ASTRO publishes Safety is No Accident: A Framework for Quality Radiation Oncology and Care

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Handbook reaffirms Society’s commitment to Target Safely initiative

The American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) is proud to announce the publication of Safety is No Accident: A Framework for Quality Radiation Oncology and Care, a comprehensive book detailing minimum recommended guidelines for radiation oncology practices. The 52-page document represents an intensive collaboration among 31 specialists from all of the major societies in the radiation oncology field, representing physicians, medical physicists, radiation therapists, medical dosimetrists, nurses and administrators to ensure safe and effective radiation therapy treatment for patients, led by Writing Chairmen Anthony L. Zietman, MD, FASTRO, Jatinder R. Palta, PhD, and Michael L. Steinberg, MD, FASTRO.

Safety is No Accident: A Framework for Quality Radiation Oncology and Care is designed to set standards for the radiation therapy treatment team on the structure, personnel and technical process needed to ensure a safe environment for the delivery of radiation therapy. The book is available online free as a PDF document and in a printed booklet format for purchase.

Safety is No Accident: A Framework for Quality Radiation Oncology and Care is sponsored by ASTRO and was developed and is endorsed by the American Association of Medical Dosimetrists, the American Association of Physicists in Medicine, the American Board of Radiology, the American Brachytherapy Society, the American College of Radiology, the American College of Radiation Oncology, the American Radium Society, ASTRO, the American Society of Radiologic Technologists, the Association of Freestanding Radiation Oncology Centers, the Society of Chairmen of Academic Radiation Oncology Programs and the Society for Radiation Oncology Administrators.

In addition to Drs. Zietman, Palta and Steinberg, authors for Safety is No Accident: A Framework for Quality Radiation Oncology and Care include Albert L. Blumberg, MD, R. Alan Burns, BS, RT, Susan W. Cagle, MS, CMD, Laura A. Dawson, MD, Vanna Marie Dest, MSN, APRN, BC, AOCN, Theodore L. DeWeese, MD, Benedick Fraass, PhD, FASTRO, James M. Galvin, DSc, FASTRO, Arve W. Gillette, MD, Bruce G. Haffty, MD, FASTRO, Sandra E. Hayden, MA, RT(T), Peter A. S. Johnstone, MD, Lisa Ann Kachnic, MD, Theresa Kwiatkowski, BS, RT(T), CMD, Lawrence B. Marks, MD, FASTRO, Karen McGraner, Michael D. Mills, PhD, Christopher J. Moore, BS, CMD, Bhudatt R. Paliwal, PhD, Daniel Pavord, MS, David J. Rice, MD, Mark J. Rivard, PhD, Seth A. Rosenthal, MD, Christopher F. Serago, PhD, Giles C. Toole III, MS, Prabhakar Tripuraneni, MD, FASTRO, Akila N. Viswanathan, MD, MPH, Paul Wallner, DO, FASTRO, and David E. Wazer, MD, FASTRO.

"This book explicitly sets a high bar below which no radiation oncology facility should operate because, as the title states, safety is no accident," said Dr. Zietman. "We recognize that, in a declining economy, these high expectations may prove to be a challenge, but we believe this interdisciplinary document will help facility leaders advocate on behalf of patients from a position of strength. Safe delivery of radiation therapy treatment is our number one priority because any error is one too many."

The technological tools available today have made planning and treatment delivery more complex and challenging. A key component of Target Safely, ASTRO's patient safety initiative developed in January 2010 to improve the safety and quality of radiation therapy treatment, Safety is No Accident: A Framework for Quality Radiation Oncology and Care will serve as a new, living manifesto of the specialty's dedication to patient care.
and safety and will be updated regularly.

"Many thanks to the dedicated efforts of Drs. Zietman, Palta and Steinberg for leading the exceptional efforts to issue this important document," said Leonard L. Gunderson, MD, MS, FASTRO, chairman of ASTRO’s Board of Directors. "Safety is No Accident is an essential tool for every radiation oncology practice as technologies advance to ensure that patient safety remains the core principal for radiation oncology treatment."

Dr. Zietman is currently the Jenot and William Shipley Professor of Radiation Oncology at Harvard Medical School, director of the radiation oncology residency program at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, former chairman and former president of ASTRO, the current editor-in-chief of the *International Journal of Radiation Oncology • Biology • Physics* (ASTRO's official scientific research journal, also known as the Red Journal) and a trustee of the American Board of Radiology.

Dr. Palta is professor and physics residency program director at the University of Florida's Davis Cancer Center in Gainesville, Fla., and past chairman of the Science Council for the American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM) and ASTRO's Research Council. He also served as a permanent board member of the NIH Radiation Therapeutics and Biology Study Section.

Dr. Steinberg is the current president of ASTRO and professor and chairman of radiation oncology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) and director of clinical affairs for UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center. He is the founding chairman of ASTRO's Health Policy Council.

More information about ASTRO's Target Safely initiative.

**About ASTRO**

ASTRO is the premier radiation oncology society in the world, with more than 10,000 members who are physicians, nurses, biologist, physicists, radiation therapists, dosimetrists and other health care professionals that specialize in treating patients with radiation therapies. As the leading organization in radiation oncology, the Society is dedicated to improving patient care through professional education and training, support for clinical practice and health policy standards, advancement of science and research, and advocacy. ASTRO publishes two medical journals, *International Journal of Radiation Oncology•Biology•Physics* (www.redjournal.org) and *Practical Radiation Oncology* (www.practicalradonc.org); developed and maintains an extensive patient website, www.rtanswers.org; and created the Radiation Oncology Institute (www.roinstitute.com), a non-profit foundation to support research and education efforts around the world that enhance and confirm the critical role of radiation therapy in improving cancer treatment. To learn more about ASTRO, visit www.astro.org.

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