Summary of the External Collaborations Meeting at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Radiation Oncology Administrators

Chicago, IL 9/16/2019

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I attended the above meeting as AAPM Liaison to the SROA. The meeting was organized by the SROA to allow communication and collaboration with their sister societies including AAPM. In attendance were the following:

Gary Webster, Chair, SROA

Jane Grienke, President, SROA

Melissa, Executive Director, SROA

Stephanie Johnson, President, ASRT

Sal Martino, CEO, ASRT

Cara Sullivan, President, AAMD

Stacey Wilson, Executive Director, AAMD

Cory Neill, Member, AAMD

Emily Wilson, Executive VP, ASTRO

Topics of discussion included the following:

1. Proposed CMS Medicare rules for 2020: concerns and levels of response by the attending organizations.
2. Proposed Alternative Radiation Oncology Payment Model: same.
3. ROILS: participation by society members and their departments, factors limiting participation and methods by which participation could be increased.
4. ASTRO Advocacy Day: participation levels of the societies; suggestions for getting governmental representatives to visit radiation therapy departments.
5. Needs of attending societies for AAPM support in terms of education and presentations at their meetings: channels into AAPM for requesting such support; status of AAPM liaisons to the other societies.
6. The future of Radiation Oncology and manpower needs in light of AI and other technology developments, reimbursement and financial pressures, and rules being set by non-health care professionals. The prediction made by certain vendors of lower manpower resources needed in the was also discussed.
7. The need for the attending societies to support each other.

The meeting concluded with an agreement that the group should meet again, perhaps on a six month basis.