ARRO Consensus Recommendations for Studying for the Qualifying Examinations

**Medical Physics for Radiation Oncology**

**ARRO's Thoughts about the Recommended References**
1. Choose one of the textbooks listed as a primary reference and try to focus on mastering the material in one resource.
2. If you learn better from a lecture series, the IAEA has corresponding lectures and slides for one of the listed primary reference, Radiation Oncology Physics: A Handbook for Teachers and Students (Podgorsak EB)
3. Don't forget about the AAPM Task Group Reports listed by the ABR as additional resources.

**Review Course**
If you feel like you would benefit from an outside preparatory course, consider asking your program director or chiefs about either of the following courses that you can pay to attend during your PGY4 year.
1. University of Maryland - Annual Dr. Karl Prado Physics and Radiobiology Review Course

**Other Study Resources**
There are other study resources that may be helpful as well. See the Physics worksheet on our compiled list of resources for more ideas and links. Our favorites include:
1. RadOncQustions.com - Over 400 questions covering high-yield topics.
2. RAPHEX exams
3. Physics in Radiation Oncology Self-Assessment Guide (Xia, 2015) - *This is a review book with physics questions that people have found helpful.*
ARRO's Thoughts about the Recommended References

1. Choose one of the textbooks listed as a primary reference and try to focus on mastering the material in one resource. Hall seems to be considered to be more of the "primary text" but some people think Joiner is better.

2. Make sure to read the review articles listed (and linked to) above under secondary references. The ABR has stated, "the reference section has been revised based on a review of actual exam items. This revision should assist residents in preparation for the upcoming exam.”

3. The unofficial “consensus” is that Hall does not adequately cover material related to cancer biology, particularly regarding oncogenes and tumor suppressor genes. Make sure to read the secondary resources that cover these topics and see below for our suggestions regarding other references that may be more comprehensive.

Review Course

If you feel like you would benefit from an outside preparatory course, consider asking your program director or chiefs about attending the University of Maryland course.

1. University of Maryland - Annual Dr. Karl Prado Physics and Radiobiology Review Course
2. Northwestern University - Gayle Woloschak, PhD will be giving a high-yield summary review of radiation and cancer biology topics for residents - details to come. This will be a live recorded webinar that will be available for residents to watch, free of charge. Gayle's powerpoints for the lectures she gives to residents in the Chicagoland area are also available on her website!

Other Study Resources

There are other study resources that may be helpful as well. See the RadBio worksheet on our compiled list of resources for more ideas and links. Our favorites include:

1. RadOncQuestions.com - New Radiation and Cancer Biology questions being added covering high-yield topics.
3. Radiobiology Self-Assessment Guide, Jennifer Yu (2016) - This is a review book with physics questions that people have found helpful.

Other Textbooks that may be helpful:

2. Selected chapters from Cancer: Principles and Practice of Oncology (DeVita, Hellman, and Rosenberg, 2019) - Chapters 1-3, 15, 17, 25, 31 may be particularly useful.
3. Basic Radiotherapy Physics and Biology, 2nd edition (Chang, 2014) - many have stated they like this book.