AbstractID: 1154 Title: Effective Peer Review for Clinical Radiation Oncology Physicists: Task Group 103's Preliminary Findings

A significant number of clinical radiation oncology physicists in the US work as the only physicist in their department. Task Group 11 of the Professional Information and Clinical Relations Committee recently completed its work and published its recommendations for the solo practice of radiation oncology physics, with a key recommendation being an annual peer review by a qualified medical physicist.

To ensure that such reviews become a productive tool for the clinic and solo physicist to maintain high professional standards, the Professional Information and Clinical Relations committee formed Task Group 103, on Mechanisms for Peer Review in Clinical Radiation Oncology Physics. The charge for this task group was to:

(a) Gather information on existing peer review processes (such as RPC on-site reviews and ACR and ACRO practice accreditation programs) and assess their relevance to a peer review between two clinical radiation oncology physicists; and

(b) Formulate a framework for peer review between two clinical radiation oncology physicists, including minimum components to review and suggested criteria, as well as a suggested format of the written report summarizing the peer review.

This presentation will describe the task group's findings to date, with particular focus on the core components of an effective peer review process, checklists to guide the reviewer, and suggested format of a written peer review report. Professional ethics aspects are also discussed, with focus on specific example scenarios and how the reviewer can resolve such situations.