Do you have to be a RTT before a CMD?  
The ongoing question.

Nishele Lenards, MS, CMD, R.T.(R)(T), FAAMD
Learning Objectives

The participants will be able to:

• evaluate **comparative program effectiveness data** for medical dosimetry graduates with and without prior radiation therapy certification;

• understand the differences between medical dosimetry students with and without prior radiation therapy certification from a **clinical preceptor perspective**;

• understand the differences between medical dosimetry graduates with and without prior radiation therapy certification from an **employer perspective**;

• evaluate **potential strengths and weaknesses in clinical and didactic education** for medical dosimetry students with and without prior radiation therapy certification; and

• review **potential questions/issues that still need to be answered** in future research.
About the researcher & program...
Researcher

Educational Background:
• RT(R)
• RT(T)
• OJT Dosimetry
• BS Health Arts
• MS Education (e-learning & technology)
  – Online Teaching Certification
• PhD Education (e-Learning & Educational Tech) in progress

Professional Background:
• CMD 1995
• Mentor/Educator for OJT dosimetrists
• Clinical Instructor
• Clinical Supervisor
• Didactic Instructor
• Interim RTT Program Director
• Dosimetry Program Director
Program

Background:
• Est 2004; certificate
• MS degree – 1st grads in 2012
  – RTT and non-RTT students
• Initially, length varied between 2 tracks
• Currently, length is same for both tracks
  – Changed from ~2 yrs to 16 months
Program

Admission Pre-requisite Coursework:

• (6-8 cr) Human Anatomy & Physiology - two semester sequence with labs; or equivalent
• (6-8 cr) Physics - two course sequence; or equivalent
• (3-4 cr) Pre-Calculus; or College Algebra + Trigonometry; or equivalent
• (3-4 cr) Biology; or equivalent
• (1-3 cr) Medical Terminology; or equivalent
• (2-3 cr) Computer Science; or equivalent
Admissions:

• BS degree in physical sciences or approved by program officials
• Cumulative GPA (min 3.0) & Science GPA
• Written application including references & LOR
• Observation Time (min 40 hrs)
• Knowledge of the profession & the profession's role in the healthcare system
• Interpersonal Skills
• Quality & Extent of Healthcare experience
• Technical standards
Program

Interviews:
• Applicants meeting admission criteria → granted interviews
• Choose from affiliate internship site list
• Interview with various clinical affiliates
• Clinical affiliates rank applicants in order of preference
• Applicants rank affiliate sites in order of preference
• Applicants are matched with sites; best possible
About the study...
Terminology

**RTT** = registered radiation therapist (prior radiation therapy certification)

**CMD** = certified medical dosimetrist

**Program effectiveness data (PED)** = effectiveness data collected by medical dosimetry programs and reported to the JRCERT
  - PCR, employment rate, exam pass rate, satisfaction

**PCR** = program completion rate

**Clinical Preceptor** = Clinical Supervisor
Problem Statement

• All but a small number of medical dosimetry programs require RTT certification for admission

• Lingering perceptions from Radiation Oncology community = medical dosimetry students must have prior RTT certification

• A paucity of evidence in the literature exists to support the conclusion that prior RTT certification = better job performance as a medical dosimetrist
Purpose Statement

To investigate outcomes of medical dosimetry graduates with and without prior radiation therapy certification.

Population = medical dosimetry graduates (n=75) at a large Midwestern University between the years of 2012-2016.

Archival data was used to collect PED. Surveys were used to collect data from clinical preceptors and employers of program graduates.
Research Questions

1. What are the differences in **PED** between medical dosimetry graduates with and without prior radiation therapy certification?

2. What are the differences in **clinical preceptor surveys** between medical dosimetry students with and without prior radiation therapy certification?

3. What are the differences in **employer surveys** between medical dosimetry graduates with and without prior radiation therapy certification?
Eligibility

Graduates = 2012-2016; formal program

Preceptors = at affiliate site, supervised students with and without RTT certification

Employers = employed program graduates with and without RTT certification
Literature Review
Literature Review

• Greener¹ (2013) Dissertation
  ➢ Purpose: explore critical thinking skills of medical dosimetrists as measured by HSRT (health sciences reasoning test) to determine if CTS increased over learning spectrum from entry level student to practicing professional
  ➢ Comparing RTT background to non-RTT background: RTT individuals had weaker critical thinking skills
  ➢ Comparing formal dosimetry programs to non-accredited programs (OJT?): formal program individuals had stronger analysis scores on HSRT
  ➢ Comparing entry level grads to practicing dosimetrists: Entry level (formal) dosimetrists scored higher on Total HSRT which supports elimination of OJT route in 2015 (no difference in critical thinking scores b/t two groups)
  ➢ Experience alone is not enough to maintain critical thinking achieved as a student; suggesting the 50 CE credits required for maintaining licensure should include activities to enhance critical thinking
Literature Review

• Baker et al (2016)
  - Ex post facto correlational study focused on student selection criteria & potential academic success in allied health sciences
  - Independent variables: medical dosimetry app undergrad GPA; SGPA; prev work as RTT; prior degrees earned
  - Dependent variables: demonstration of successful graduation from medical dosimetry program
  - Population: medical dosimetry students b/t 2003-2011; sample 156 archived records
  - 17 did not complete (~11%)
  - Only statistical significance b/t variables and graduation rate: achievement of prior degree ($p < 0.007$)

  - Individuals entering medical dosimetry without prior degrees were 77.4% less likely to graduate
Literature Review

• Kellogg³ (2016) Thesis
  - Survey sent via email to 3,050 AAMD members; 11.3% response rate
  - Using medical dosimetry job duties, rate how important RTT background is prior to entering medical dosimetry
  - Logistic regression analysis: more radiation therapy experience increased the significant predictor variable of the radiation therapy importance score
    - However, no significant relationship between yrs of dosimetry experience and radiation therapy importance score
  - “a student w/o radiation therapy exp will have equal opportunity to succeed in medical dosimetry than a student w/ radiation therapy exp”
    - 49.3% strongly agree/agree (0-5 yrs exp in RT)
    - 26.6% strongly agree/agree (>5 yrs exp in RT)

- Recommendation for future research:
  - RTT vs non-RTT dosimetry students enrollment criteria w/ regard to MDCB scores
  - RTT vs non-RTT dosimetry students employment rate
Literature Review

• Chapman⁴ (2009)
• Presented at 2009 annual AAMD meeting in Scottsdale AZ
  –“Do you have to be a Radiation Therapist to become a Medical Dosimetrist? Or Why do you have to train for 3 professions to get the job you really want?”
• Surveyed Dosimetrists (RTT and non-RTT) and dosimetry students @ MD Anderson
• Ideal environment due to variety of educational background
• Survey: educational background and research questions
Jane’s Survey

What is your radiation education background?

a. Radiologic technology program, radiation therapy program, dosimetry OJT
b. Radiologic technology program, radiation therapy program, dosimetry program
c. Radiation therapy program, dosimetry OJT
d. Radiation therapy program, dosimetry program
e. BS degree in science, dosimetry OJT
f. BS degree in science, dosimetry program
g. College undergraduate hours, dosimetry program
Jane’s Survey

Have you ever thought that it was necessary to become a radiologic technologist to become a radiation therapist?

a. Yes  
b. No  
Comments

If yes, do you still hold that opinion?

a. Yes  
b. No  
Comments
Jane’s Survey

Have you ever thought that it was necessary to become a radiation therapist to become a medical dosimetrist?
- a. Yes
- b. No

Comments

If yes, do you still hold that opinion?
- a. Yes
- b. No

Comments
Jane’s Survey

Please name at least one dosimetrists you have worked with that you think exhibits superior dosimetry professional skills.
## Jane’s Survey: Response Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Radiation Therapist DOS</th>
<th>Non Radiation Therapist DOS</th>
<th>Combined</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of responses</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Need to be RT before becoming radiation therapist</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Still think so</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Need to be radiation therapist before becoming dosimetrist</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Still think so</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Superior dosimetrist RTT</td>
<td>6 times</td>
<td>10 times</td>
<td>16 times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Superior dosimetrist non RTT</td>
<td>17 times</td>
<td>34 times</td>
<td>51 times</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Jane’s Survey: What does this mean?

Roughly 1/4 of those surveyed ever thought that it was necessary to be a radiologic technologist before becoming a radiation therapist.
- Now only about 1/8 of those surveyed still hold that opinion.

Approximately 1/3 of those surveyed ever thought that it was necessary to be a radiation therapist before becoming a dosimetrist.
- Now only about 1/20 of those surveyed still hold that opinion.

For **superior dosimetrist**, a non-RTT dosimetrist was named approximately 3 times more often than a RTT dosimetrist.
- Three dosimetrists were named more than 4 times
  1. 20 times  BS + dosimetry OJT
  2. 14 times  BS + dosimetry program
  3. 13 times  BS + dosimetry program
Our Research Design

• Quantitative comparative study to investigate outcomes of medical dosimetry graduates with and without radiation therapy certification (n=75) at a large Midwestern University between 2012 and 2016 [Note: ratio of RTT:non-RTT was 2:1]

• Archival data used to collect PED

• Survey data used to collect responses from preceptors and employers
RQ 1: What are the differences in PED between medical dosimetry graduates with and without prior radiation therapy certification?

• Employment rate
• Program completion rate (PCR)
• MDCB exam (pass 1st attempt)

• GPA & sGPA

• RTT avg yrs of exp
PED: Program Completion Rate

5/6; RTT
83.30% 87.50%

7/8; RTT
100.00%

18/19; non RTT
94.74%
PED: MDCB, GPA’s & RTT Experience
2012-2016 (n=75)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>GPA</th>
<th>sGPA</th>
<th>DosGPA</th>
<th>RTT EXP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RTT (50)</td>
<td>3.38</td>
<td>3.05</td>
<td>3.88</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-RTT(25)</td>
<td>3.27</td>
<td>3.16</td>
<td>3.86</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MDCB pass rate 1st attempt (2012-2015)= 86%

No results for class of 2016 yet
PED: MDCB, GPA’s & RTT Experience

Degree Program Only
2012 – 2015: (n=56)
of those who did not pass on 1st attempt
- 7 non RTT; 6 RTT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>GPA</th>
<th>sGPA</th>
<th>DosGPA</th>
<th>RTT EXP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RTT (6)</td>
<td>3.18</td>
<td>2.53</td>
<td>3.83</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-RTT (7)</td>
<td>3.18</td>
<td>3.02</td>
<td>3.74</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No results for class of 2016 yet
RQ 2: What are the differences in clinical preceptor surveys between medical dosimetry students with and without prior radiation therapy certification?

• Eligibility criteria

➢ Verification question: In the past, have you supervised medical dosimetry students with and without radiation therapy certification? (100% compliance)

• Response rate: n=9/10; 90%
RQ3: What are the differences in employer surveys between medical dosimetry graduates with and without prior radiation therapy certification?

- Eligibility criteria

  - Verification question: have you hired medical dosimetrists with and without radiation therapy certification? (100% compliance)

- Response rate: n=6/6; 100%
Clinical Preceptor Survey

Please provide us with information about your educational/professional background? Check all that apply.

(n=9)

- Radiation Therapist - provide year of certification
- Medical Dosimetrist - provide year of certification
- Medical Physicist - provide year of certification
## Clinical Preceptor Survey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year of Certification</th>
<th>RTT</th>
<th>CMD</th>
<th>Physicist</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>1993</td>
</tr>
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<td>2001</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>1992</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>2012</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1994</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1984</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Employer Survey

Please provide us with information about your educational/professional background? Check all that apply.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RTT</th>
<th>CMD</th>
<th>Physicist</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Clinical Preceptor Survey

How many medical dosimetry students with radiation therapy certification have you supervised/mentored?

- 0
- 1-3
- 4-6
- >6
- I do not know

New radiation therapy graduate with no work experience
Radiation Therapist with 0-3 yrs of work experience
Radiation Therapist with > 5 yrs of work experience
I cannot answer as I am unfamiliar with their background

Background
Clinical Preceptor Survey

How many medical dosimetry students without radiation therapy certification have you supervised/mentored?
Employer Survey

How many medical dosimetrists with radiation therapy certification have you hired?
Employer Survey

How many medical dosimetrists without radiation therapy certification have you hired?
In general, do you notice a difference between medical dosimetry students (dosimetrists) with and without radiation therapy certification at the following time periods?
Rate your level of agreement: Medical dosimetry students (dosimetrists) \textbf{without} radiation therapy certification require more initial training than those with radiation therapy certification.
Rate your level of agreement: Medical dosimetry students (dosimetrists) *without* radiation therapy certification require **more supervision** than those with radiation therapy certification.

**Survey Comparison**

![Survey Comparison Chart]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Preceptors</th>
<th>Employers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
<td>44.5%</td>
<td>66.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat agree</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither agree nor disagree</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat disagree</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>33.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rate your level of agreement: A prior radiation therapy education is an essential skill for medical dosimetry education.

Preceptors: ~22% Strongly agree, ~22% Somewhat agree, ~56% Somewhat disagree, Neither agree nor disagree.

Employers: 50% Strongly agree, 50% Neither agree nor disagree.
Rate your level of agreement: I prefer to educate/mentor medical dosimetry students with radiation therapy certification.

Preceptors

- Strongly agree: ~33.3%
- Somewhat agree: 2.22%
- Neither agree nor disagree: ~44.5%
- Somewhat disagree: ~22.2%
- Strongly disagree: ~22.2%

Employers

- Strongly agree: 66.7%
- Somewhat agree: 33.3%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 33.3%
- Somewhat disagree: ~22.2%
- Strongly disagree: ~22.2%
Rate your level of agreement: A medical dosimetry student with radiation therapy certification is not as important as the person's ability to recognize anatomy, see "3D", and create & interpret plans.

Preceptors:
- Strongly agree: ~89%
- Somewhat agree: ~66.7%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 33.3%

Employers:
- Strongly agree: ~89%
- Somewhat agree: ~66.7%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 33.3%
Rate your level of agreement: A competency-based education assures that all medical dosimetry graduates, with and without radiation therapy certification, have equivalent entry level skills upon graduation.
Rate your level of agreement: There is a **difference** among medical dosimetry students **without** radiation therapy certification based on their **prior degree** (e.g. physics, math, biology, imaging sciences, etc.).

**Preceptors**

- Strongly agree: ~66.7%
- Somewhat agree:
- Neither agree nor disagree: ~11%
- Somewhat disagree:
- Strongly disagree: ~22.3%

**Employers**

- Strongly agree: 83.3%
- Somewhat agree:
- Neither agree nor disagree: 16.7%
- Somewhat disagree:
- Strongly disagree:
Rate your level of agreement: The didactic education should be longer for medical dosimetry students without radiation therapy certification.

- **Preceptors**:
  - Strongly agree: ~22.2%
  - Somewhat agree: ~
  - Neither agree nor disagree: ~44.5%
  - Somewhat disagree: ~
  - Strongly disagree: ~

- **Employers**:
  - Strongly agree: 50%
  - Somewhat agree: ~
  - Neither agree nor disagree: ~
  - Somewhat disagree: ~
  - Strongly disagree: 50%
Rate your level of agreement: The didactic education should be longer for all medical dosimetry students, with or without radiation therapy certification.
Clinical Preceptor Survey

Rate your level of agreement: The clinical education should be longer for medical dosimetry students without radiation therapy certification.

Preceptors

Employers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
<th>Somewhat agree</th>
<th>Neither agree nor disagree</th>
<th>Somewhat disagree</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>33.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11.1%</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>55.6%</td>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Clinical Preceptor Survey

Rate your level of agreement: The clinical education should be **longer** for **all** medical dosimetry students, with or without radiation therapy certification.

Preceptors

- Strongly agree: 22.2%
- Somewhat agree: 22.2%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 22.2%
- Somewhat disagree: 55.6%
- Strongly disagree: 55.6%

Employers

- Strongly agree: 50%
- Somewhat agree: 50%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 50%
- Somewhat disagree: 50%
- Strongly disagree: 50%
Clinical Preceptor Survey

Comprehensively, how prepared are graduates for employment?

22% Extremely well
56% Very well
22% Moderately well

Colors:
- Red: Extremely well
- Purple: Very well
- Blue: Moderately well
- Green: Slightly well
- Yellow: Not well at all
Employer Survey

In general, how prepared were the graduates for employment?

83% Very well
17% Moderately well

Color Key:
- Extremely well
- Very well
- Moderately well
- Slightly well
- Not well at all
Employer Survey

Please rate your overall satisfaction with the graduates' quality of education/training.

67% Extremely satisfied
33% Somewhat satisfied

Colored bars represent the following:
- Red: Extremely satisfied
- Purple: Somewhat satisfied
- Green: Somewhat dissatisfied
- Yellow: Extremely dissatisfied
- Blue: Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
Clinical Preceptor Survey

Would you have reservations about hiring graduates of our program (with or without radiation therapy certification)?

100% No

- Yes. Please explain.
- No
Would you have reservations about hiring another graduate of our program (with or without radiation therapy certification)?
Would you have reservations about hiring graduates of our program (with or without radiation therapy certification) - from a different clinical internship site?

Clinical site & experiences do make a huge difference. It would depend on the site as far as the influence on my decision to consider for hire.
Comments from Preceptors

• ‘I have seen very little difference between students coming into the program with or without radiation therapy certifications. I believe the two most important things our prospective students need are a good educational math background and a strong work ethic.’

• ‘It seems to me that students with a x-ray or CT/MRI background would have a similar advantage early in the internship to the Radiation Therapy students.’
Comments from Preceptors

• ‘Students need as much clinical time as they can possibly get. There should not be "spring break" or any other breaks. Holidays and a week break for personal time is acceptable. Six hours a day and week + long breaks do not help the student that is only learning planning skills for 12 months (which isn't even that when you count the breaks). To make any sort of new grad more marketable they need to have exposure/experience with many different types of plans. The way they get more comfortable with planning is to do many plans. The focus needs to be less on research and more on what they will be truly doing in the clinic.’
Comments from Preceptors

• ‘Although there is an initial learning curve for non-R TT students, they catch up by mid-year and do not seem any different than those with RTT backgrounds. Sometimes those with a strong science/math background actually do better than a RTT trained person. It really depends on the individual, how much effort they put into their own learning, and the people training the intern. Clinical instructors can’t make assumptions - but teach them the same (RTT’s need a “refresher”). ANY new intern should spend time at the treatment machines and Simulator for orientation.’
Comments from Employers

• ‘I have been very satisfied with my 2 hires from this program. Both have great strengths and limited weaknesses.’

• ‘There are some qualities in which the non-RTT is actually stronger than the RTT dosimetrists. Strong Physics background is a huge plus and definitely provides an edge. It’s just some of the clinical setup type issues or treatment room issues that are sometimes harder. But the non-RTT learns extremely quickly and has overcome any obstacles once encountered.’
Comments from Employers

• ‘Dosimetrists with a RTT background have a better understanding for the needs of transferring a plan from the computer to the patient. Also, they tend to already have more of the terminology unique to our field down before beginning employment even with a year + of internship.’
Comments from Employers

• ‘In comparing the 2 hires (RTT vs non-RTT) I saw a lack of confidence with the non-RTT graduate we hired. If the person had a better understanding of the clinical aspect of radiation therapy, perhaps they would feel more confident in the decisions made when planning. However, the dosimetry courses did teach the graduate how to appropriately create treatment plans and provided the knowledge in dosimetry.’
General Employer Feedback

• High response rate
• Ratings for levels of competence: ~4.5-5/5
• Reservations to hire another grad: No (100%)
• Generally takes 3 months or >6 months to train
• Weaknesses for all:
  – Ability to communicate with staff (4.33)
  – Hand calcs
  – Brachy
• Non-RTT’s:
  – Slightly less understanding of clinical set-ups or how/why tattoo’s relate to iso but they spend time with dosimetry and ask ?’s & catch on quickly
Study Conclusion

- Ratio of RTT vs non-RTT enrollment was 2:1 (n=75)
- Excellent survey response rate from preceptors (90%) and employers (100%); but small sample
- Of RTT dosimetry students who did not pass on 1st attempt and included in preceptor survey, most were new grads or <5 yr exp
- Preceptors notice difference b/t RTT and non-RTT dosimetry students up to ~6 months; Employers notice difference up to ~9 months
  - Agree: More initial training and supervision required for non-RTT
- No program data to indicate overwhelming strength/weakness of RTT compared to non-RTT
  - Potential RTT strength on MDCB exam; need 2016 results
Study Conclusion

• Employers feel RTT is essential skill for dosimetry & prefer to mentor RTT background dosimetrists; & that non-RTT’s should have longer clinical education compared to RTT dosimetry students
  – but agreed competency-based education assures same entry level skills for all students
  – But thought grads were well prepared, extremely satisfied, & no reservations to hire again

• Positive responses with regard to preparation for employment, hiring our graduates, & no reservations about hiring future graduates
Things to ponder

How do you judge the quality of a dosimetrist?

- What defines a ‘quality’ dosimetrist?
- Does it depend on the individual & specific characteristics – not a RTT background?

Is it an advantage to be a radiation therapist when learning to become a dosimetrist?

- If so, how long does that advantage hold true?

Can radiation therapy knowledge be taught in a dosimetry program?

Pre-requisites & general program guidelines have been established – so what should change?

Does the profession benefit from a variety of educational & professional backgrounds?
Things to ponder

What do we do with those college students who have researched dosimetry and know that is the career they wish to pursue? Should medical dosimetry education be complete in itself as radiologic technology is and radiation therapy has become? Should dosimetry programs be degree granting programs as radiation therapy has become?

Should there be different tracks for RTTs & non-RTTs in dosimetry programs?

- What should be different?
  - Physicists do treatment planning (...well some do)
    - (They were never RTT’s)
Goals for our Profession

- Unification rather than divisiveness among medical dosimetrists.
- Professional autonomy rather than another arm of radiation therapy.
  
  Do we want to be advanced practice radiation therapists?
- Support of and respect for formal medical dosimetry education.
In Memoriam

Melissa Jane Chapman, M.Ed., CMD

Retired: 2009
UT-MD Anderson Medical Dosimetry

November 7, 1948 - July 13, 2013
Special Thanks

• Anne Marie Vann – Educational Coordinator at UW-La Crosse
• Survey participants: Employers & Preceptors
• Program Preceptors & Clinical Instructors
• Pete Amann – Program Admissions/Sr Student Status Examiner
References


4. Chapman, M. J. (2009). Do you have to be a Radiation Therapist to become a Medical Dosimetrist? Or Why do you have to train for 3 professions to get the job you really want? AAMD Annual Meeting in Scottsdale, AZ
Contact me:

Nishele Lenards
nlenards@uwlax.edu
952-270-3582