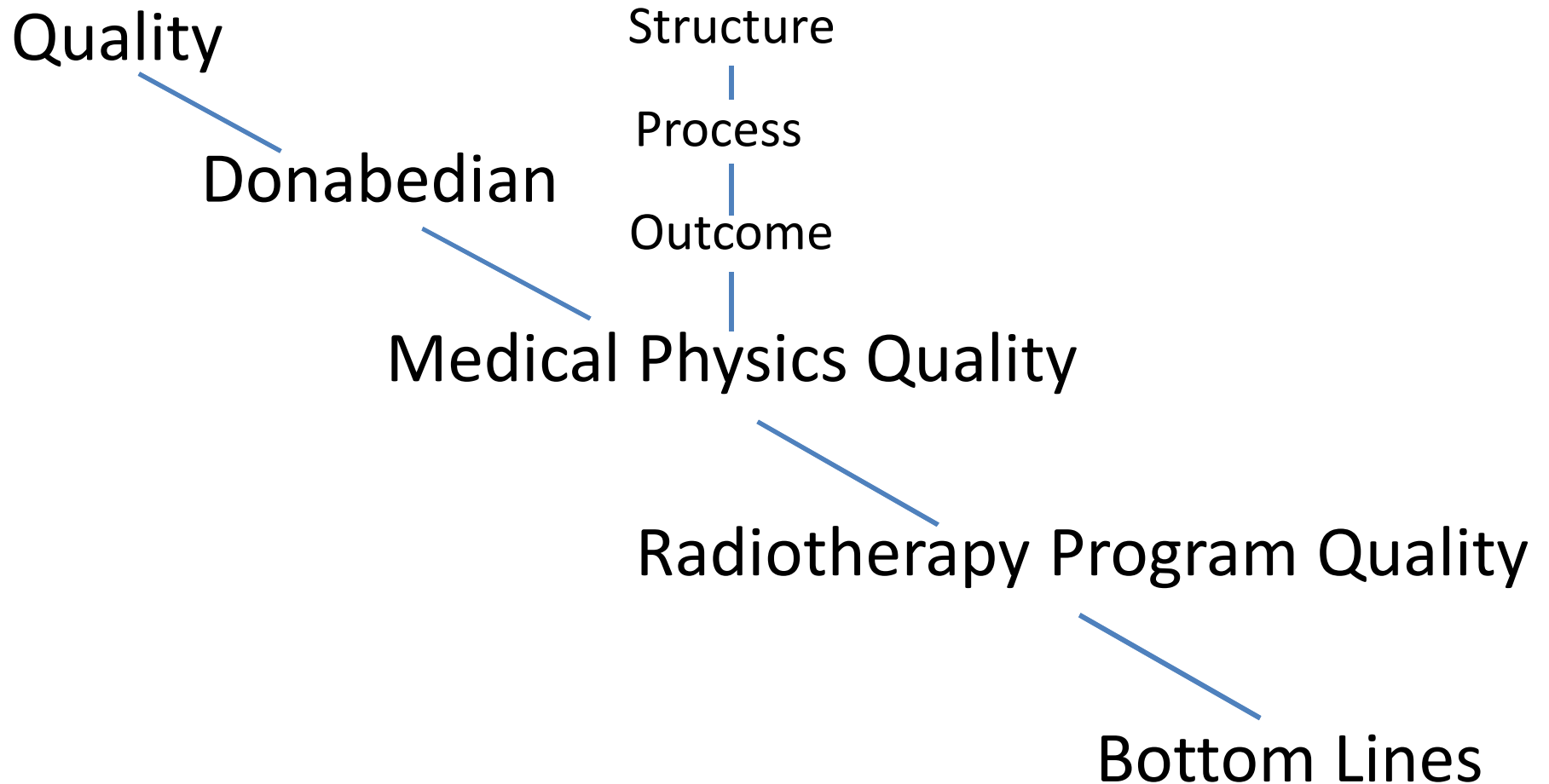
Quality in Medical Physics and Beyond



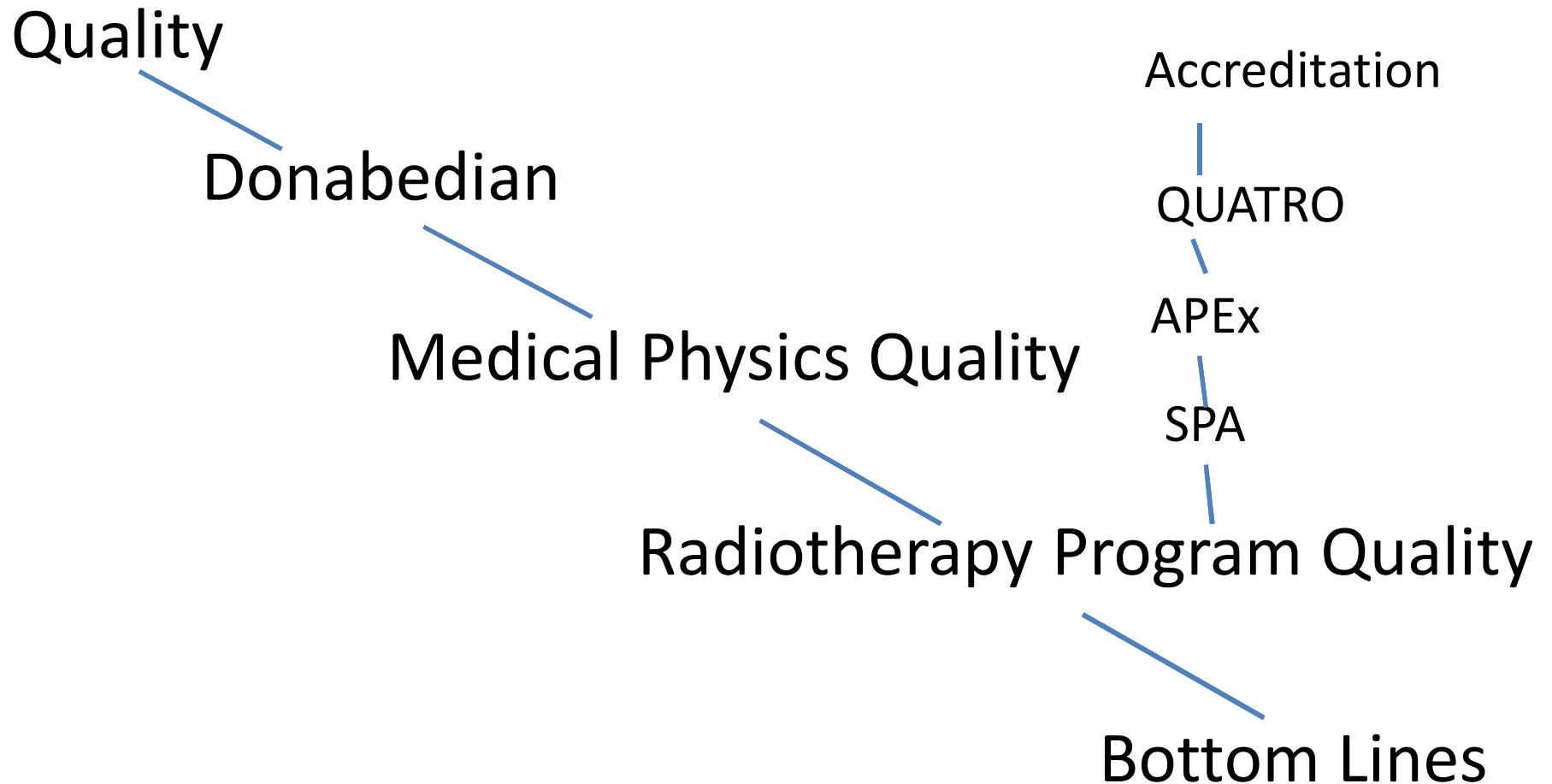
Quality in Medical Physics and Beyond



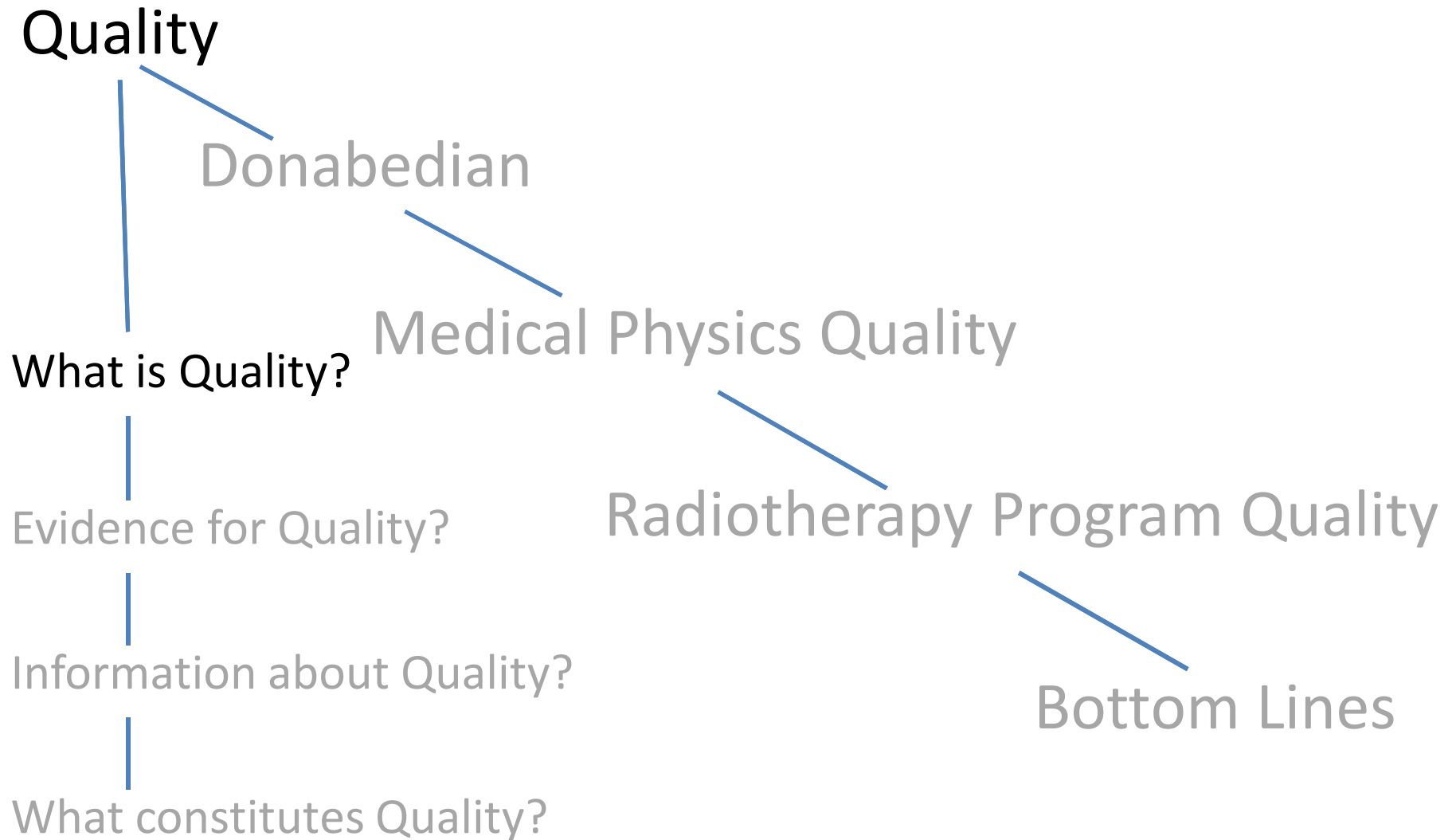
Quality in Medical Physics and Beyond



Quality in Medical Physics and Beyond



Quality in Medical Physics and Beyond



What is Quality?

10

“ **Quality** of care is defined as the degree to which health services for individuals and populations increase the likelihood of desired health outcomes and are consistent with current professional knowledge.

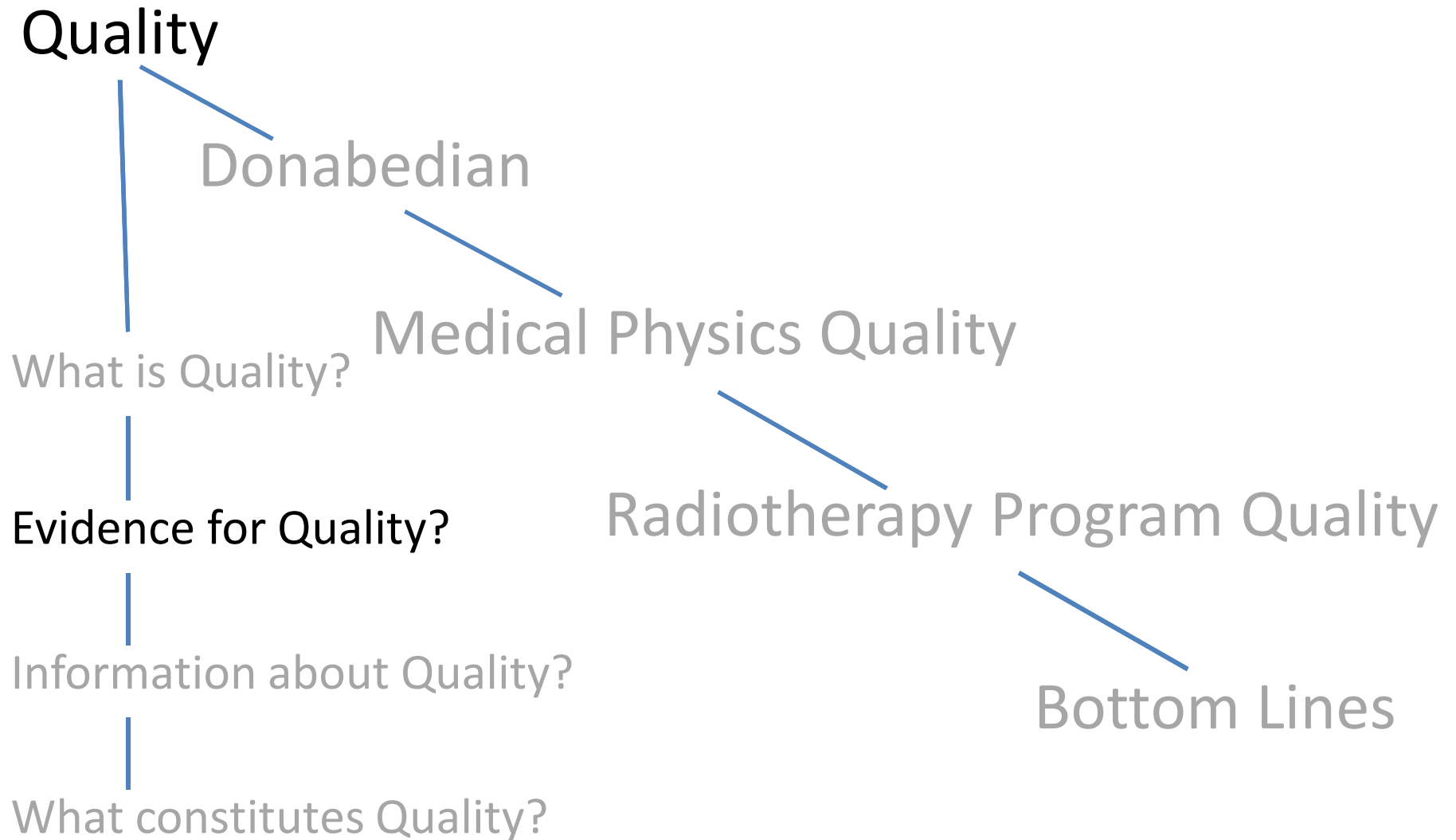
“ Institute of Medicine. Volume 1. Committee to Design a Strategy for Quality Review and Assurance in Medicine, Institute of Medicine. Lohr, K. ed. Medicare: A Strategy for Quality Assurance. Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press, 1990

Quality in Radiotherapy

11

- ” The degree to which radiotherapy is consistent with current professional knowledge
- The prescription is appropriate, i.e. evidence based.
 - The prescription is delivered within consensus determined tolerances.

Quality in Medical Physics and Beyond



Evidence for Quality

13

QA makes a clinical trial stronger: evidence-based medicine in radiation therapy

Weber D, Tomsej M, Melidis C, Hurkmans C. Radiotherapy and Oncology 105 (2012) 4-8

- “ Analyzed 9 prospective clinical trial reports of violations and outcomes.
- “ Major deviation rates from 11.8% to 48%
- “ Major deviations (n=22) included:
 - “ Excessive or incomplete tumor coverage.
 - “ 90% isodose surface not encompassing the planning target volume.
 - “ Total delivered dose of $\pm 10\%$ of prescribed randomized dose.
 - “ The use of block margins >5 cm.

Evidence for Quality

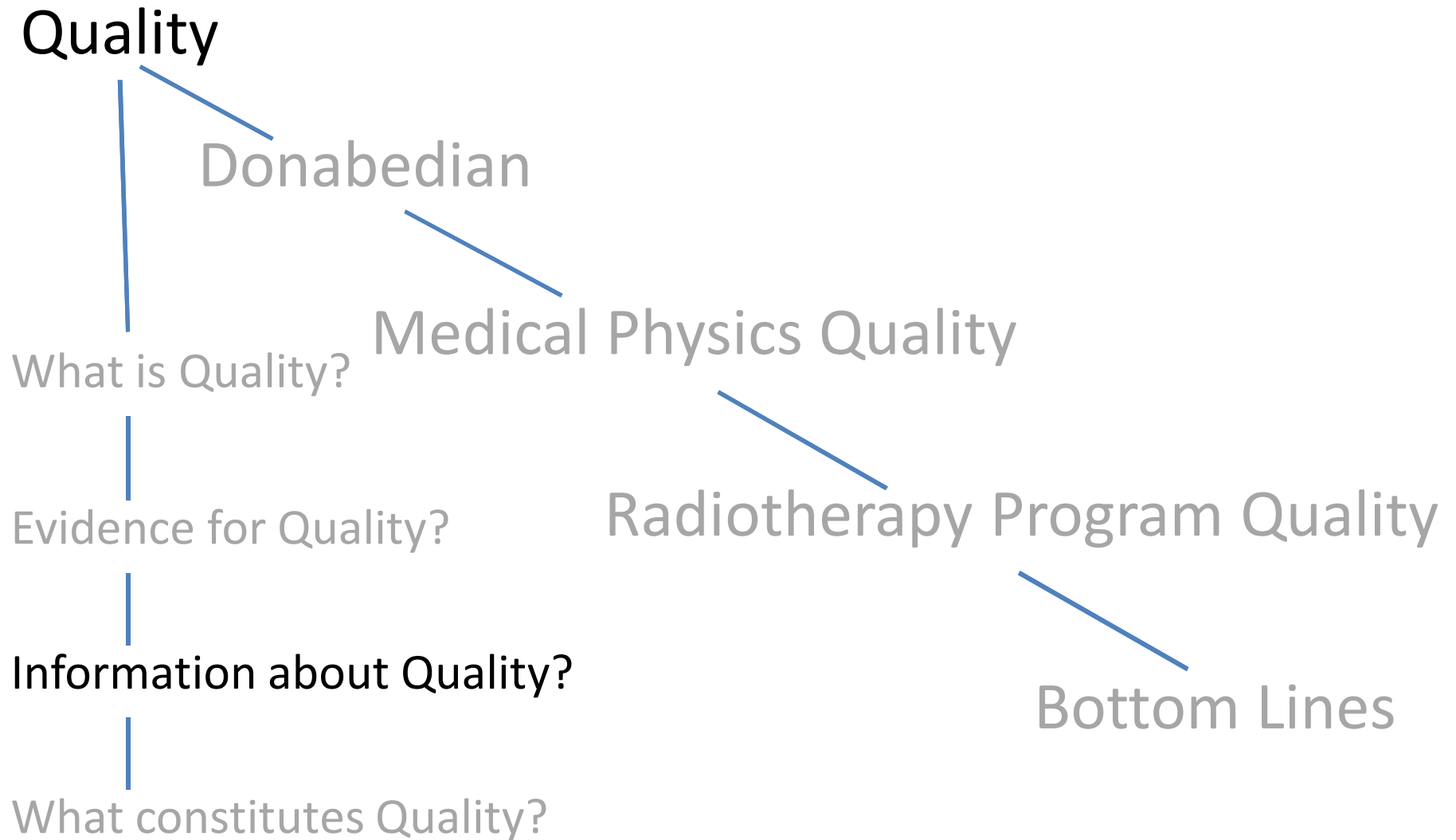
14

QA makes a clinical trial stronger: evidence-based medicine in radiation therapy

Weber D, Tomsej M, Melidis C, Hurkmans C. Radiotherapy and Oncology 105 (2012) 4-8

“These QA data stemming from prospective clinical trials show undisputedly that non adherence to protocol specified RT requirements is associated with reduced survival, local control and potentially increased toxicity.”

Quality in Medical Physics and Beyond



Information about Quality?

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Quality Assessment in Oncology

Jeffrey M. Albert, M.D., and Prajnan Das, M.D., M.S., M.P.H.

Measuring the Quality of Care in Radiation Oncology

James A. Hayman, MD, MBA

Quality Indicators in Radiation Oncology

Jeffrey M. Albert, MD, MPH, and Prajnan Das, MD, MS, MPH

Quality in Radiotherapy

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“ The degree to which radiotherapy is consistent with current professional knowledge

- **The prescription is appropriate, i.e. evidence based.**
- The prescription is delivered within consensus determined tolerances.

Information about Quality?

18

- “ That safety in radiotherapy matters is self-evident.
- “ We will explore the relationship between quality and safety.
- “ If we can convince ourselves that quality and safety are largely different ways of looking at the same issue, i.e. the best outcome for the patient, then we can apply the recommendations for safer radiotherapy to quality radiotherapy.

Quality in Radiotherapy

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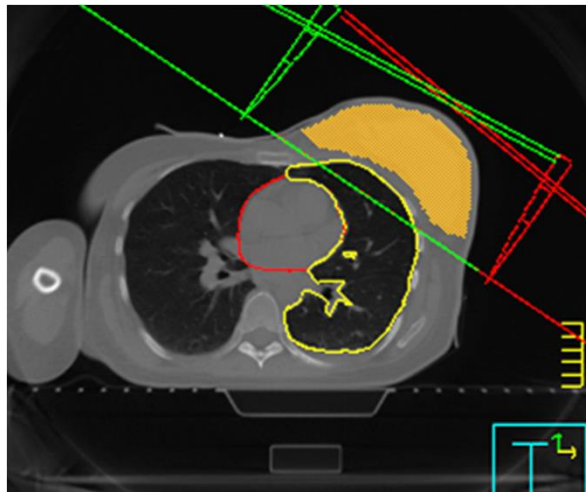
- ” The degree to which radiotherapy is consistent with current professional knowledge
- The prescription is appropriate, i.e. evidence based.
 - **The prescription is delivered within consensus determined tolerances.**

Quality in Radiotherapy

20

To explore this let's just look at the technical aspects of radiation therapy:

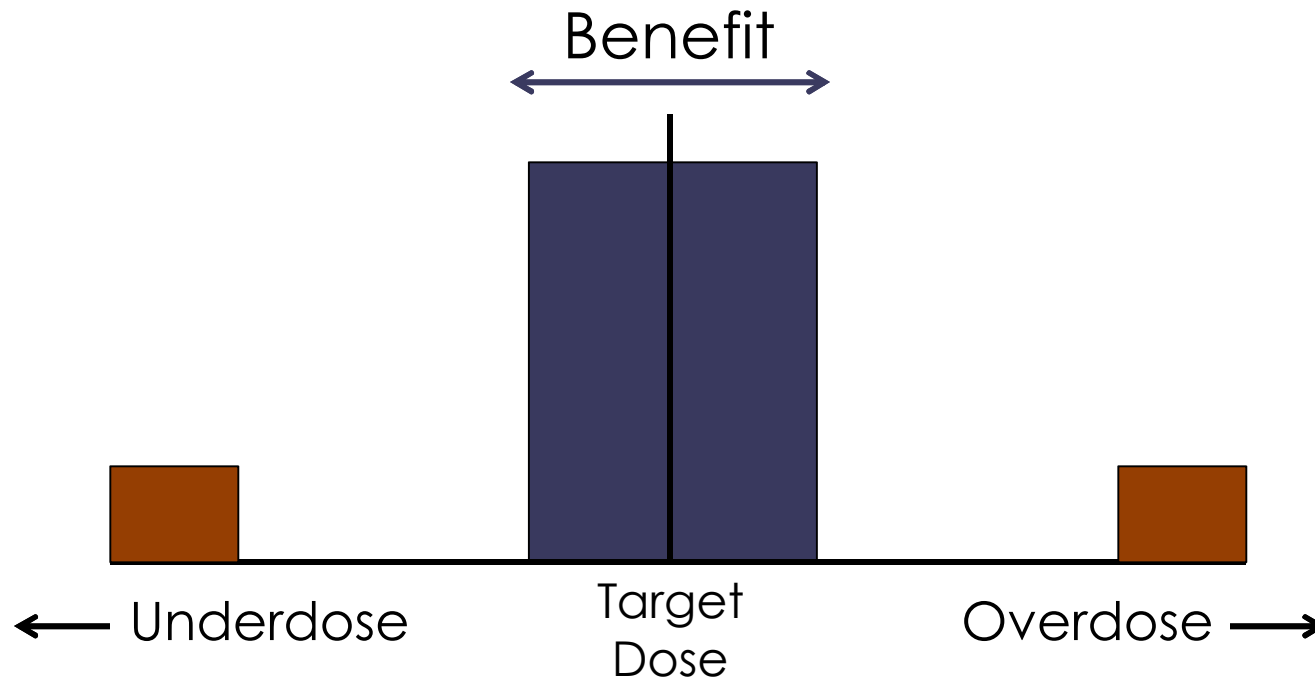
Is the prescription delivered within consensus determined tolerances?



Information about Quality?

Quality in Radiotherapy

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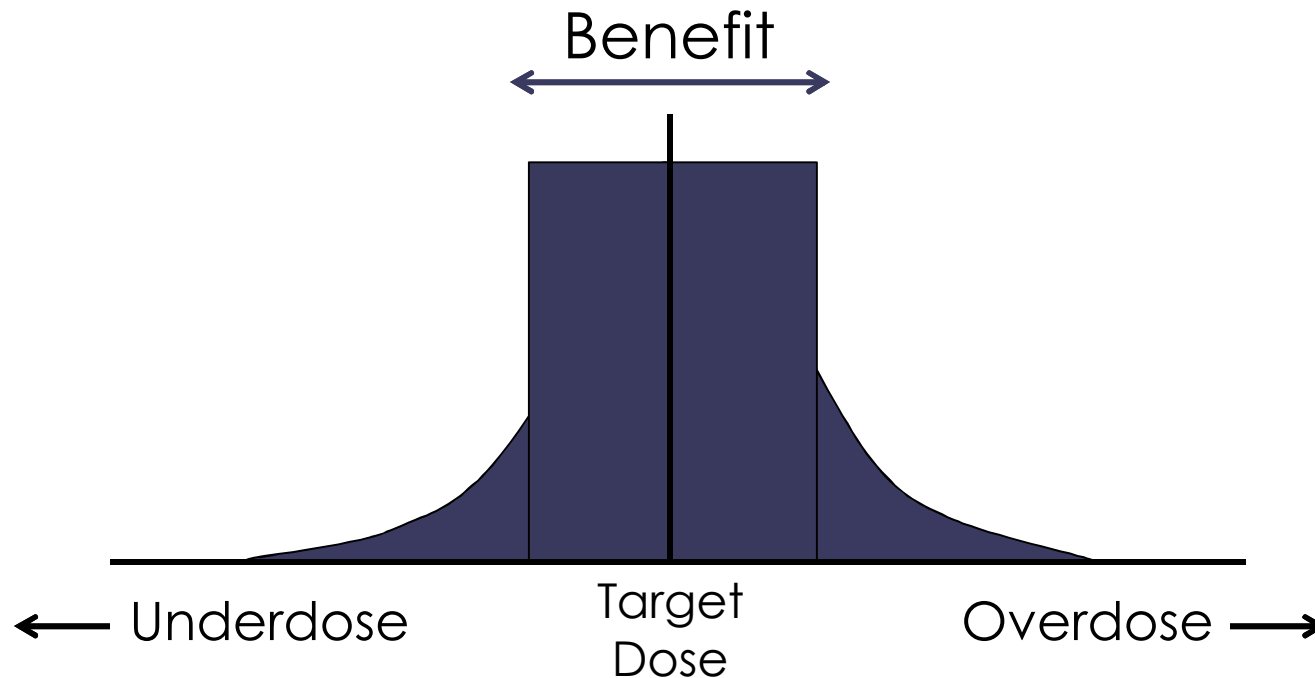


On a recent review of all viewing the NY Times article: **almost all** patients receive **beneficial treatments** **with a miniscule number subject to harm?**

Information about Quality?

Quality in Radiotherapy

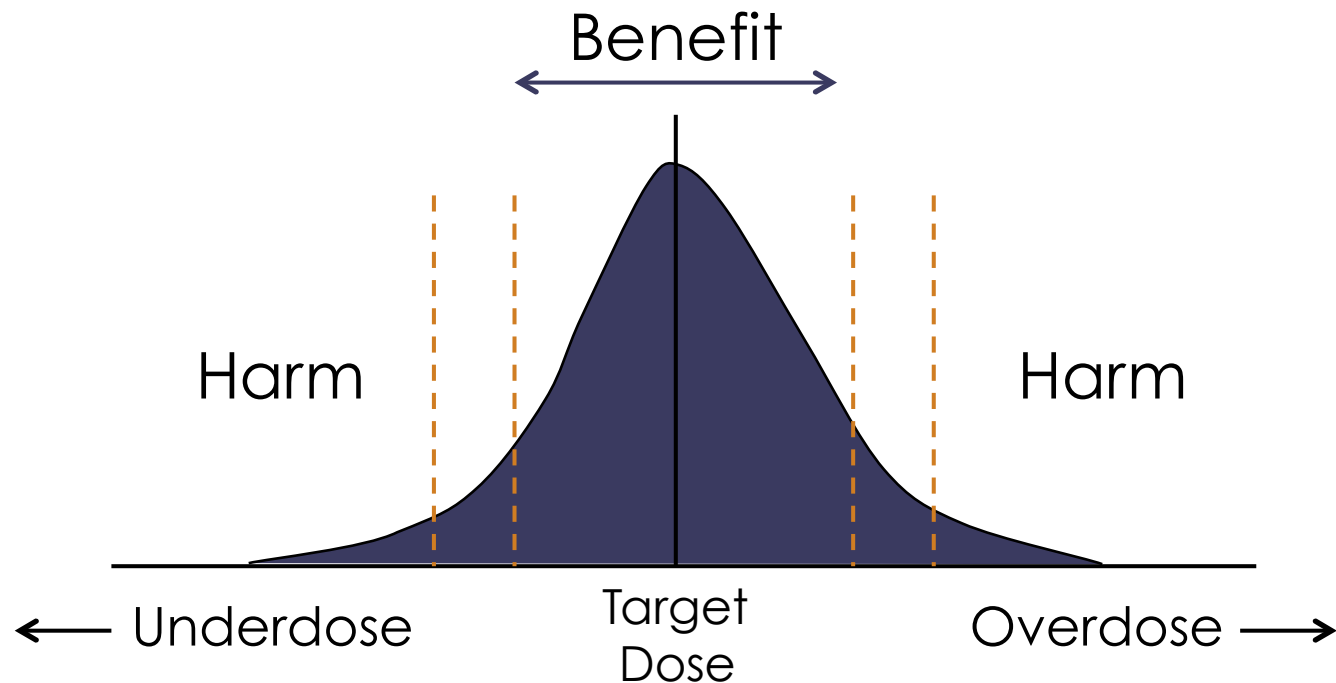
22



Or is this more realistic: there's a continuous distribution from beneficial treatments to harmful treatments?

Quality in Radiotherapy

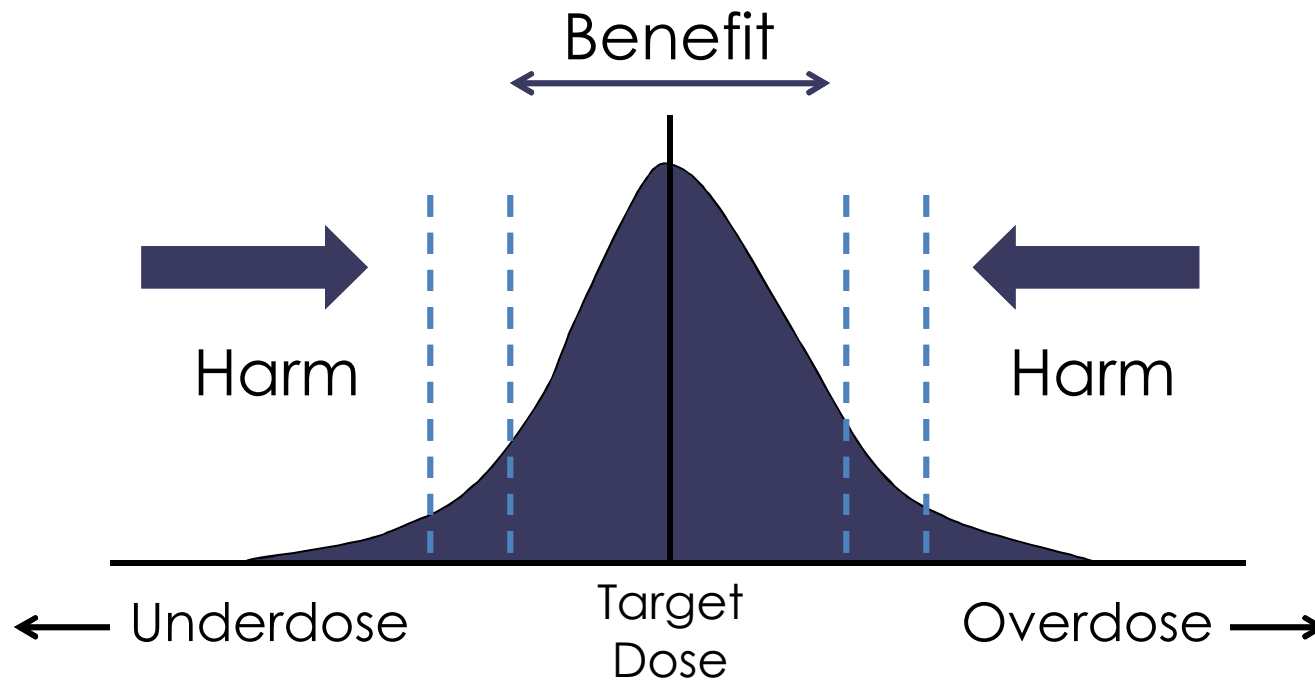
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If you believe this distribution there is no clear demarcation between quality radiotherapy and unsafe radiotherapy. Unsafe conditions can be viewed as a major compromise of quality.

What are we trying to accomplish?

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Information about Quality?

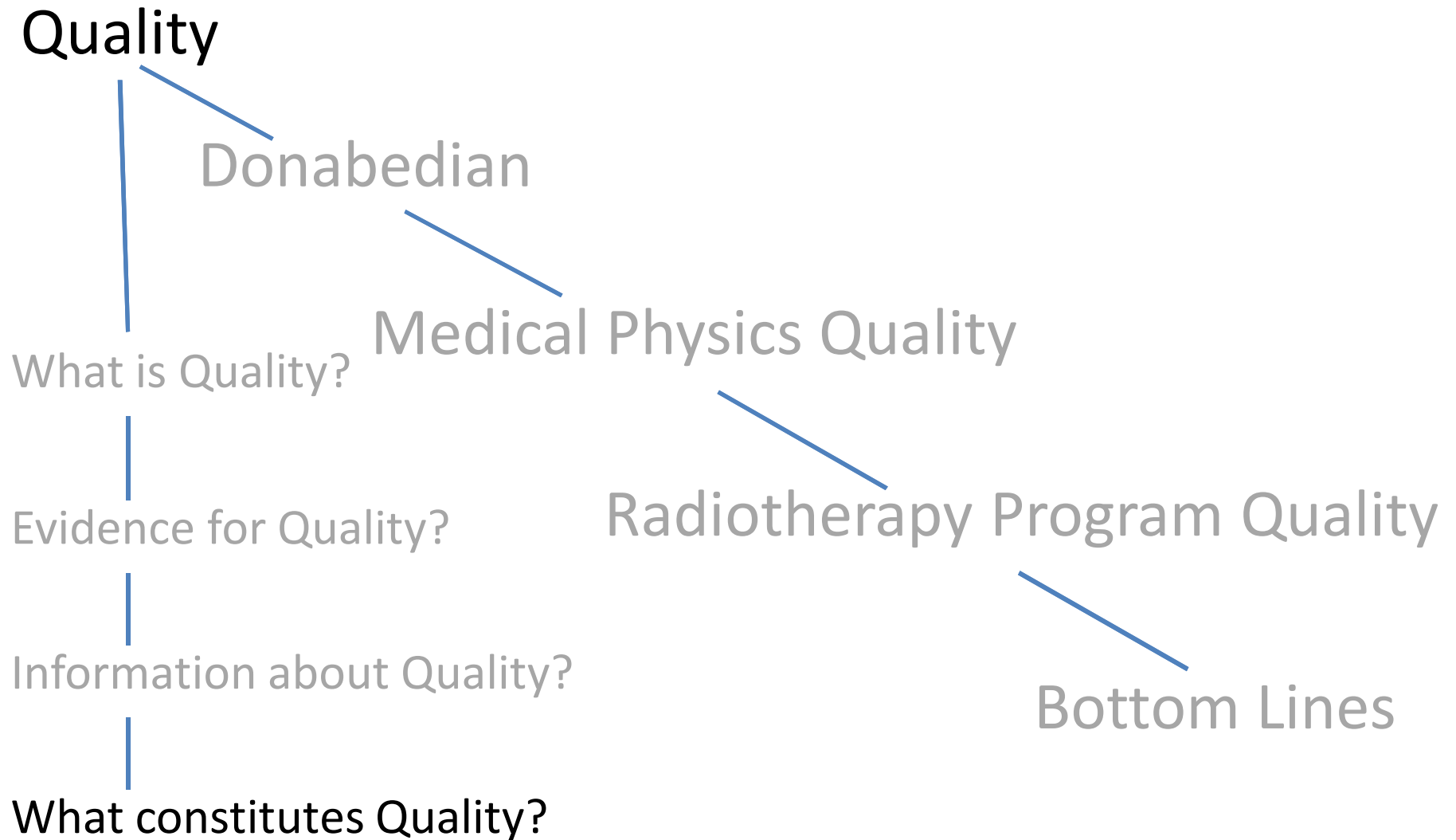
Information about Quality?

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So, if you accept the relationship between quality and safety we can adopt many of the measures aimed at improving safety to improve quality too.



Quality in Medical Physics and Beyond



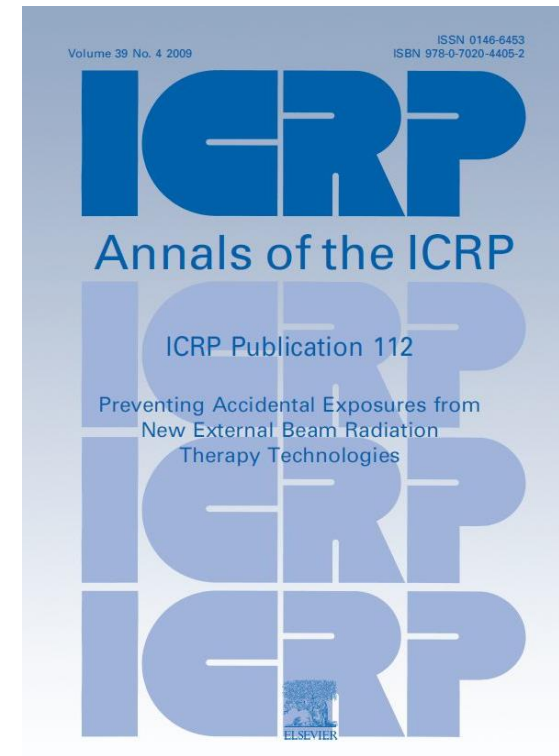
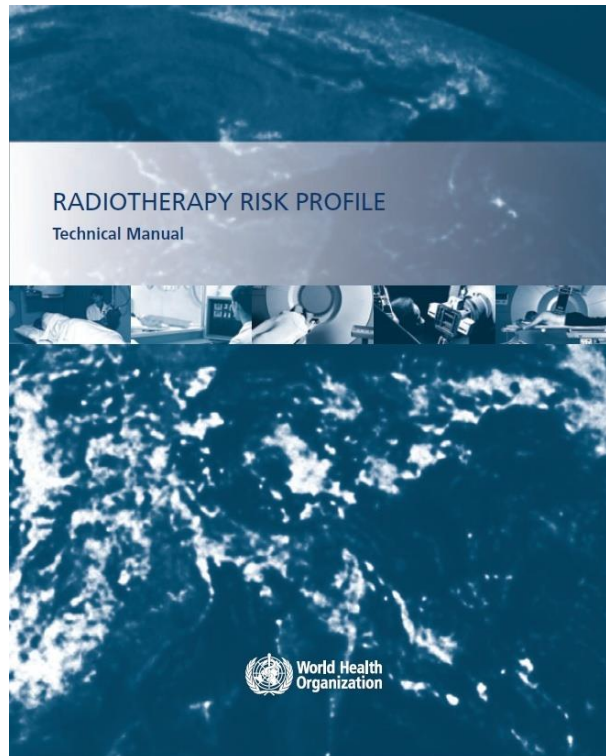
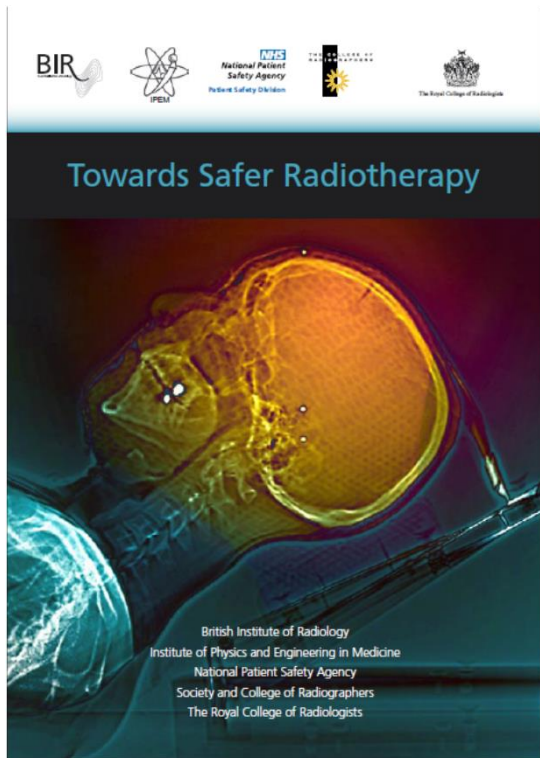


Recommendations for safer radiotherapy: what's the message?

Peter Dunscombe*

Department of Oncology, University of Calgary, Calgary, AB, Canada

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What constitutes Quality?



Recommendations for safer radiotherapy: what's the message?

*Peter Dunscombe**

Department of Oncology, University of Calgary, Calgary, AB, Canada

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Report	Advice
<i>Towards safer Radiotherapy</i>	37
<i>Radiotherapy Risk Profile</i>	15
<i>Preventing Accidental</i>	15
<i>Hendee and Herman</i>	20
<i>Heirarchy of Actions</i>	19
ASTRO	6
TG 100	5
Total	117

What constitutes Quality?



Recommendations for safer radiotherapy: what's the message?

Peter Dunscombe*

Department of Oncology, University of Calgary, Calgary, AB, Canada

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Training (7)

Staffing/skills mix(6)

Documentation/SOP (5)

Incident Learning System (5)

Communication/questioning (4)

Check lists (4)

QC and PM (4)

Dosimetric Audit(4)

Accreditation (4)

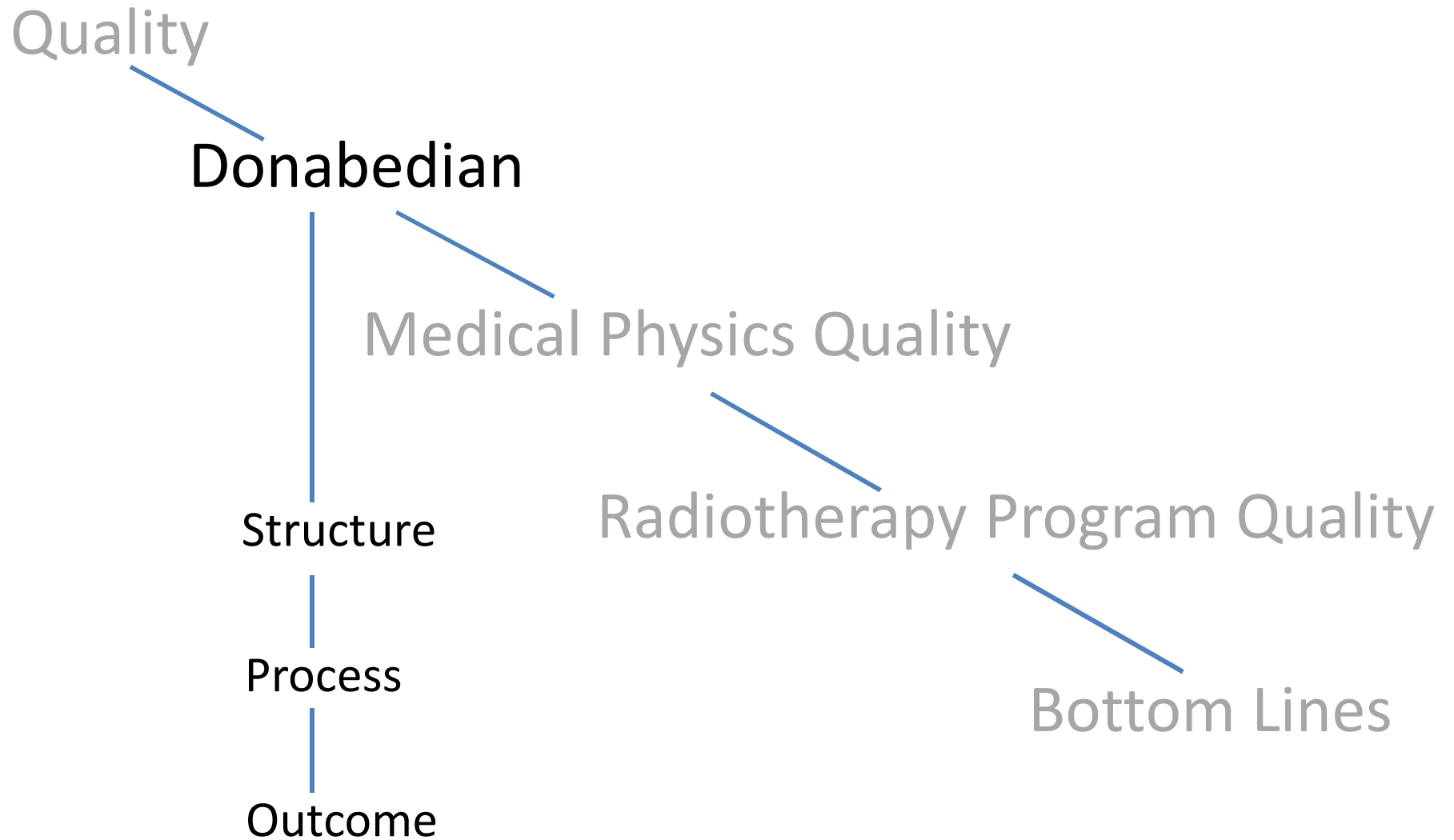
Minimizing interruptions (3)

Prospective risk assessment (3)

Safety Culture (3)

What constitutes Quality?

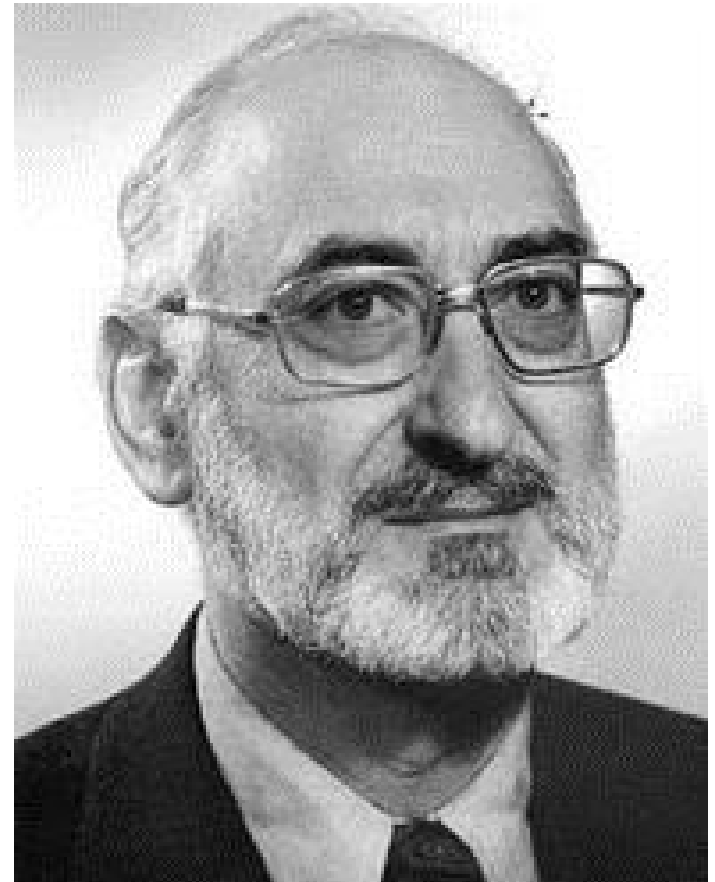
Quality in Medical Physics and Beyond



Donabedian's Outcomes Model

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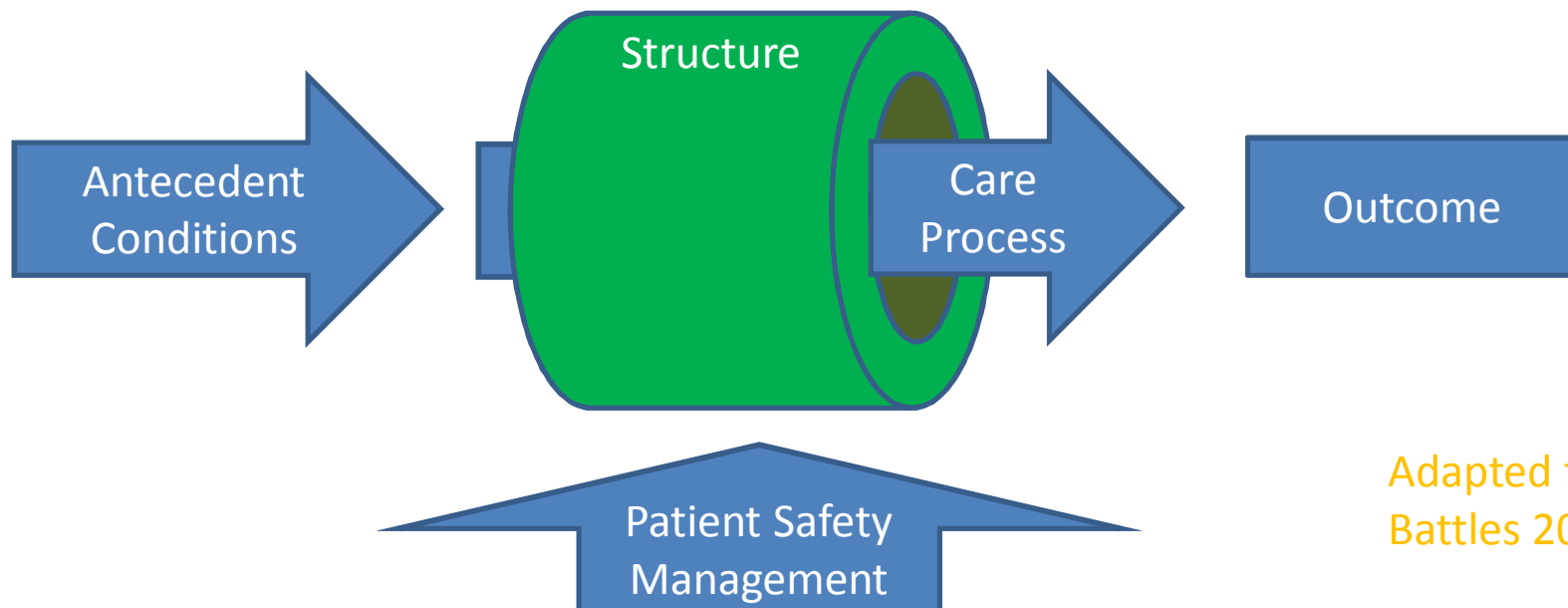
- “ University of Michigan 1961-2000
- “ Founder of the study of quality in health care.
- “ Coined the term “outcomes” to refer to patient follow-up assessment.
- “ Modeled quality based on structure, process, and outcome.



Donabedian's Outcomes Model

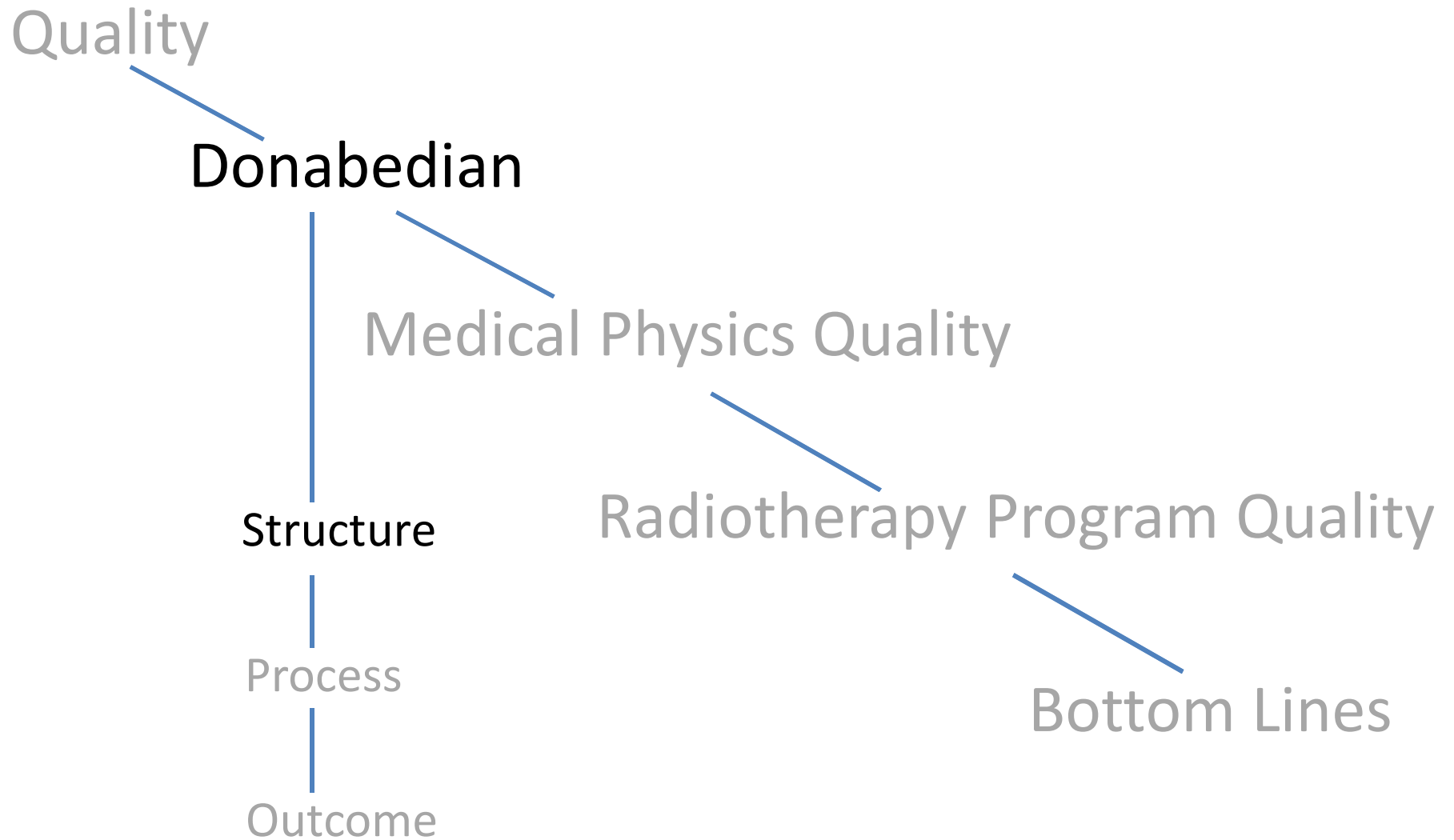
32

- “ **Structure:** all factors affecting care delivery.
- “ **Process:** all actions making up healthcare.
- “ **Outcome:** all effects on patients or populations.



Adapted from
Battles 2003.

Quality in Medical Physics and Beyond



Structure

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- “ The necessary, but not sufficient, fundamentals of an organization for the delivery of quality.
- “ Fundamentals need to be present irrespective of volume.
- “ Providing an adequate structure is a management function.

Structure

35

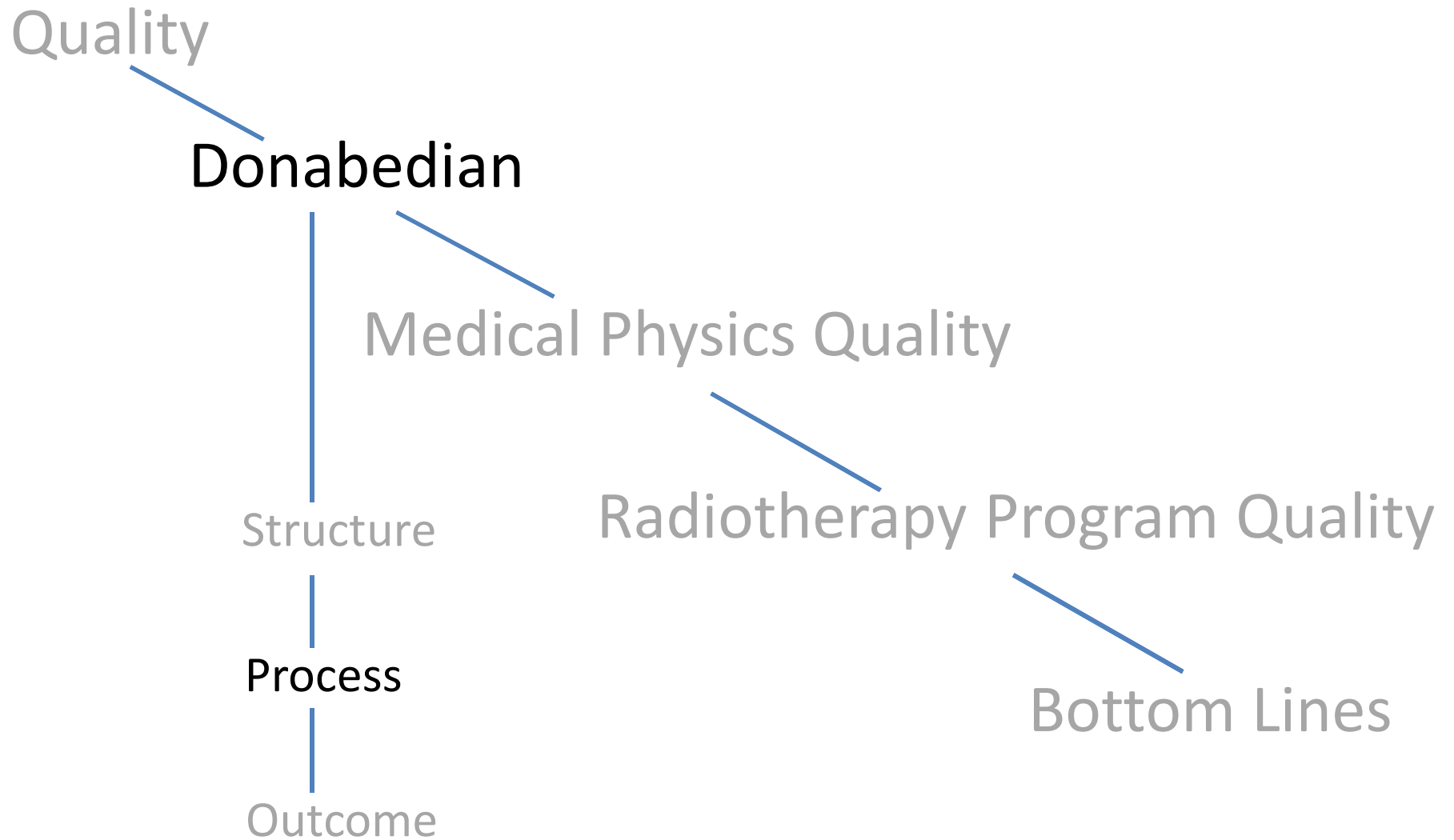
Examples of structural fundamentals are:

- “ Equipment: e.g. calibrated linac inventory.
- “ Staffing: appropriate numbers/ competence
- “ Documentation: current and high quality

And

- “ Radiation Safety Committee.
- “ Staff continuing professional development program.
- “ Safety Culture.

Quality in Medical Physics and Beyond



Process

37

- “ Processes happen within the structure and are focused on individual units (patients or equipment).
- “ # processes is volume dependent.
- “ Processes are carried out by front line staff.

Process

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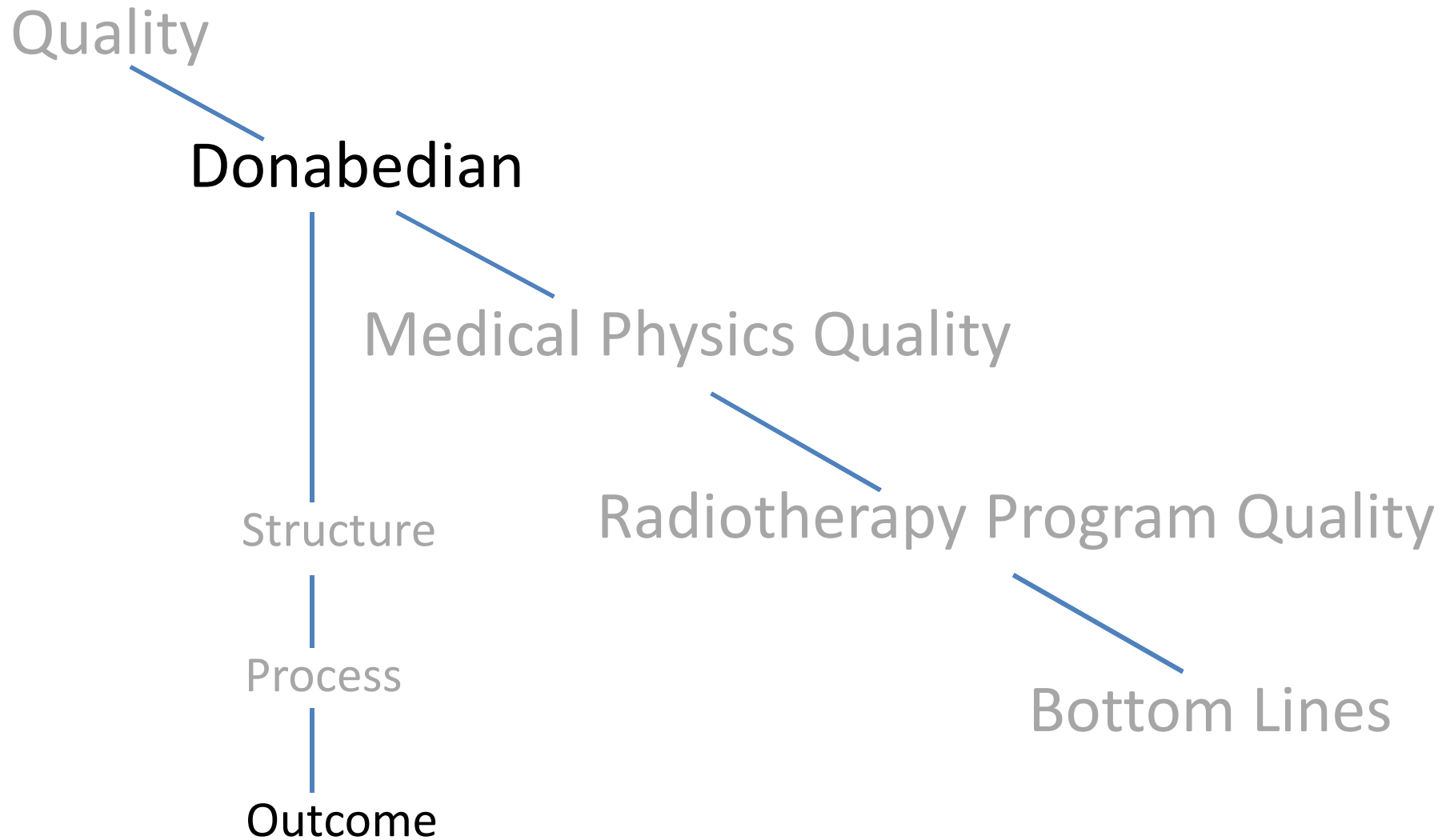
Examples of processes are:

- “ Controlling the quality of a particular linac.
- “ Verifying the dose for an IMRT patient.

And

- “ Planning a treatment for a patient
- “ Delivering a treatment to a patient.

Quality in Medical Physics and Beyond



Outcome

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- “ Measures of the effectiveness of the system
- “ Outcomes can be patient related or *organizational*

Patient Related Outcomes

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Examples of Patient Related Outcomes are:

- “ Survival.
- “ Quality of life.
- “ Re-admissions.
- “ Patient satisfaction.

Organizational Outcomes

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Examples of Organizational Outcomes

- “ Postal dosimetry (IAEA program).
- “ IROC Houston (formerly RPC) phantom results.

And

- “ Misadministrations.
- “ Participation in advanced training
- “ Publications.
- “ Accreditation recommendations.

Organizational Outcomes

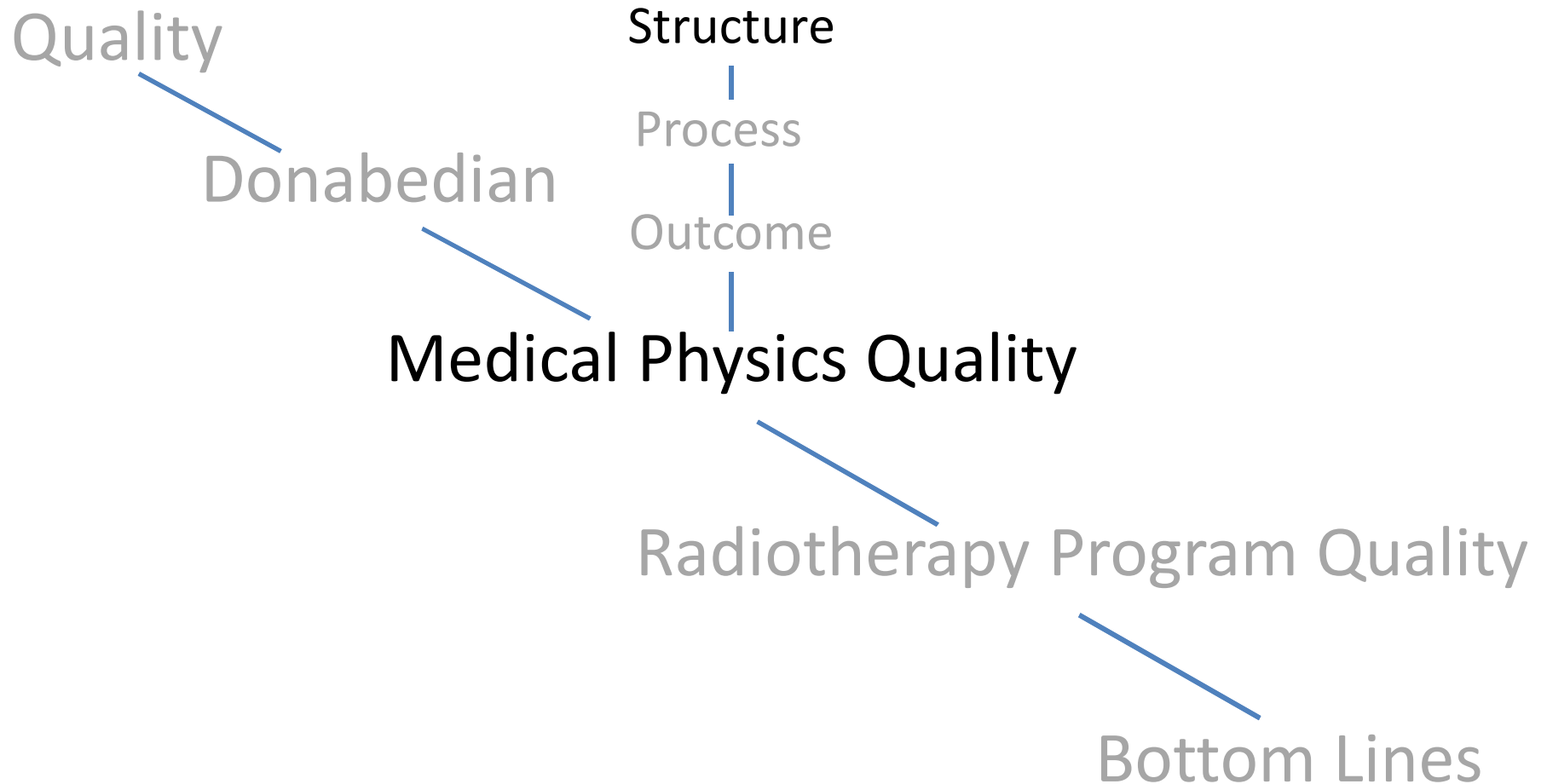
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Examples of Organizational Outcomes

- “ Postal dosimetry (IAEA program).
- “ IROC Houston phantom results.

Organizational outcomes should be used in a feedback loop to improve the structure and process dimensions of quality.

Quality in Medical Physics and Beyond



Global treatment machine inventory

45

Low and middle income countries* encompass 82% of the world's population and experience 57% of the world's cancer cases.

One treatment machine per 1.4×10^6 inhabitants.

*GNI per capita \leq \$12,745 per annum

Clin Onc **27** (2015) 107-114

European treatment machine inventory

46

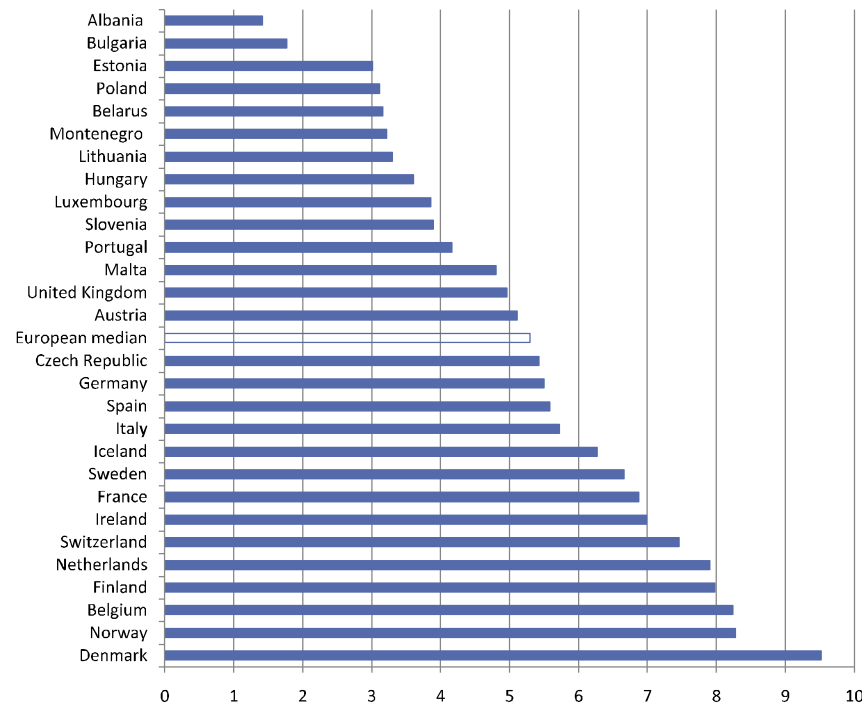


Fig. 2. Histogram showing the average number of radiotherapy treatment machines (MV units) per million inhabitants in 28 European countries.

Radiotherapy and Oncology **112** (2014) 155-64

US treatment machine inventory

47

An Elekta presentation at ESTRO in 2012 stated that there were 12 machines per 10^6 Inhabitants in the US.

Treatment machine inventory

48

- “ Global (LMIC): 1.4 machines per 10^6 inhabitants
- “ Europe: 5.3 (median) machines per 10^6
- “ US: 12 machines per 10^6

Treatment machine inventory

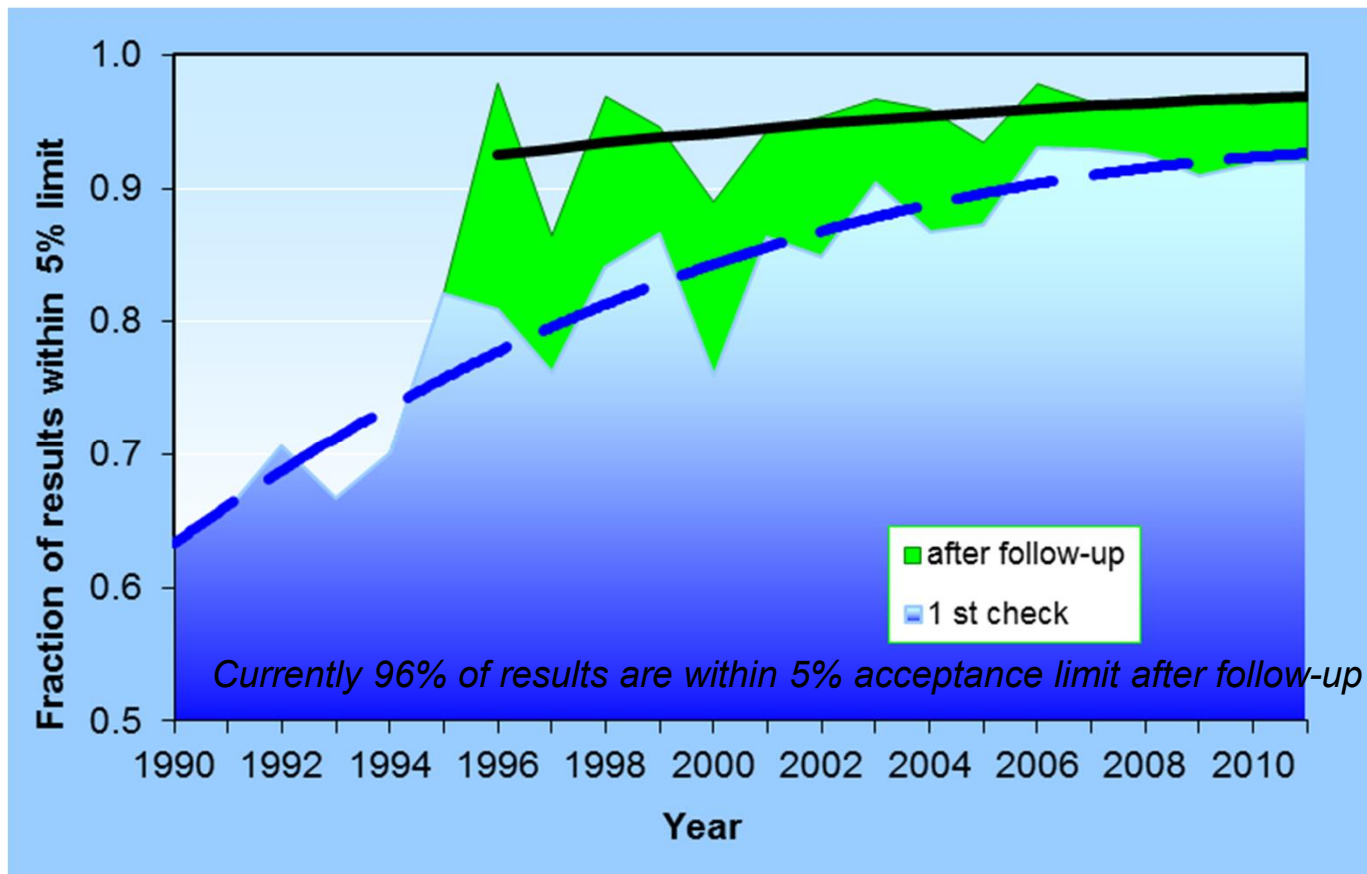
49

- “ Global (LMIC): 1.4 machines per 10^6 inhabitants
- “ Europe: 5.3 (median) machines per 10^6
- “ US: 12 machines per 10^6

But, availability \neq access

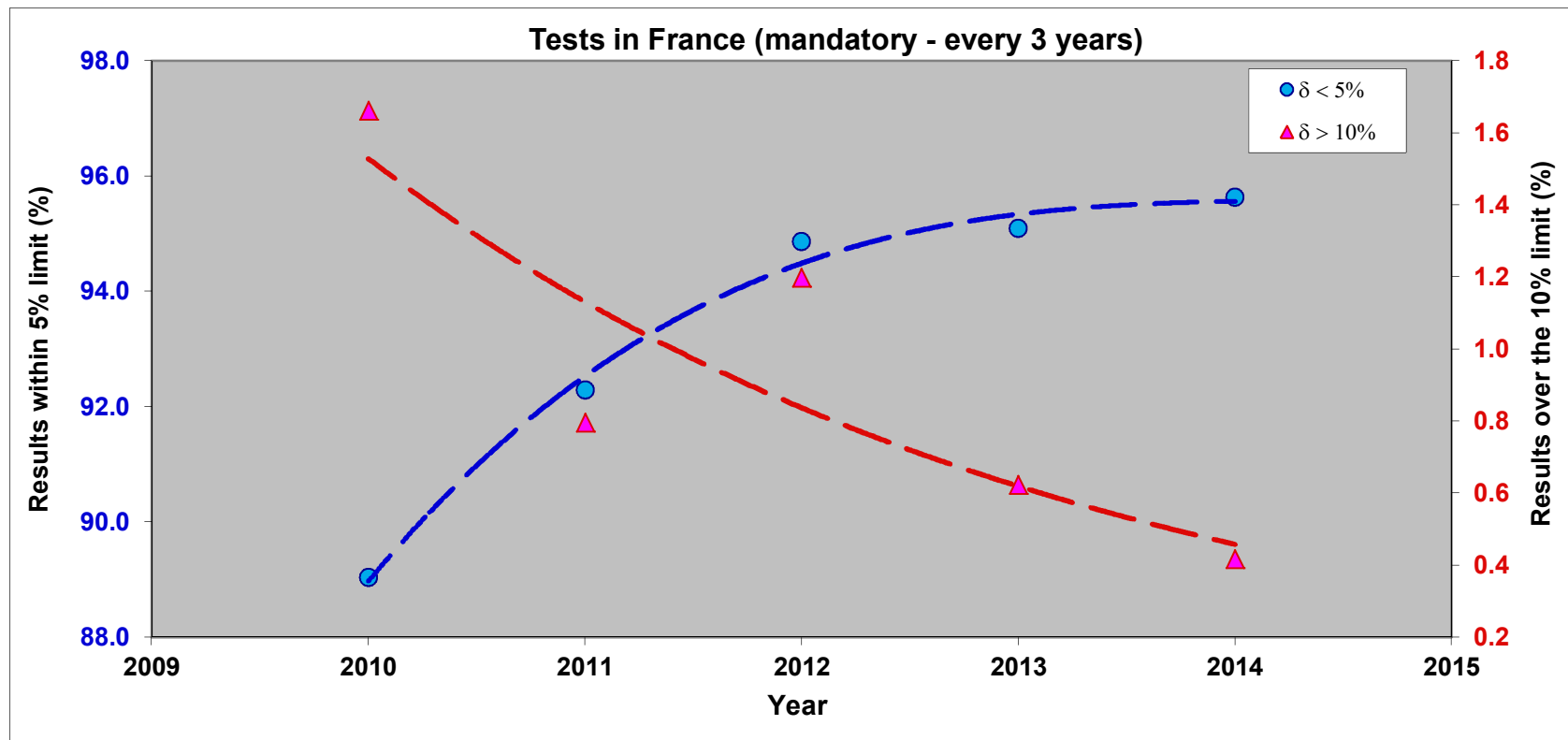
Global (IAEA) machine calibration accuracy

50



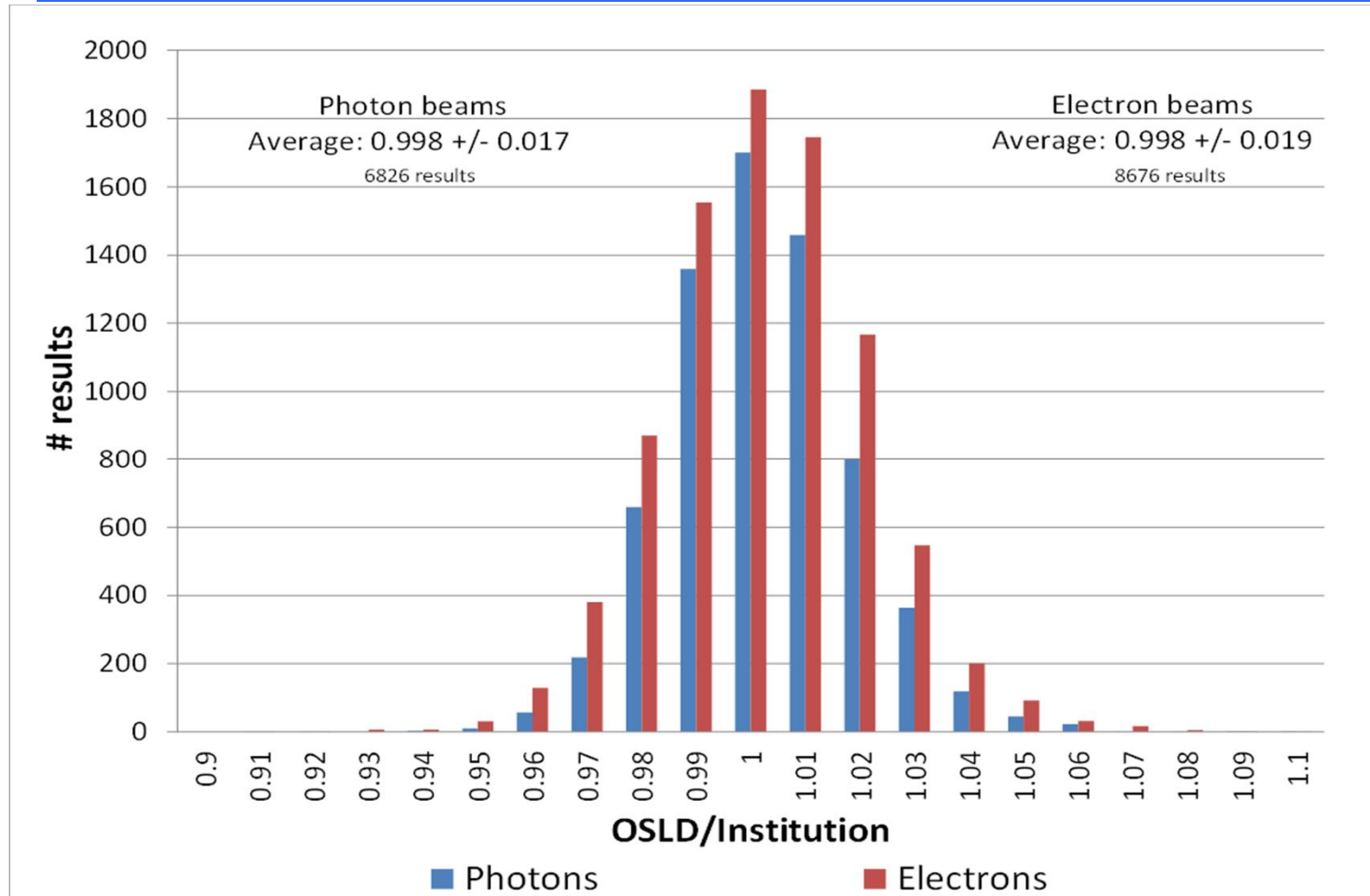
European (France) machine calibration accuracy

51



US (IROC) machine calibration accuracy

52



Global Medical Physics staffing

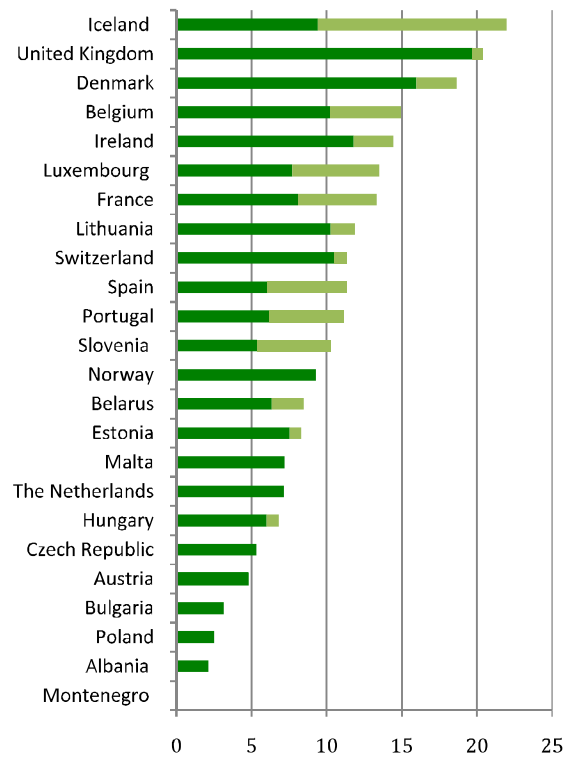
53

- “ Data from the DIRAC (IAEA) database – probably an underestimate.
- “ DIRAC (LMIC)*: 0.6 physicists per 10^6 population

*GNI per capita \leq \$12,745 per annum

European Medical Physics staffing

54



b. MPs and DOs per million inhabitants
MP: dark green – DO: light green

Radiotherapy and Oncology. 112 (2014) 178-86

U S Medical Physics staffing

55

- “ U S population: 320×10^6
- “ AAPM Therapy Physicists: 4200
- “ 13 Medical Physicists per 10^6 inhabitants

Medical Physics staffing

56

- “ Global (LMIC): 0.6 physicists per 10^6 population
- “ Europe: 11 physicists per 10^6 population
- “ U S: 13 physicists per 10^6 population

Medical Physics staffing

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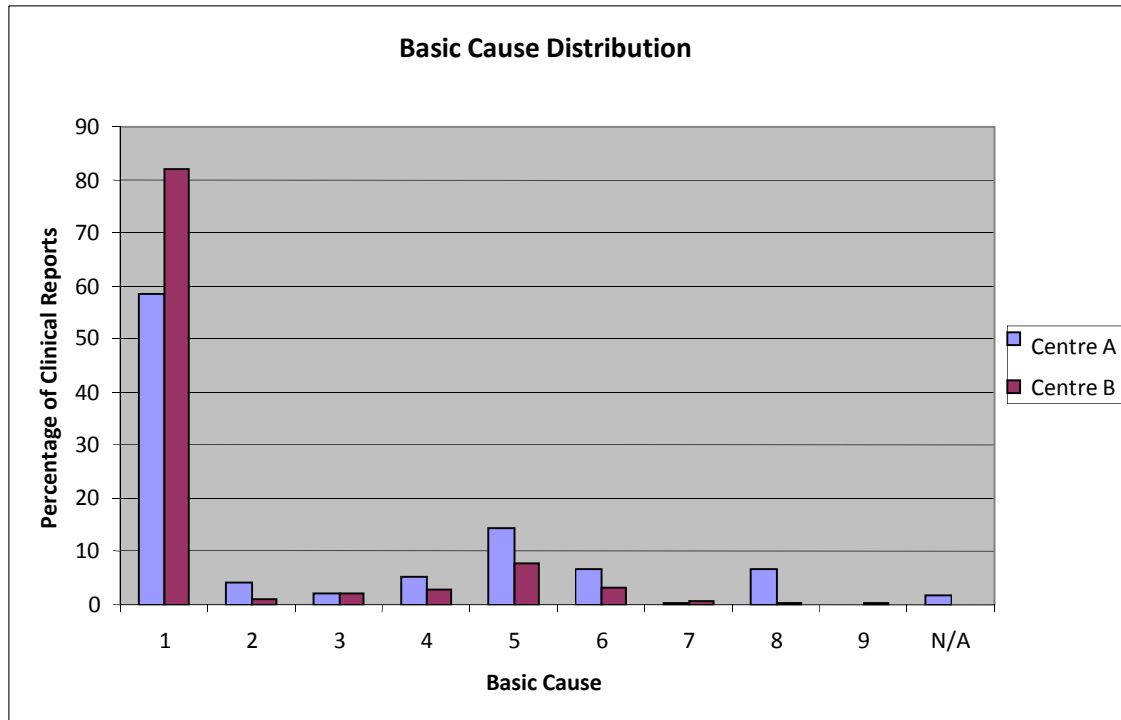
- “ Global (LMIC): 0.6 physicists per 10^6 population
- “ Europe: 11 physicists per 10^6 population
- “ U S: 13 physicists per 10^6 population

But, quantity \neq quality

Medical Physics: Structure: Documentation

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A comparison of the relative frequencies of Basic Causes of Incidents in two centres.



- 1 Standards/Procedures Practices
- 2 Materials/Tools/Equipment
- 3 Design
- 4 Planning
- 5 Communication
- 6 Knowledge/Skill
- 7 Capabilities
- 8 Judgment
- 9 Natural Factors

Medical Physics: Structure: Documentation

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Most documented processes from 114 Safety Profile Assessment surveys

Clinical Performance Indicator	#
68. Patient identification is verified prior to each treatment.	91
77. Physics chart checks are performed weekly.	87
63. An initial physics plan review is completed consistent with the appropriate guidelines.	82
64 Pre-treatment patient-specific dose verification performed	81
51. Patient identity is verified before simulation.	80
75. Staff maintains visual and audio contact with patients throughout treatment.	80
70. The staff acquires portal imaging and/or isocenter images in accordance with published guidelines.	80
91. A physicist performs a final chart check.	78
76. Physicians routinely review localization images.	76
78. Physicians perform weekly treatment management visits.	77

Medical Physics: Structure: Documentation

60

Least documented processes from 114 Safety Profile Assessment surveys

Clinical Performance Indicator	#
56. Import of complementary imaging for planning includes verification of patient orientation.	32
47. Curative Intent cases undergo multidisciplinary review to determine treatment options.	32
55. Site and side are verified with a secondary source document at the time of planning.	36
73. The physician treatment directive specifies motion management strategies to be used where appropriate.	37
60. The impact of previous radiation treatments on the current treatment plan is evaluated by both the planner and the physician.	39
57. Electronic transfer of patient information from simulation to planning system is verified for each patient.	39
59. The physician communicates patient-specific planning goals to the treatment planning team.	40
80. Prescription revisions are communicated to the involved team members at time of revision.	44
58. Patient information is verified for all data used for treatment planning.	45
49. The staff adheres to a guideline for managing IV contrast reactions.	46

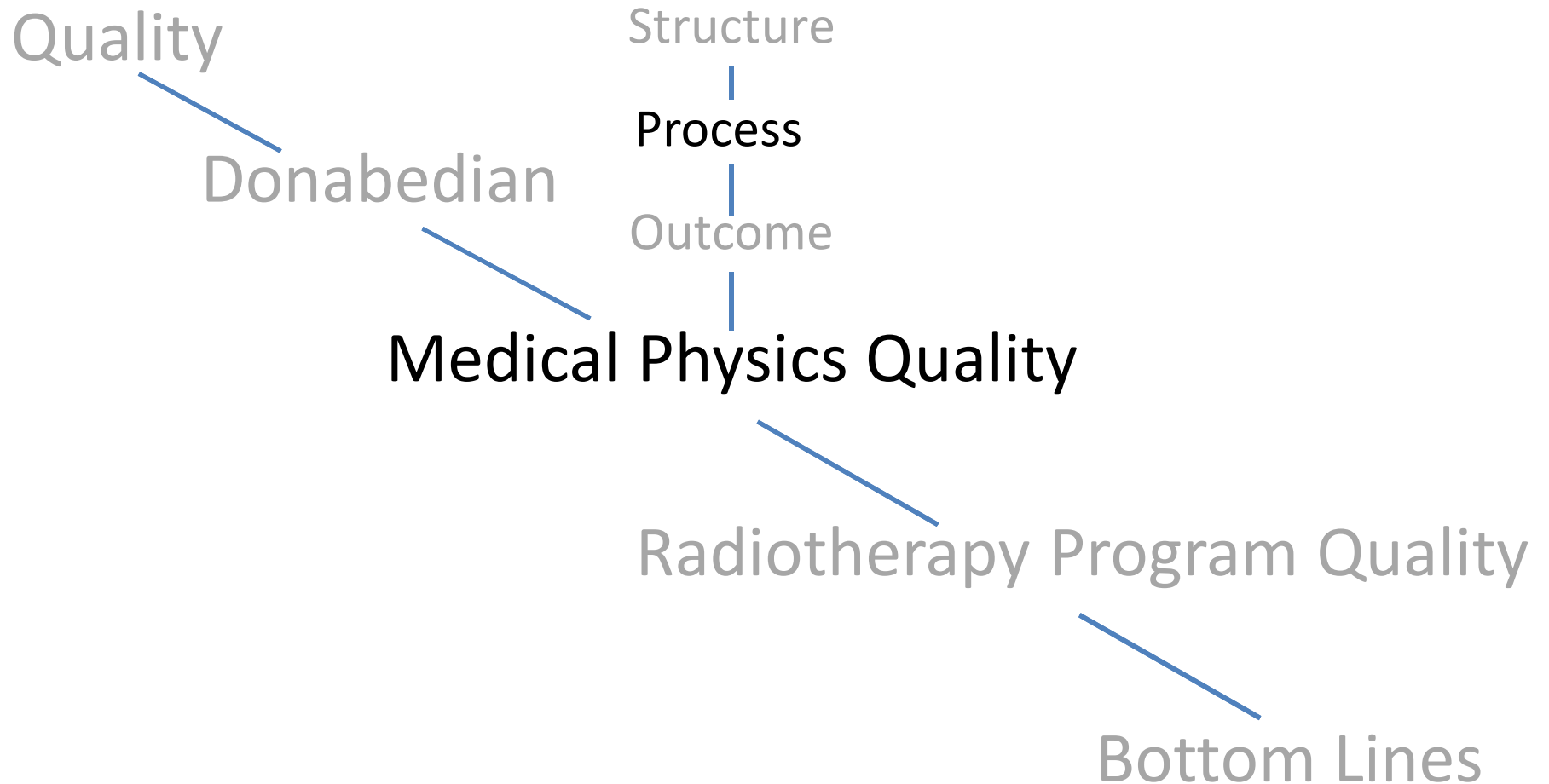
Medical Physics: Structure

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Opportunities for improvement

- “ Equipment: More emphasis on machine calibration at commissioning?
- “ Staffing: More accessible approaches to training and skill development?
- “ Documentation: Boilerplate documents?

Quality in Medical Physics and Beyond



Medical Physics: Process: IMRT

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RPC/IROC H & N Phantom Results

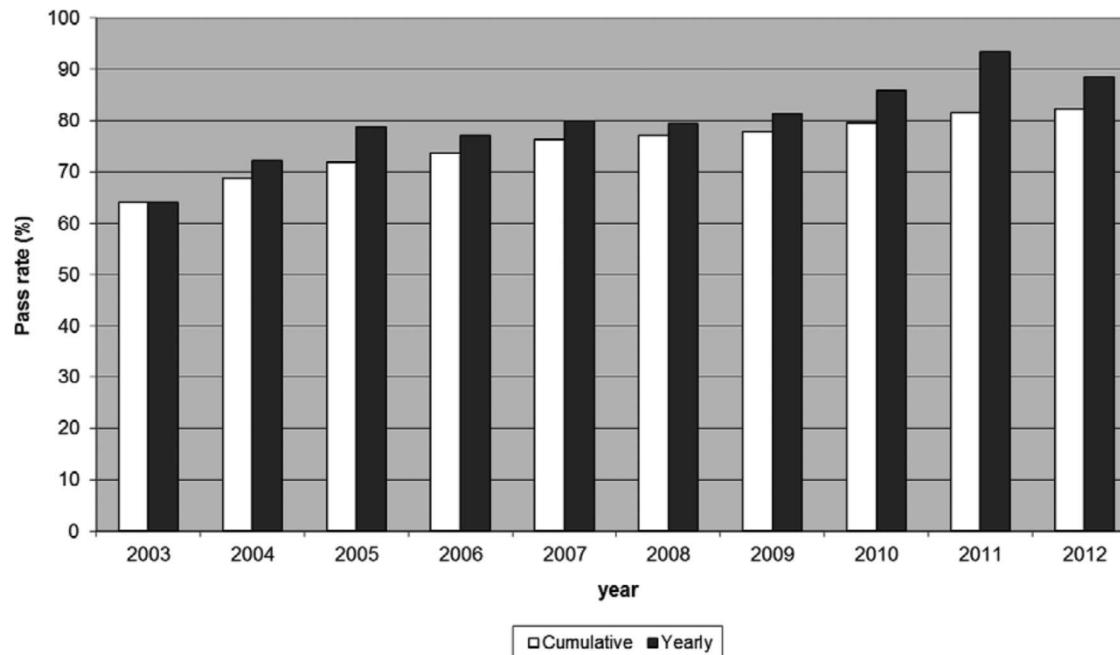


FIG. 2. Cumulative and yearly passing rate over time.

7% and 4mm

Med Phys **40**, 022101 (2013); doi: 10.1118/1.4773309

Medical Physics: Process: IMRT

64

“The most common acceptance criteria and published actions levels therefore have insufficient, or at least unproven, predictive power for per-patient IMRT QA.”

Per-beam, planar IMRT QA passing rates do not predict clinically relevant patient dose errors

Nelms BE, Zhen H, Tome WA. Med Phys 38 (2011) 1037 – 1044

“The results of this study raise questions on the efficiency of IMRT patient specific checks in detecting important errors for the treatment outcome.”

Relating dosimetric outcome to compliance with patient specific quality control in IMRT

Rangel A, Dunscombe P. Radioth Oncol 99 (Suppl 1) (2011) S512

Medical Physics: Process

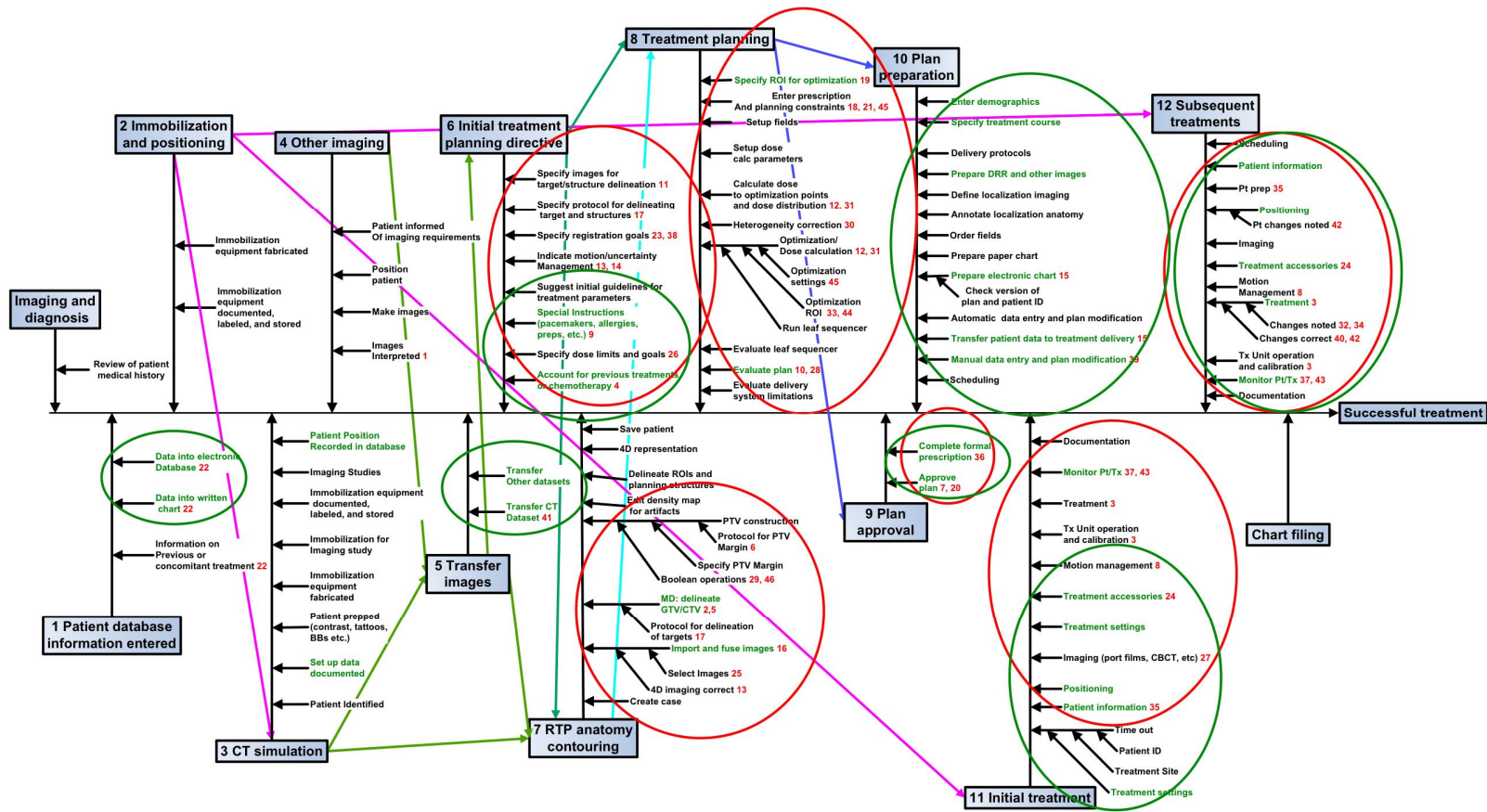
65

Opportunities for improvement

- “ Better understanding of process issues: TG-100
- “ Standardization: MPPG, i.TS
- “ More research into the connection between outcomes and QA.

Medical Physics: Process: TG 100

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Medical Physics: Process: MPPG

67

JOURNAL OF APPLIED CLINICAL MEDICAL PHYSICS, VOLUME 15, NUMBER 1, 2014

AAPM Medical Physics Practice Guideline 2.a: Commissioning and quality assurance of X-ray–based image-guided radiotherapy systems

Task Group Authors: Jonas D. Fontenot, Hassaan Alkhatib, Jeffrey A. Garrett, Andrew R Jensen, Steven P. McCullough, Arthur J. Olch, Brent C. Parker, Ching-Chong Jack Yang, Lynne A. Fairobent, AAPM Staff

Medical Physics: Process: i.treatsafely

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The screenshot shows the i.treatsafely website interface. At the top, the logo 'i.treatsafely' is displayed with the tagline 'PRACTICAL LEARNING FOR RT PROFESSIONALS'. To the right, there is a link to 'Check out treatsafely.org videos'. Below the logo is a navigation bar with links for 'Home', 'Clinical Process', 'QA/Safety', 'Your Library', 'About Us', and 'Peter'. The main content area is divided into two columns: 'Top 3 - Most Recent Videos' and 'Top 3 - Most Viewed Videos'. Each video entry includes a thumbnail image, the video title, the posting date, the author (UCSD RadOnc Learning Center), the number of views, the rating (represented by smiley faces), and the video length. The first video in the 'Most Recent' list is 'Incident Re-creation - Physics and Beam Data Management' with 8 views and a rating of 2/1/1. The first video in the 'Most Viewed' list is 'Setting the Isocenter - Breast Field-in-Field' with 254 views and a rating of 11/2/2. Below each video entry, there is a link indicating it is part of a specific series: 'Clinical Process Series' for the first two videos and 'QA/Safety Series' for the last video.

i.treatsafely
PRACTICAL LEARNING FOR RT PROFESSIONALS

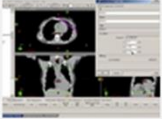


Check out treatsafely.org videos

[Home](#) [Clinical Process](#) [QA/Safety](#) [Your Library](#) [About Us](#) [Peter](#)

Top 3 - Most Recent Videos

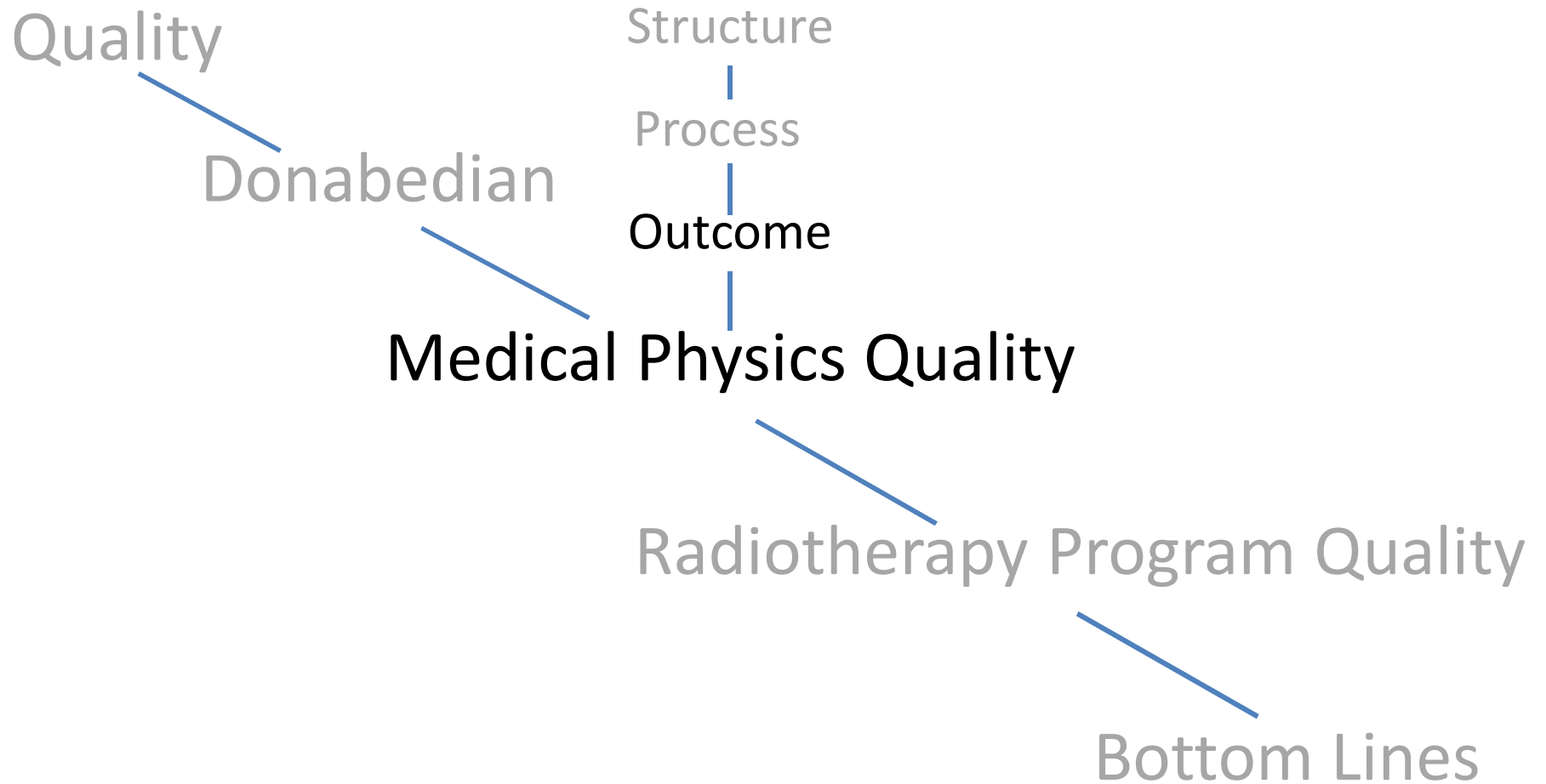
-  **Incident Re-creation - Physics and Beam Data Management**
Posted: 2015-01-31 By: UCSD RadOnc Learning Center
Views: 8, Rating: 2 😊 / 1 😊 / 1 😊, Length: 3:40
-  **Incident Re-creation - Physicians and Contouring**
Posted: 2015-01-31 By: UCSD RadOnc Learning Center
Views: 10, Rating: 3 😊 / 1 😊 / 1 😊, Length: 4:11
-  **Incident Re-creation - Therapists at the Linac**
Posted: 2015-01-31 By: UCSD RadOnc Learning Center
Views: 10, Rating: 3 😊 / 1 😊 / 1 😊, Length: 5:13

Top 3 - Most Viewed Videos

-  **Setting the Isocenter - Breast Field-in-Field**
Posted: 2013-10-17 By: Beth Bottani
Views: 254, Rating: 11 😊 / 2 😊 / 2 😊, Length: 4:43
[This video is also part of a Clinical Process Series](#)
-  **Setting the Isocenter for Prostate IMRT**
Posted: 2013-06-29 By: Beth Bottani
Views: 188, Rating: 16 😊 / 4 😊 / 5 😊, Length: 0:57
[This video is also part of a Clinical Process Series](#)
-  **Intro to Quality and Safety - Overview - Part 1**
Posted: 2013-07-08 By: Derek Brown
Views: 169, Rating: 16 😊 / 1 😊 / 1 😊, Length: 13:37
[This video is also part of a QA/Safety Series](#)

Medical Physics Quality: Process

Quality in Medical Physics and Beyond

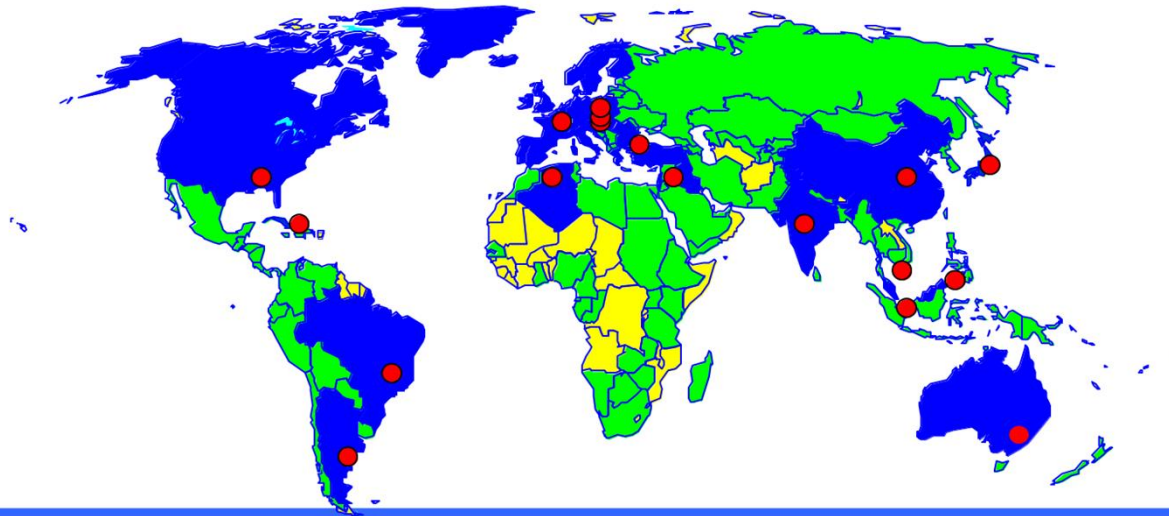


Medical Physics: Outcome

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Since 1969 the IAEA Dosimetry Laboratory has provided dosimetry audits to 2,150 radiotherapy centres in low and middle income countries.

This required 11,000 sets of TLDs

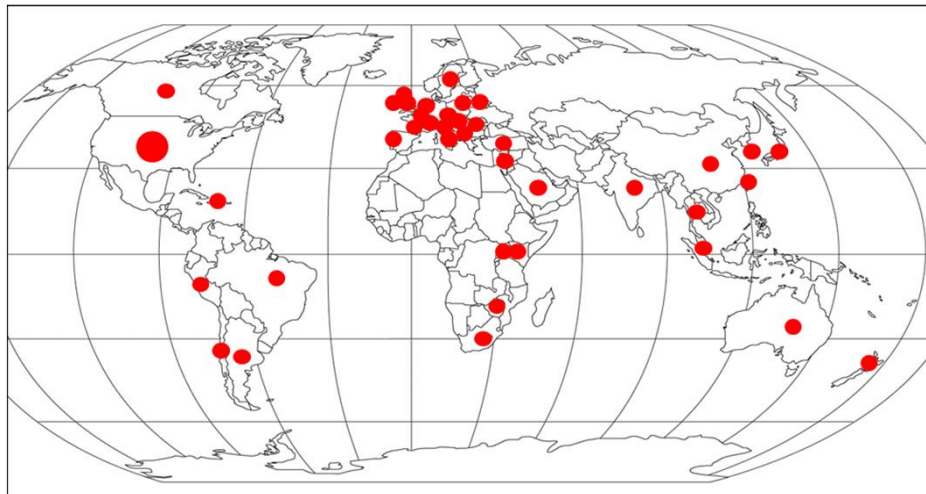


Medical Physics Quality: (Organizational) Outcome

Medical Physics: Outcome

71

- “ IROC Houston worldwide monitoring
 - . 3,237 distinct RT sites in database
 - . 63% (2,046) monitored beam calibration
 - ” ~14,000 – 15,000 beams annually
 - . 33% (1,055) performed IMRT E2E phantom audit



Medical Physics: Outcome

72

We appreciate that among the about 1000 European centres, 70% at least have external dosimetry audits performed by national or international organisms.

Attila VERES

Equal-Estro

Medical Physics: Outcome

73

“ An external audit of radiation output is performed annually on all therapeutic beams: 94/114

“ An external audit of radiation output is performed prior to clinical implementation of new treatment delivery equipment: 72/114



1.Strongly Agree

2. Agree

3. Neutral

4. Disagree

5. Strongly Disagree

Unencrypted | Logged in as Login ID# 7 | SPA Logout

The American Association of Physicists in Medicine

Safety Profile Assessment (SPA) Tool

We advance the science, education and professional practice of medical physics

SPA Tool

- ▶ Institutional culture
- Quality management
- Managing change and innovation
- Performance indicators
- Patient assessment
- Simulation
- Treatment planning
- Pre-treatment review
- Treatment
- Treatment – Brachytherapy
- Post treatment completion

Completed surveys

Results by section

- Results by question
- Bibliography

1. INSTITUTIONAL CULTURE

INSTRUCTION TEXT FOR STAFFING QUESTIONS: As you consider staffing levels consider functional roles as opposed to job titles, (for example a physicist may also function as a dosimetrist and vice versa). Please ignore students in answering these questions. Please consider only the full time equivalent (FTE) for clinical duties. For example, in an academic setting the Rad Onc may be committed for half time clinical and half time research that would yield a 50% FTE component. If desired, refer to the references at the end of the safety profile self-assessment on staffing recommendations.

1. Actions demonstrate that patient safety is a priority of Radiation Oncology Department leadership. Ⓞ

Always / Strongly Agree

Most of the time / Agree

Sometimes / Neutral

Rarely / Disagree

Never / Strongly Disagree

Don't know / Not Applicable

Comments:

Medical Physics Quality: (Organizational) Outcome

Machine Physics: Outcome

74

- “ Global: >25% of centers monitored by IAEA
- “ Europe: 70% of centers monitored.
- “ U S (per IROC Houston database):
 - 1628 institutions monitored by IROC Houston
 - 793 institutions monitored by RDS

Medical Physics: Outcome

75

Opportunities for improvement:

- “ Greater participation in dosimetry audits, particularly at commissioning?
- “ More comprehensive (non-reference conditions) dosimetry audits.
- “ Physics peer review.

Medical Physics: Outcome

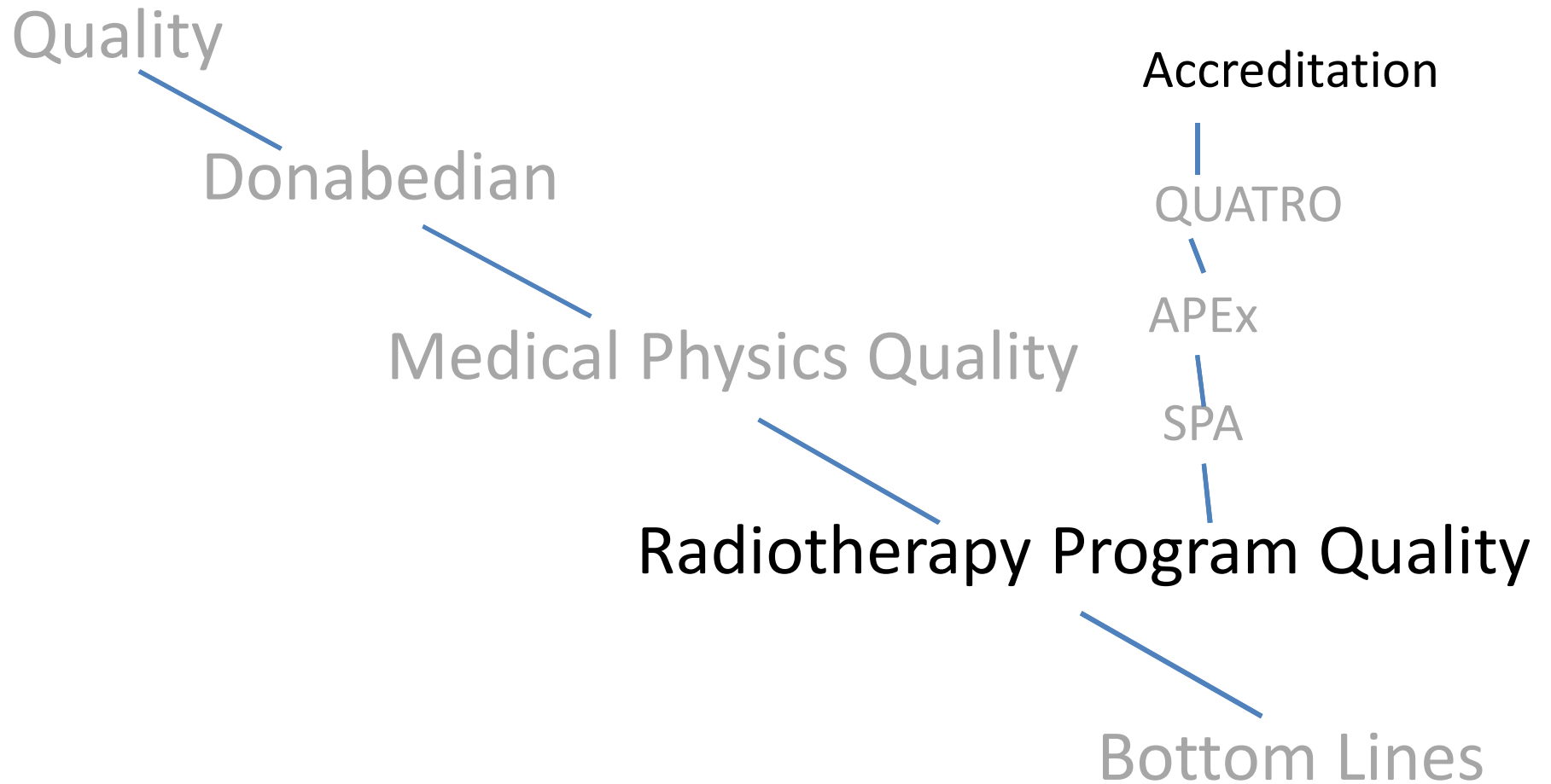
76

JOURNAL OF APPLIED CLINICAL MEDICAL PHYSICS, VOLUME 6, NUMBER 4, FALL 2005

AAPM Task Group 103 report on peer review in clinical radiation oncology physics

Per H. Halvorsen,¹ Indra J. Das,² Martin Fraser,³ D. Jay Freedman,⁴
Robert E. Rice III,⁴ Geoffrey S. Ibbott,⁵ E. Ishmael Parsai,⁶ T. Tydings
Robin Jr.,⁷ and Bruce R. Thomadsen⁸

Quality in Medical Physics and Beyond



Quality standards in radiation medicine



Holly Donaldson MPH ^a, Jeffrey Cao MD ^b, John French MSc ^c, Caitlin Gillan MEd ^{d, e},
 Michael Milosevic MD ^{d, e}, Catarina Lam MBA ^e, Peter Dunscombe PhD ^{f, *}

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Data Source	Document and Website Link	Country/Region
American College of Radiation Oncology (ACRO)	Radiation Standards Medical Physics (external beam therapy)	United States
American College of Radiology (ACR)	Practice Guideline For Radiation Oncology	United States
Canadian Partnership for Quality Radiotherapy	Quality Assurance Guidance for Canadian Radiation Treatment Programs	Canada
European Commission Guideline on Clinical Audit	European Guidelines on Clinical Audit for Medical Radiological Practices (Diagnostic Radiology, Nuclear Medicine and Radiotherapy)	Europe
IAEA (Quality Assurance Team for Radiation Oncology (QUATRO))	Comprehensive Clinical Audits of Diagnostic Radiology Practices: A Tool for Quality Improvement ¹	International
National Cancer Review Programme Manual for Cancer Services (NCAT)	Manual for Cancer Services 2008: Radiotherapy Measures (Version 2)	United Kingdom
Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR)	Tripartite Radiation Oncology Practice Standards	Australia, New Zealand

Practical Radiation Oncology 4 (2014) 208=2014

Radiotherapy Program Quality: Accreditation/Auditing

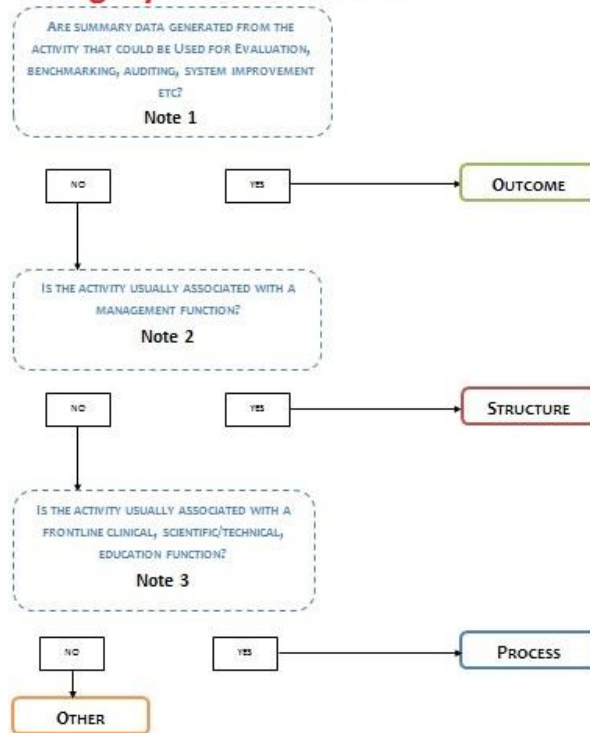
Quality standards in radiation medicine



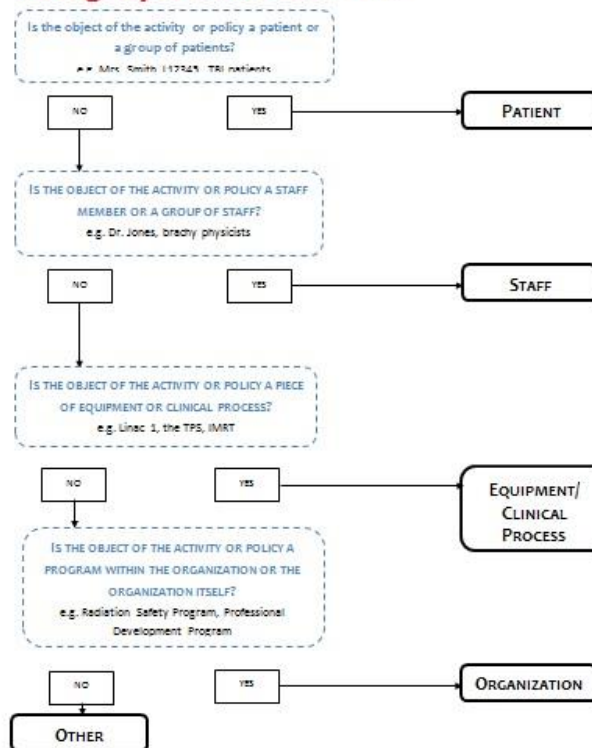
Holly Donaldson MPH^a, Jeffrey Cao MD^b, John French MSc^c, Caitlin Gillan MEd^{d, e},
Michael Milosevic MD^{d, e}, Catarina Lam MBA^e, Peter Dunscombe PhD^{f, *}

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Category 1 Decision Tree



Category 2 Decision Tree



Quality standards in radiation medicine



Holly Donaldson MPH ^a, Jeffrey Cao MD ^b, John French MSc ^c, Caitlin Gillan MEd ^{d, e},
Michael Milosevic MD ^{d, e}, Catarina Lam MBA ^e, Peter Dunscombe PhD ^{f, *}

80

- “ 7 accreditation/auditing protocols
- “ 5 evaluators
- “ 454 indicators/standards

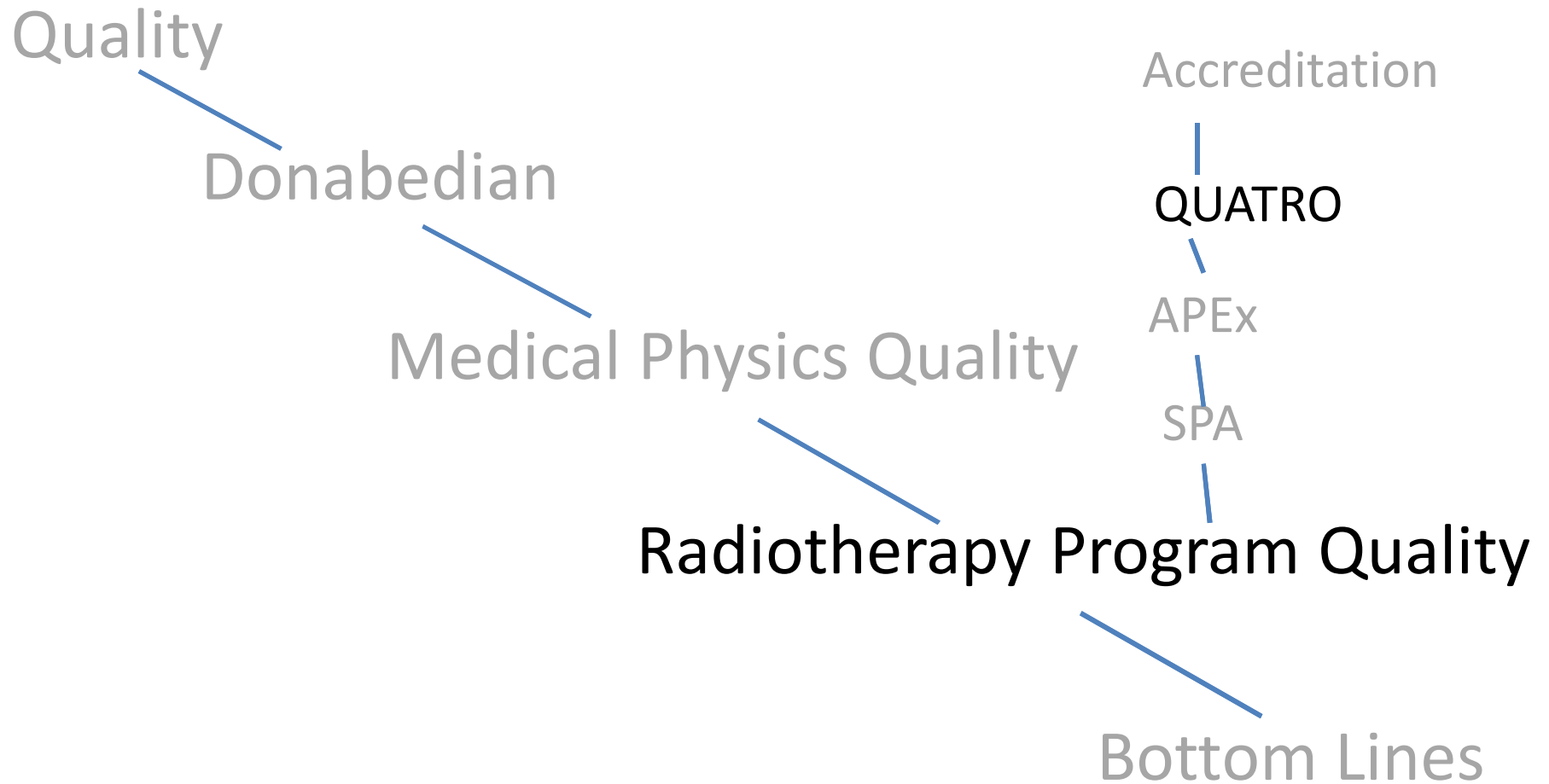
Structure: 64%

Process: 26%

Outcome: 10%

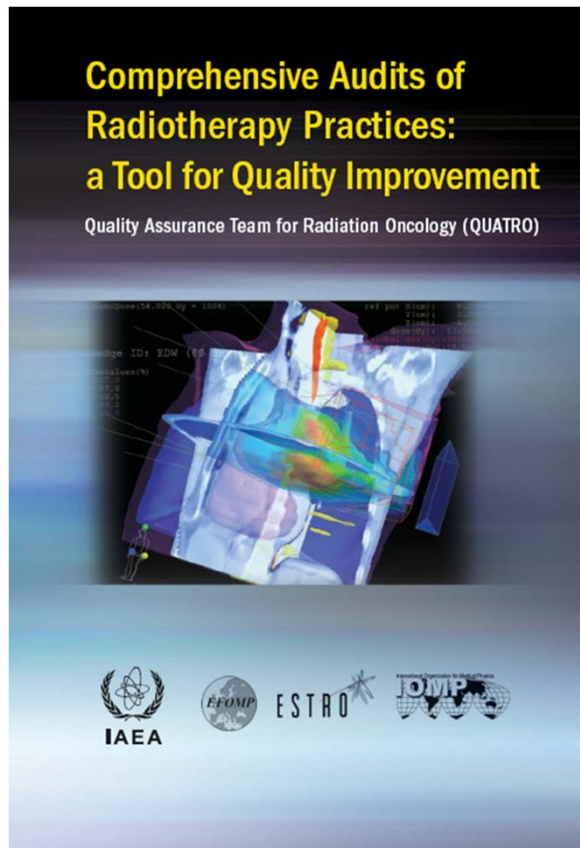
Practical Radiation Oncology 4 (2014) 208=2014

Quality in Medical Physics and Beyond



QUATRO audit procedures

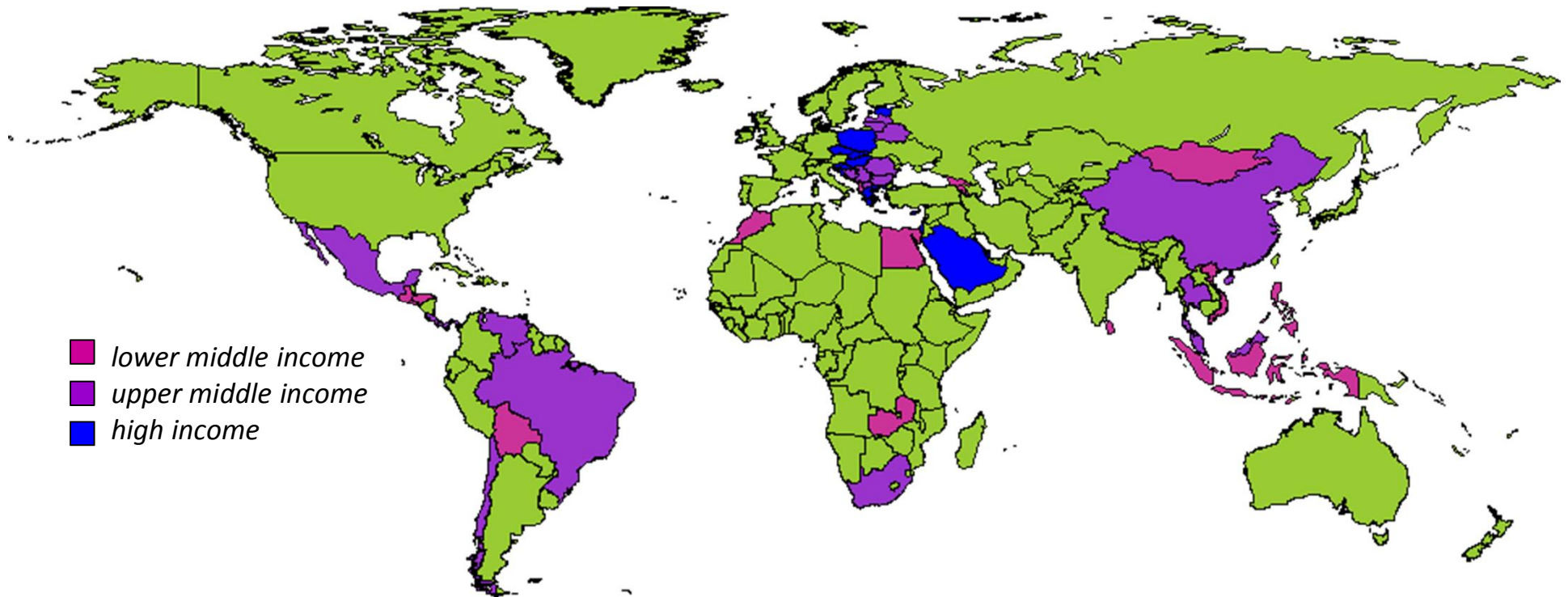
82



- “ Auditors: RO, MP, RTT
- “ Typically 5 days per RT centre
- “ Entrance briefing
- “ Assessment: tour of facility, staff interviews, review & evaluation of procedures and documentation, measurements, tests, observation of practical work
- “ Exit briefing: feedback to the department, preliminary recommendations, questions, discussion.

QUATRO missions

83



- “ Training of auditors and regional QUATRO workshops in all regions
- “ 70 QUATRO missions to date: Africa – 6; Asia . 18; Europe . 30 + 3 re-audits; Latin America . 13

QUATRO audit procedures

84

Audit criteria	Adequacy	Comments	Summary
Quality manager roles and responsibilities	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Y NI N NA		<p><i>Important quality improvement initiatives would be:</i></p> <p>— Recommendation 1; — Recommendation 2; — Etc.</p> <p><i>QUAADRIL guideline references:</i></p> <p>(Cut and paste the pertinent QUAADRIL guidelines into the summary to support the recommendations.)</p>
Quality assurance committee	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Y NI N NA		
Quality assurance committee records	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Y NI N NA		
Quality management activity coverage	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Y NI N NA		
Quality management staff	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Y NI N NA		
Quality manual or equivalent	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Y NI N NA		
Quality manual review process	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Y NI N NA		

QUATRO: selected preliminary results

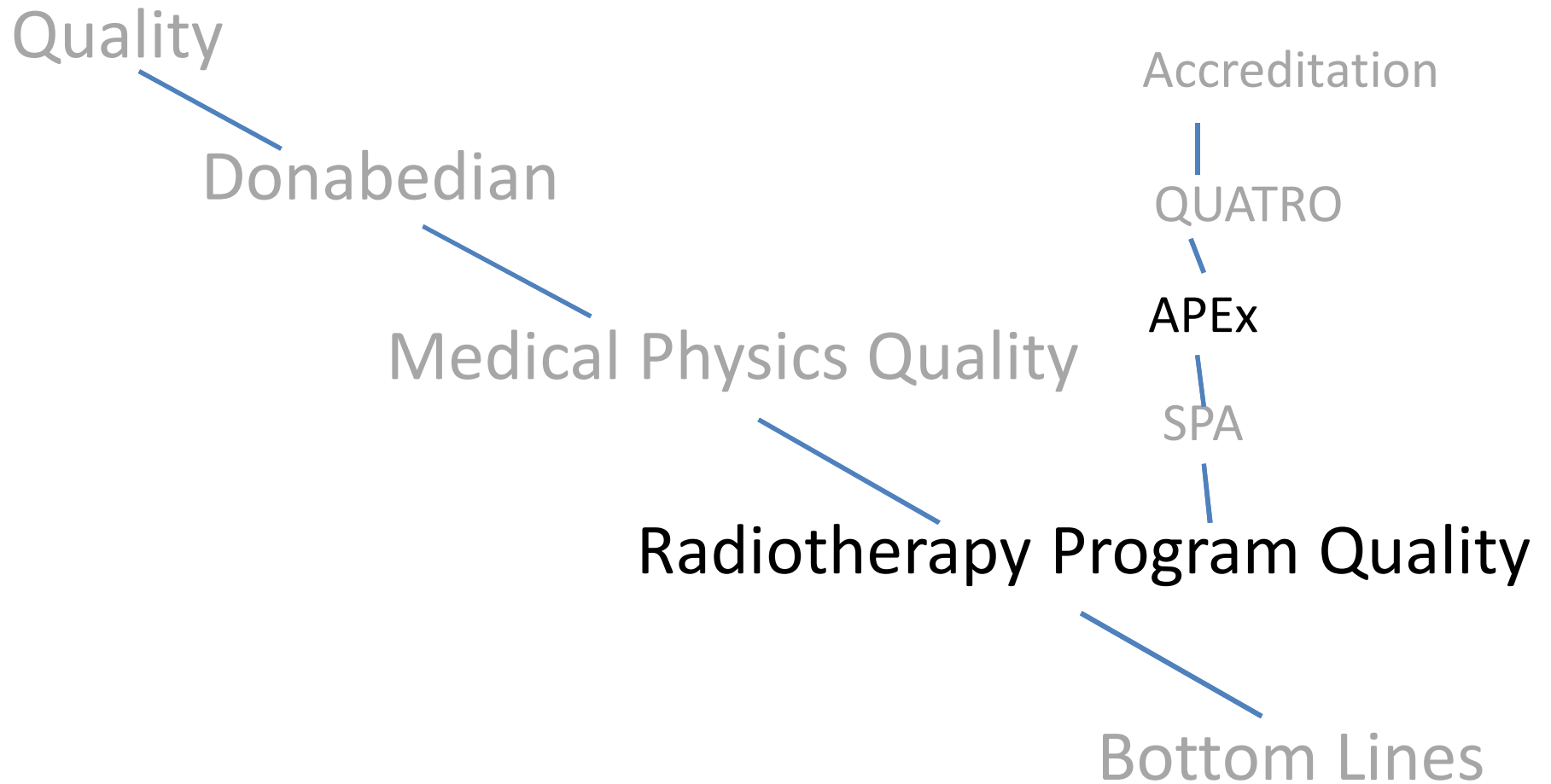
85

- “ 30 audits – mainly Eastern Europe
- “ 742 recommendations (7-83)

Frequent recommendations

- “ more or replacement machines
- “ education, training, development
- “ quality management
- “ documentation

Quality in Medical Physics and Beyond



RT Program Quality: APEx

87



Radiotherapy Program Quality: APEx

RT Program Quality: APEx

88

Standard 12: Quality Management of Treatment Procedures and Modalities

The radiation oncology practice (ROP) operates a comprehensive quality management program and safe practices for each treatment procedure and modality.

The ROP's comprehensive quality management program for each treatment procedure and modality:

12.1 Is consistent with American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM) or equivalent body standards of practice for:

12.1.1 External beam radiation therapy dosimetry, mechanical, safety and respiratory management checks.

12.1.2 Brachytherapy dosimetry, mechanical and safety checks.

12.1.3 Quality assurance of measurement equipment.

12.1.4 Acceptance testing, clinical commissioning and clinical release.

12.1.5 End to end dosimetric system testing.

12.1.6 Simulation dosimetry, mechanical, safety and respiratory management checks.

ACR/ASTRO Audits

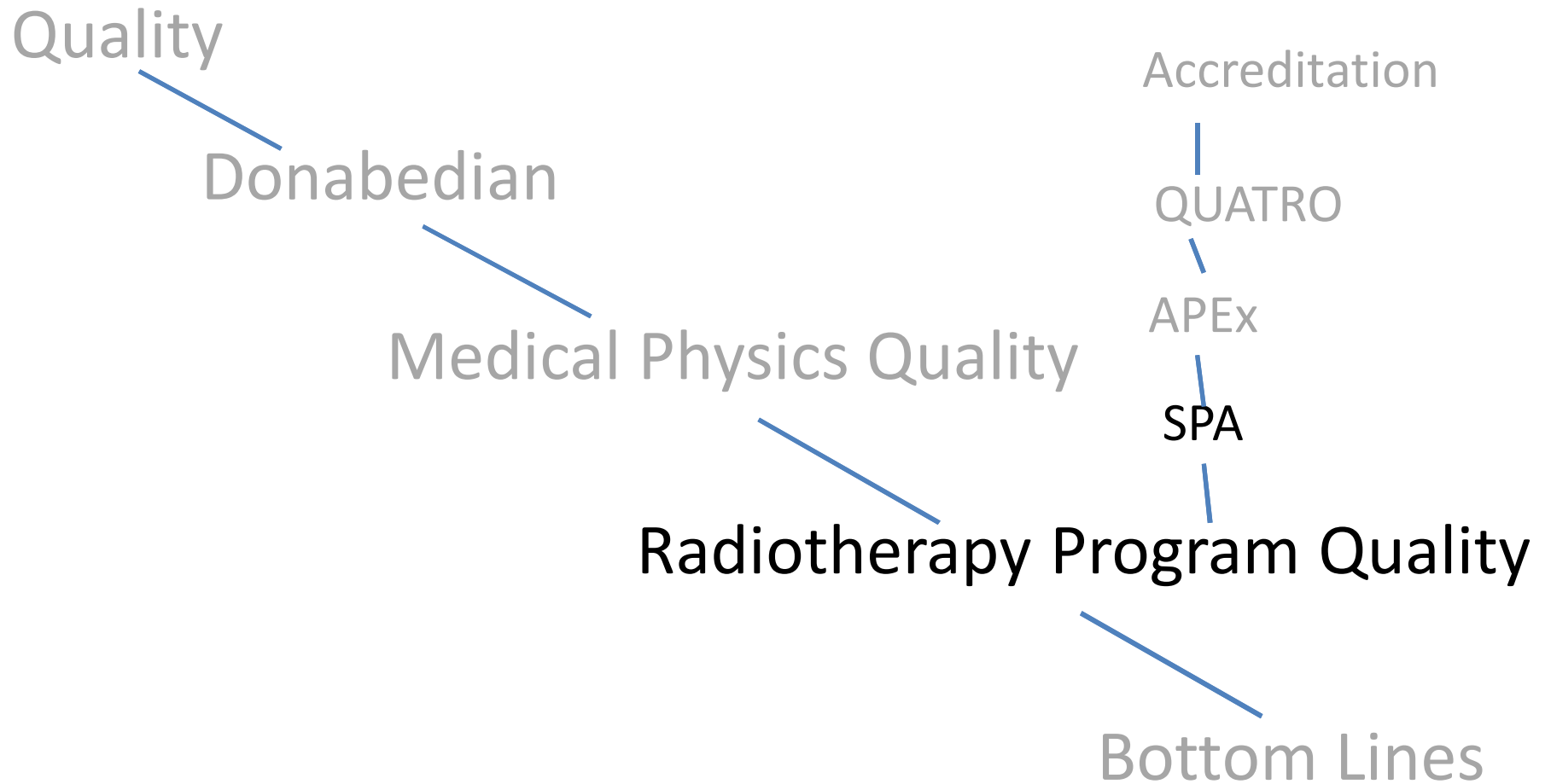
89

At the Miami Meeting, Dr. Tripuraneni reported that

- “ Since 1986 only 240 out of 2000 US Radiation Therapy facilities were accredited.
- “ Only two States actually require accreditation with a third one thinking about it.
- “ A major cause of failing to satisfy accreditation criteria was inadequate QA on the treatment planning system.
- “ This system has now been discontinued.



Quality in Medical Physics and Beyond



Safety Profile Assessment

91

The screenshot shows the SPA Tool interface. At the top, it says "Unencrypted | Logged in as Login ID# 7 | SPA Logout" and "Data saved". The header includes the AAPM logo and "The American Association of Physicists in Medicine". The main title is "Safety Profile Assessment (SPA) Tool". On the left, there is a navigation menu with "SPA Tool" selected, containing sub-items like "Institutional culture", "Quality management", "Managing change and innovation", "Performance indicators", "Patient assessment", "Simulation", "Treatment planning", "Pre-treatment review", "Treatment", "Treatment - Brachytherapy", and "Post treatment completion". Below that are "Completed surveys", "Results by section", "Results by question", and "Bibliography". The main content area is titled "1. INSTITUTIONAL CULTURE" and contains the following text: "INSTRUCTION TEXT FOR STAFFING QUESTIONS: As you consider staffing levels consider functional roles as opposed to job titles, (for example a physicist may also function as a dosimetrist and vice versa). Please ignore students in answering these questions. Please consider only the full time equivalent (FTE) for clinical duties. For example, in an academic setting the Rad Onc may be committed for half time clinical and half time research that would yield a 50% FTE component. If desired, refer to the references at the end of the safety profile self-assessment on staffing recommendations." Below this is a question: "1. Actions demonstrate that patient safety is a priority of Radiation Oncology Department leadership." with five radio button options: "Always / Strongly Agree", "Most of the time / Agree", "Sometimes / Neutral", "Rarely / Disagree", and "Never / Strongly Disagree". There is also a "Don't know / Not Applicable" option. At the bottom of the question area is a "Comments:" field with a text input box.

SPA is a **S**afety **P**rofile self **A**ssessment Tool developed by the AAPM's Work Group on the Prevention of Errors in Radiation Oncology.

spa.aapm.org

Safety Profile Assessment

92

Unencrypted | Logged in as Login ID# 7 | SPA Logout

The American Association of Physicists in Medicine

Safety Profile Assessment (SPA) Tool

We advance the science, education and professional practice of medical physics

SPA Tool

- Institutional culture
- Quality management
- Managing change and innovation
- Performance indicators
- Patient assessment
- Simulation
- Treatment planning
- Pre-treatment review
- Treatment
- Treatment – Brachytherapy
- Post treatment completion

Completed surveys

Results by section

- Results by question
- Bibliography

Logout

AAPM Website

1. INSTITUTIONAL CULTURE

INSTRUCTION TEXT FOR STAFFING QUESTIONS: As you consider staffing levels consider functional roles as opposed to job titles, (for example a physicist may also function as a dosimetrist and vice versa). Please ignore students in answering these questions. Please consider only the full time equivalent (FTE) for clinical duties. For example, in an academic setting the Rad Onc may be committed for half time clinical and half time research that would yield a 50% FTE component. If desired, refer to the references at the end of the safety profile self-assessment on staffing recommendations.

1. Actions demonstrate that patient safety is a priority of Radiation Oncology Department leadership.

Always / Strongly Agree

Most of the time / Agree

Sometimes / Neutral

Rarely / Disagree

Never / Strongly Disagree

Don't know / Not Applicable

Comments:

2. Radiation Oncologist staffing is adequate to meet clinical demands.

Always / Strongly Agree

Most of the time / Agree

Sometimes / Neutral

Rarely / Disagree

Never / Strongly Disagree

Don't know / Not Applicable

Comments:

4 topic areas
92 questions

- Institutional culture
- Quality management
- Managing change and innovation
- Performance indicators


Safety Profile Assessment

93

Physicists in Medicine

Safety Profile Assessment (SPA) Tool

4.4 Performance Indicators Sub-section: PRE-TREATMENT R

63. An initial physics plan review is completed consistent with the appropriate guidelines. 

- Always / Strongly Agree
- Most of the time / Agree
- Sometimes / Neutral
- Rarely / Disagree
- Never / Strongly Disagree
- Don't know / Not Applicable

Our department has a formal policy for this

- Yes
- No

ACR guidelines indicate this should occur prior to treatment start if there are 5 or fewer fractions, or before the 3rd fraction in cases with greater than 5 fractions; this includes the MU calculation check.

Safety Profile Assessment

94

The American Association of Physicists in Medicine

Safety Profile Assessment (SPA) Tool

Assessment date: July 11, 2013 - July 11, 2013

Generate Graphs

1. INSTITUTIONAL CULTURE

1. Actions demonstrate that patient safety is a priority of Radiation Oncology Department leadership. You answered **Most of the time / Agree** for a score of 4

(longer lines are better)

Category	Score
Avg	3
You: 7/11/2...	4

Bibliography for question 1

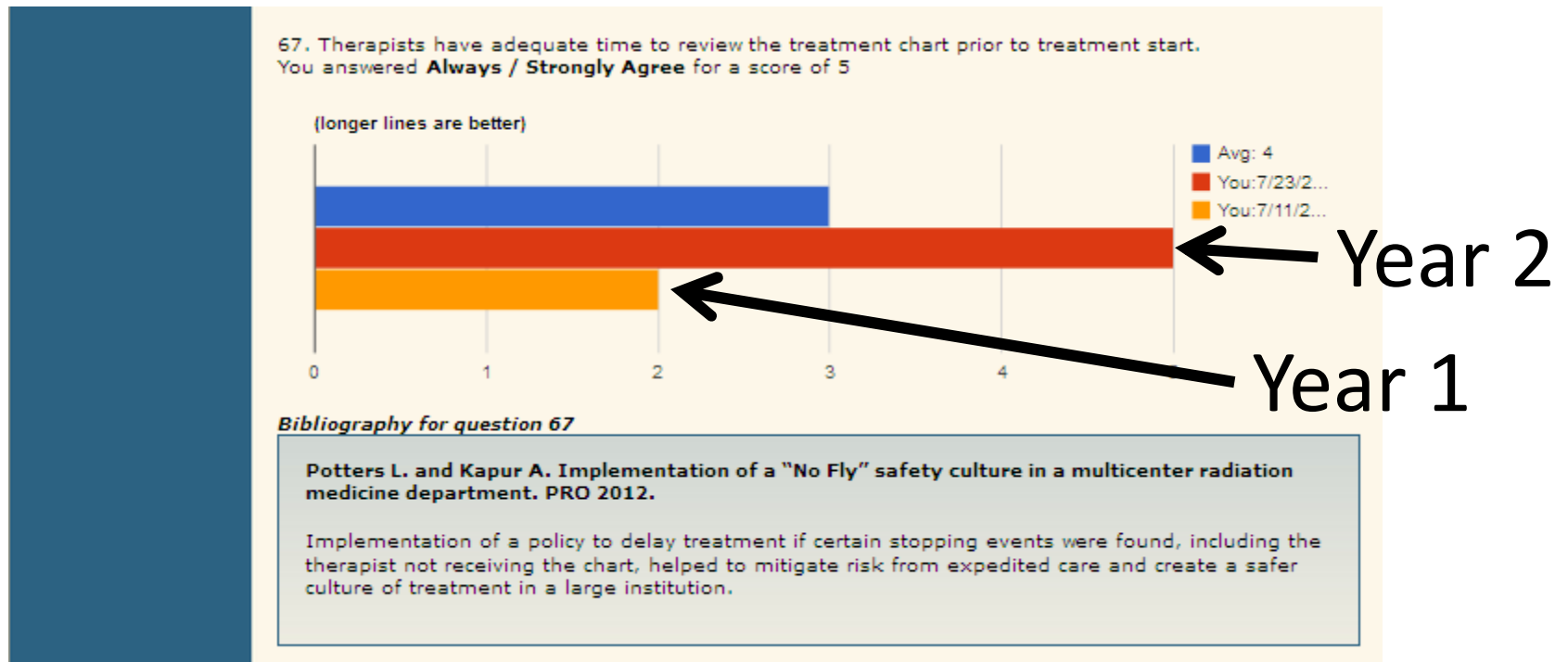
a. Marks LB, Rose CM, Hayman JA, Williams TR. The need for physician leadership in creating a culture of safety. *International Journal of Radiation Oncology Biology Physics*. 2011;79(5):1287-9. This editorial discusses the issue and notes that "physician leaders must encourage a systematic effort to assess existing processes and must promote an open and just environment in which all team members are free, and responsible, to raise concerns about safety."

b. Hendee WR, Herman MG. Improving patient safety in radiation oncology. *Medical physics*. 2011;38(1):78-82. Suggests that "Safety champions should be present. Every radiation oncology facility should have one or more 'safety champions'. These would be senior members who are "empowered to emphasize patient safety as a facility priority."

View results
by question
Compare to
others

Safety Profile Assessment

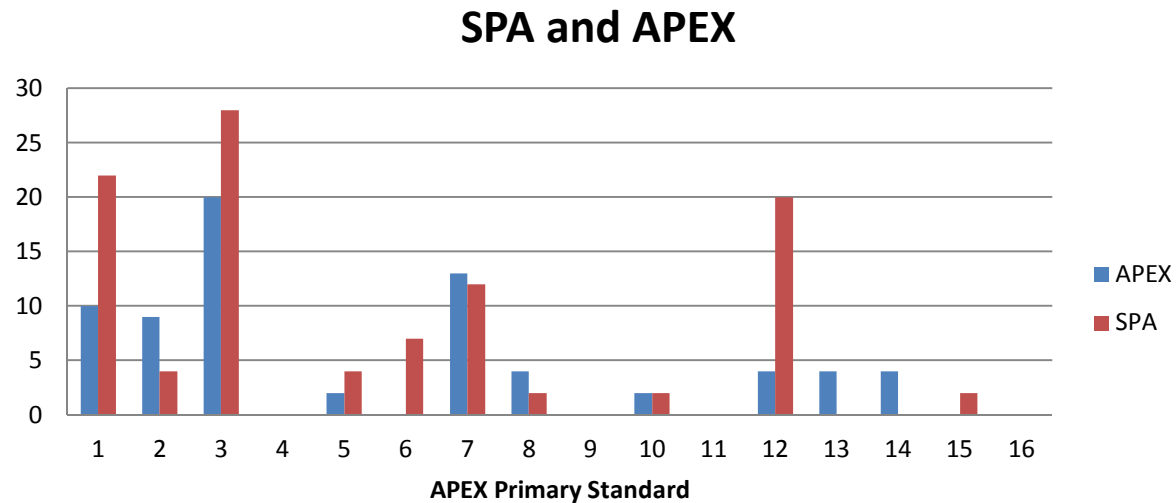
95



Tracking improvement over time

SPA results

96



1. Patient evaluation, care coordination, follow-up
2. Treatment planning
3. Patient specific safety interventions
7. Culture of safety
12. Quality management

SPA results

97

Highest compliance from 114 Safety Profile Assessment surveys

Performance Indicator	AVG	Sec
31. Dosimetry equipment is calibrated every two years by an accredited dosimetry calibration laboratory.	1.03	II
64. Pre-treatment patient-specific dose verification is performed for the following treatment modalities: b. IMRT QA	1.06	IV
85. The Authorized User approves the plan and written directive before treatment. (brachytherapy)	1.11	IV
75. Staff maintains visual and audio contact with patients throughout treatment.	1.12	IV
26. Pre-clinical validations are performed for: a. Treatment delivery systems	1.13	II
83. The source strength is verified prior to clinical use. (brachytherapy)	1.14	IV
86. The location of the source(s) is verified immediately after treatment. (brachytherapy)	1.14	IV
63. An initial physics plan review is completed consistent with the appropriate guidelines.	1.17	IV
77. Physics chart checks are performed weekly.	1.18	IV
51. Patient identity is verified before simulation.	1.19	IV



1. Strongly Agree

2. Agree

3. Neutral

4. Disagree

5. Strongly Disagree

Radiotherapy Program Quality: SPA

SPA results

98

Lowest compliance from 114 Safety Profile Assessment surveys

Performance Indicator	AVG	Sec
52. A time out is performed at simulation.	2.23	IV
20. Standard operating procedures for safety-critical clinical processes are reviewed regularly.	2.25	II
79. Therapists perform weekly chart checks.	2.27	IV
24. Clinical staff competencies are reviewed regularly.	2.29	II
38. An independent review of commissioning results is performed prior to implementation of new clinical systems and processes.	2.32	III
90. A therapist performs a final chart check.	2.33	IV
39. Potential risks associated with the introduction of new clinical systems and processes are assessed prior to implementation.	2.34	II
65. Physician peer review of new treatment plans occurs within the first week of treatment.	2.43	IV
15. The Radiation Oncology Department formally reviews reports of near-misses.	2.59	I
13. Clinical staff submits written reports of near-miss incidents.	2.72	I



1. Strongly Agree

2. Agree

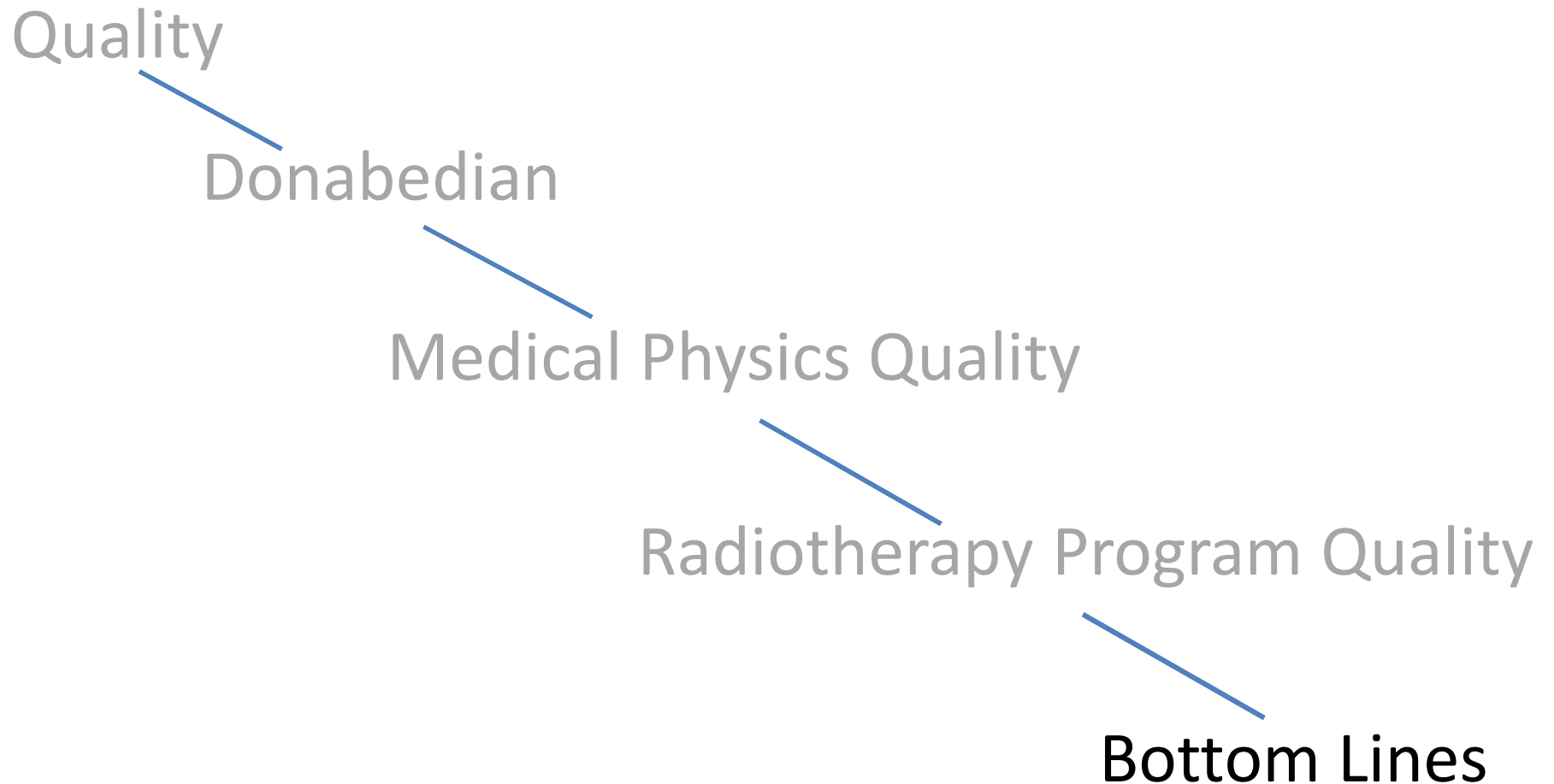
3. Neutral

4. Disagree

5. Strongly Disagree

Radiotherapy Program Quality: SPA

Quality in Medical Physics and Beyond



Bottom Lines: Structure

100

- ✓ Nationally, no shortage of machines.
- ✓ Opportunities exist to ensure calibration accuracy.
- ? Independent validation at commissioning
- ✓ Nationally, no shortage of medical physicists.
- ✓ Opportunities to upgrade education and skills.
- ? More effort required on documentation (SOPs)

Bottom Lines: Process

101

- ✓ TG-100 will help focus on process.
- ✓ Medical Physics Practice Guidelines should help standardize processes.
- ? *Less craftsman and more equivalent actor.*
(More emphasis on following SOPs.)
- ? More research on the relationship between QA/QC and patient outcome.

Bottom Lines: Outcome

102

- ✓ APEX provides an independent assessment of some dimensions of quality.
- ✓ AAPM's Safety Profile Assessment is an accessible, low resource QI tool.
- ? More emphasis on physics peer review.
- ? Medical Physicists need to get more involved in developing and promoting the quality agenda.

Acknowledgements

103

- ” Noémie Defourney (HERO)
- ” David Followill (IROC)
- ” Eric Ford for SPA (UW)
- ” Cai Grau (HERO)
- ” Joanna Izweska (IAEA)
- ” Yolande Lievens (HERO)
- ” Steve Sutlief (UCSD)
- ” Attila Veres (Equal-Estro)
- ” Eduardo Zubizarreta (IAEA)