



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION *of* PHYSICISTS IN MEDICINE  
*Improving Health Through Medical Physics*

A row of three computer monitors displaying medical X-ray images, likely chest or abdominal scans, in a clinical setting.

## **AAPM: BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS ACROSS THE NMP**

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# TODAY'S OUTLINE: ALIGNING AAPM AND THE NMP

Government  
Relations

Members, committees, my  
role, key issues

State  
Champions

Enabling AAPM members to  
advocate in each state

MPPGs and  
TGs

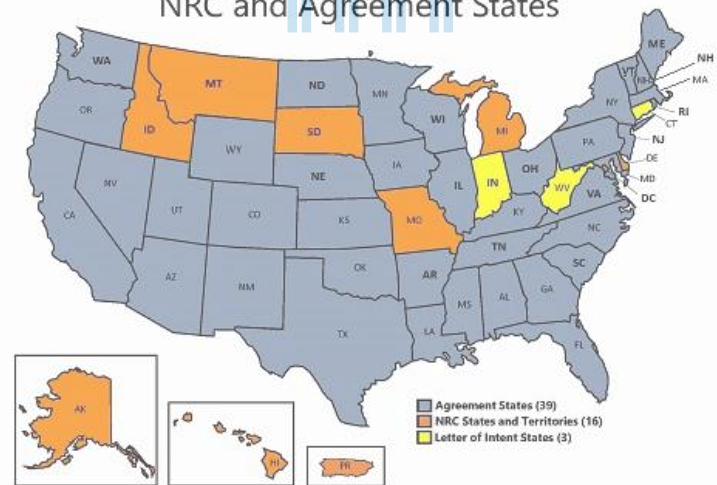
Informing regulatory  
standards or vice versa

RO-ILS

Benefits of voluntary  
incident learning



NRC and Agreement States





## GOVERNMENT RELATIONS: PARTNERING FOR KEY ISSUES

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## AAPM'S GOVERNMENT RELATIONS (GR)

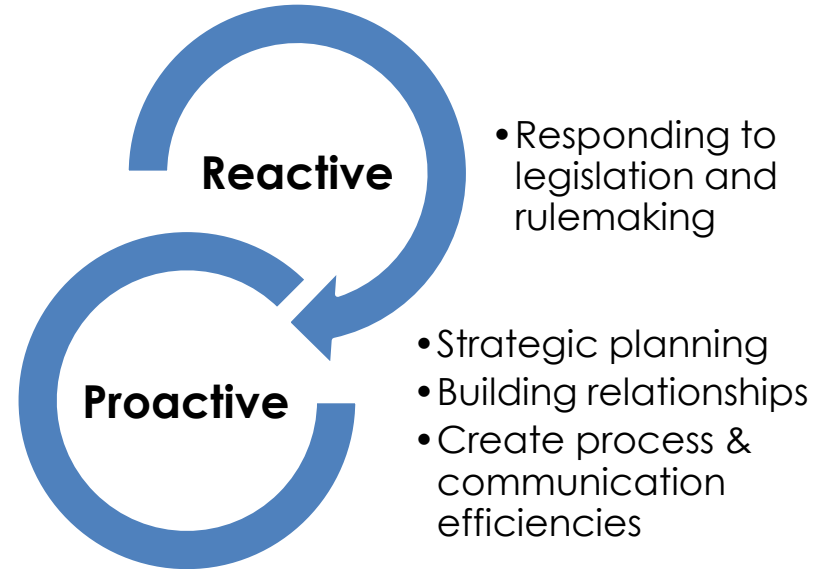
- AAPM is member driven—9000+ members with over 400 volunteer groups
- A handful of those groups share a focus for government, regulatory, legislative, or accreditation
- The **Government and Regulatory Affairs Committee (GRAC)** leads AAPM's efforts in government relations
- AAPM employs one full-time staff (myself), contracts experts for CMS/payment issues and federal lobbying needs
- GRAC subcommittees (SC) include:
  - Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors SC
  - Medical Physics Licensure and Regulatory Recognition SC
  - Practice in Veterans Affairs Centers SC
- AAPM partners with outside agencies and organizations:
  - NRC, FDA, CRCPD, OAS
  - RSNA, ACR, ASTRO, SNMMI, etc.



## A SHIFTING GR STRATEGY

AAPM GR aims to improve effectiveness, communication, and transparency to both internal members and external partners. Goals include:

- **Become more proactive through strategic planning, so we can be more effective when reacting.**
- Align positions across AAPM, create a unified voice
- Provide hierarchy, structured review processes
- Balance engagement with nimbleness
- Enable targeted advocacy activities
- Maximize efficiency and value of limited resources



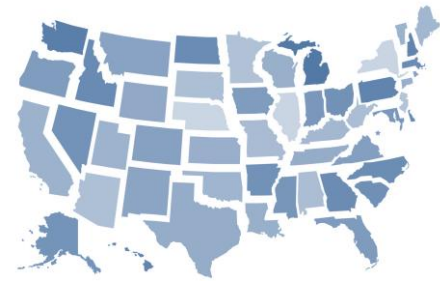
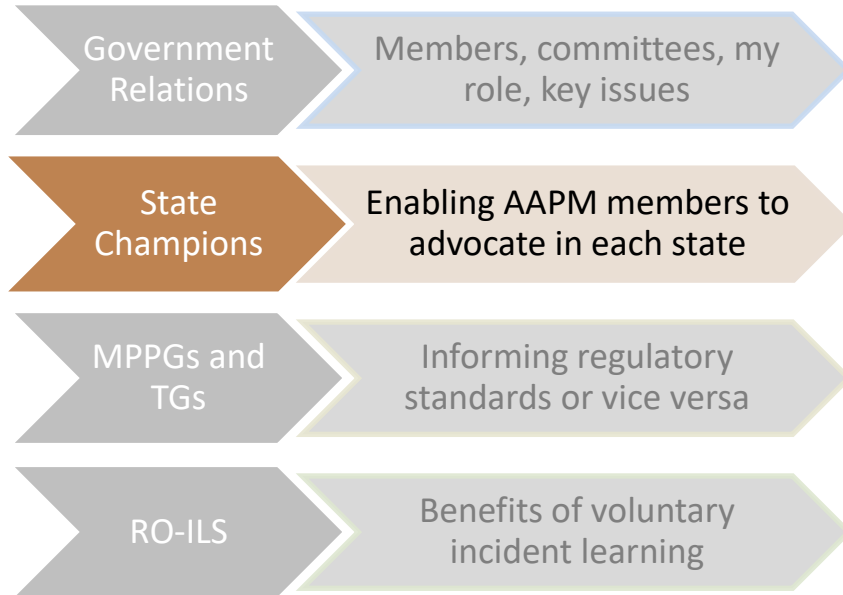


## RECENT FEDERAL ISSUES

NRC:	FDA:	CMS:
Medical Use of Isotopes	IEC Standards Transition	Reimbursement and Payments
Boards, Training, Experience	Rulemaking	
Extravasations	Classification of Devices	Developing Electronic Clinical Quality Measures (eCQM)
Patient Release (RG 8.39)	Network of Experts	
Source Security	Guide Documents: MR Safety and Performance	<b>NIH/DOE/Other:</b>
Emerging Technology		Data Sharing
<b>Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP):</b>		Research Funding Programs
Data Access	Cancer Moonshot Initiative	Source Security
Research Environment and Security		Veterans Affairs Salary Caps



## STATE CHAMPIONS: ADVOCACY AT THE STATE LEVEL





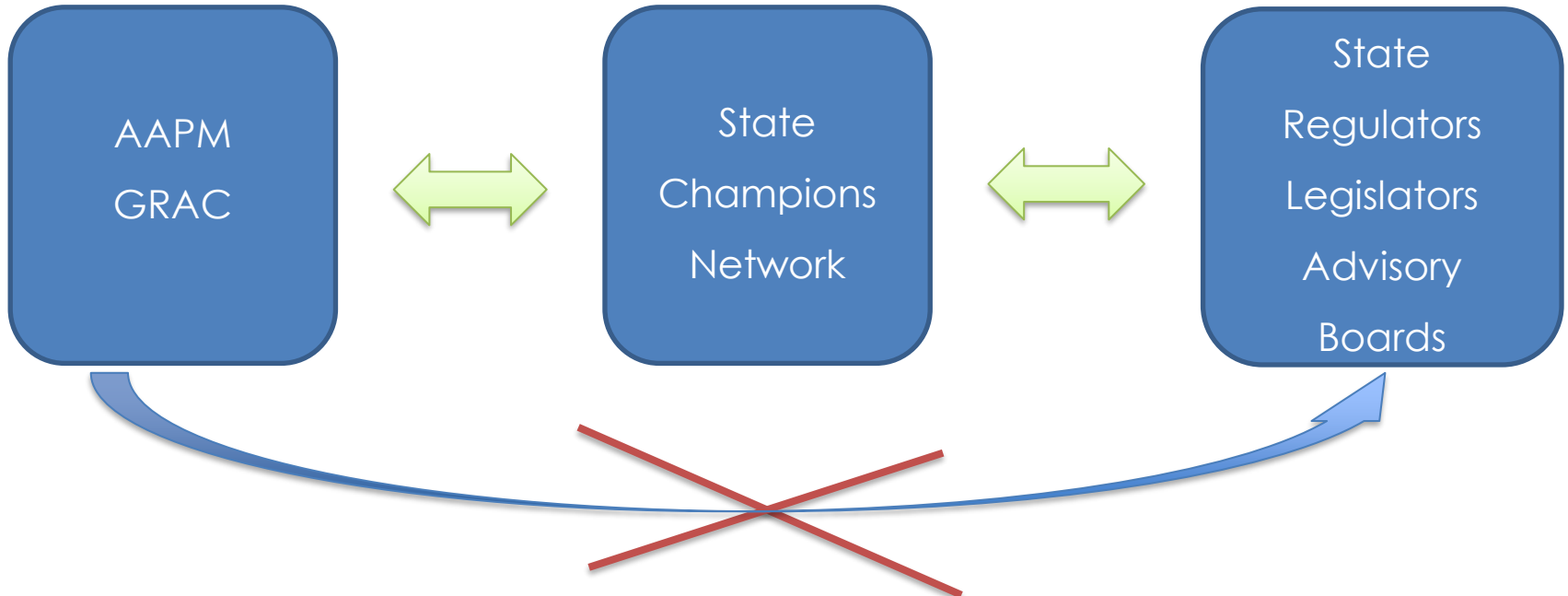
## THE WHAT AND WHY FOR STATE CHAMPIONS

- What is a state champion?
  - AAPM volunteers, at the state level, interested in learning and advocating for government or regulatory issues.
  - Will serve as an extension or force multiplier of AAPM's GR team.
  - Provide subject matter expertise to local organizations and agencies.
- Why is it needed?
  - Each state has unique regulatory and legislative processes.
  - Empower, educate, and provide resources to medical physicists to be effective in government relations.
  - Difficult for national AAPM to engage on every states' activities.
  - To more broadly communicate the need for Qualified Medical Physicists (QMP) in all states.
  - To drive for more consistent regulations and policies, especially with devices.





## STATE CHAMPIONS MODEL





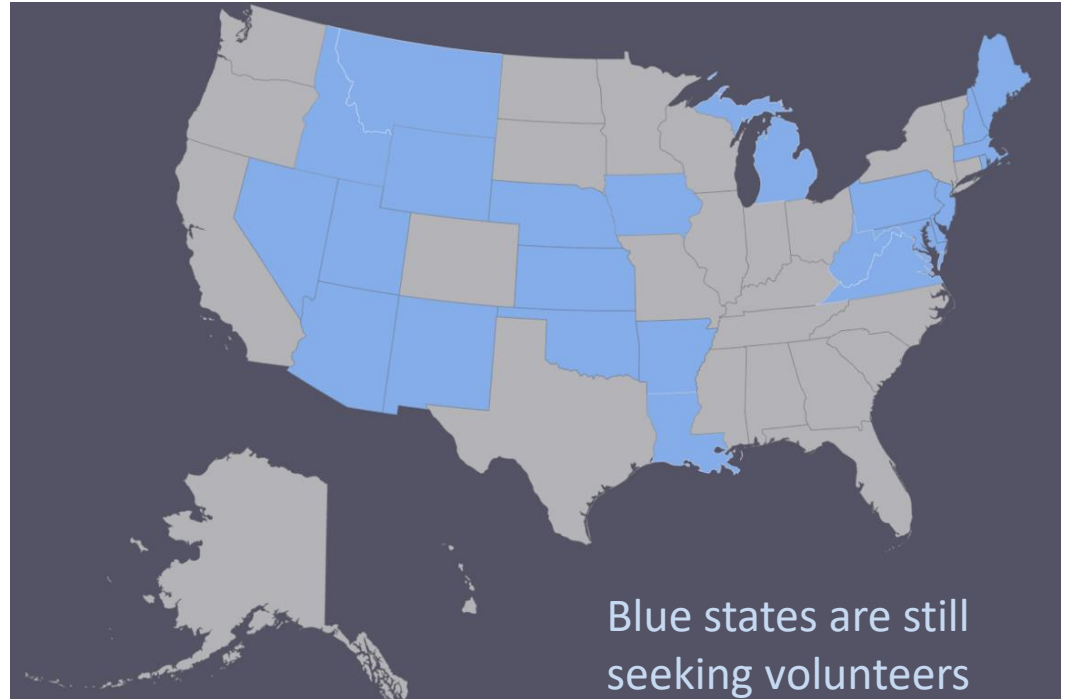
## BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES

- Benefits:
  - Drives member engagement
  - Gauges member support for causes
  - Geographically disperse and diverse network of volunteers
    - Provide earlier detection of industry issues
    - Valuable data collection and tracking
- Challenges:
  - Initial engagement and implementation
  - Costly, more so at the start (staff time, software/tools, etc.)
  - Requires ongoing commitment to not lose momentum



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## CURRENT STATES WITH STATE CHAMPION VOLUNTEERS (GRAY)





## EXAMPLES OF RECENT STATE ISSUES

### STATE LEGISLATION

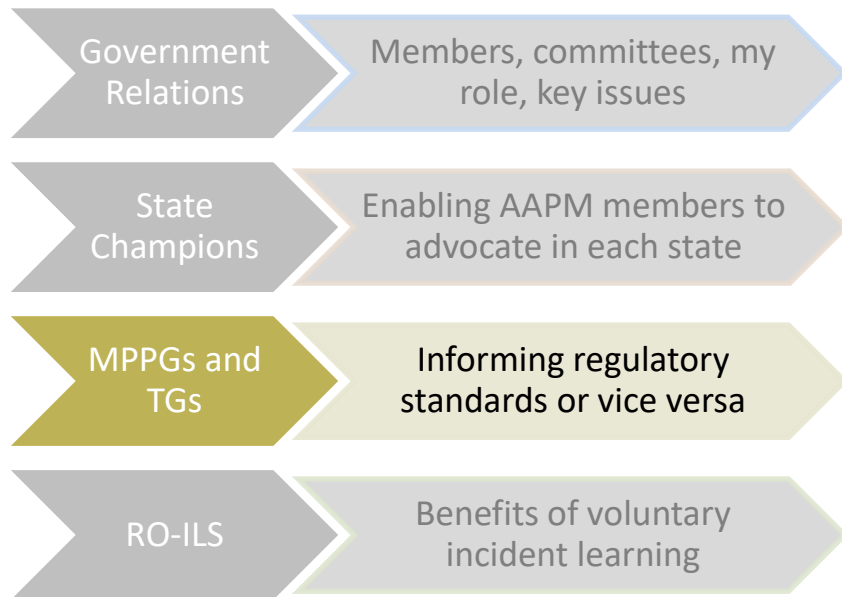
- Medical physicist licensure
  - MA bill re-introduced in 2023
- Licensure review, tracking state by state
- Shielding, radiation safety bills

### STATE REGULATIONS

- Qualified medical physicists (QMP), medical physicist practice
- Training and experience
- X-Ray regulation updates
- Therapy regulations
- Shielding requirements
- Related safety topics



# MEDICAL PHYSICS PRACTICE GUIDELINES AND REPORTS



MPPG Report 13.a		2023 AAPM medical physics practice guideline 13.a: HDR brachytherapy, part A
SPG		
MPPG Report 4.b		2023 Medical physics practice guideline 4.b: Development, implementation, use and maintenance of safety checklists
SPG		
MPPG Report 12.a		2022 AAPM Medical Physics Practice Guideline 12.a: Fluoroscopy dose management
SPG		
MPPG Report 5.b		2022 AAPM MEDICAL PHYSICS PRACTICE GUIDELINE 5.b: Commissioning and QA of treatment planning dose calculations—Megavoltage photon and electron beams
SPG		
MPPG Report 11.a		2021 Medical Physics Practice Guideline (MPPG) 11.a: Plan and chart review in external beam radiotherapy and brachytherapy
SPG		



## WHAT IS AN MPPG? HOW DOES IT DIFFER FROM A TG?

### Medical physics practice guidelines (MPPG)

- Establishes safety standards for safe and effective radiation uses.
  - I.e., the minimum level of medical physics support that AAPM would consider to be prudent in all clinical practice settings.
- MPPGs are meant to be accessible for clinics lacking resources to apply task group (TG) report recommendations.
  - TG reports provide more rigorous ideal or best practices.
  - TG may not be achievable or practical for all clinics.



## OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTNERSHIP AND ALIGNMENT

- MPPGs are more appropriate for use as regulatory standards.
  - Designed to establish a baseline safety standard.
  - Meant to be accessible for clinics of all types to implement.
- AAPM working to get regulatory and accrediting bodies to adopt MPPGs rather than TGs, where applicable.
  - Open to input on topics needing MPPG development.
  - This can assist in identifying future MPPG topics and priorities.
- Published open-source in the *Journal of Applied Clinical Medical Physics*.
  - Great learning resource.



## SOME EXAMPLE OF MPPGS

Topics currently include staffing/training, equipment, planning/review, access, etc.

- MPPG 13.a: HDR Brachytherapy
- MPPG 4.b: Development, implementation, use and maintenance of safety checks
- MPPG 11.a: Plan and chart review...
- MPPG 3.b: Supervision of MP in training...
- In development-scope of practice for medical health physicists

JOURNAL OF APPLIED CLINICAL  
MEDICAL PHYSICS

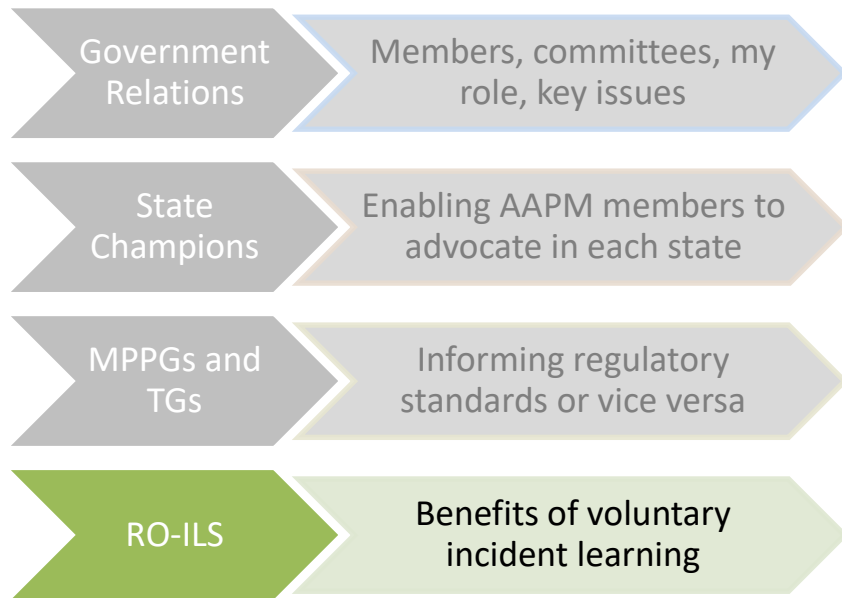
Browse our MPPGs:







## RADIATION ONCOLOGY-INCIDENT LEARNING SYSTEM



**RO-ILS**

RADIATION ONCOLOGY  
INCIDENT LEARNING SYSTEM

*Sponsored by ASTRO and AAPM*

ASTRO  
AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR RADIATION ONCOLOGY





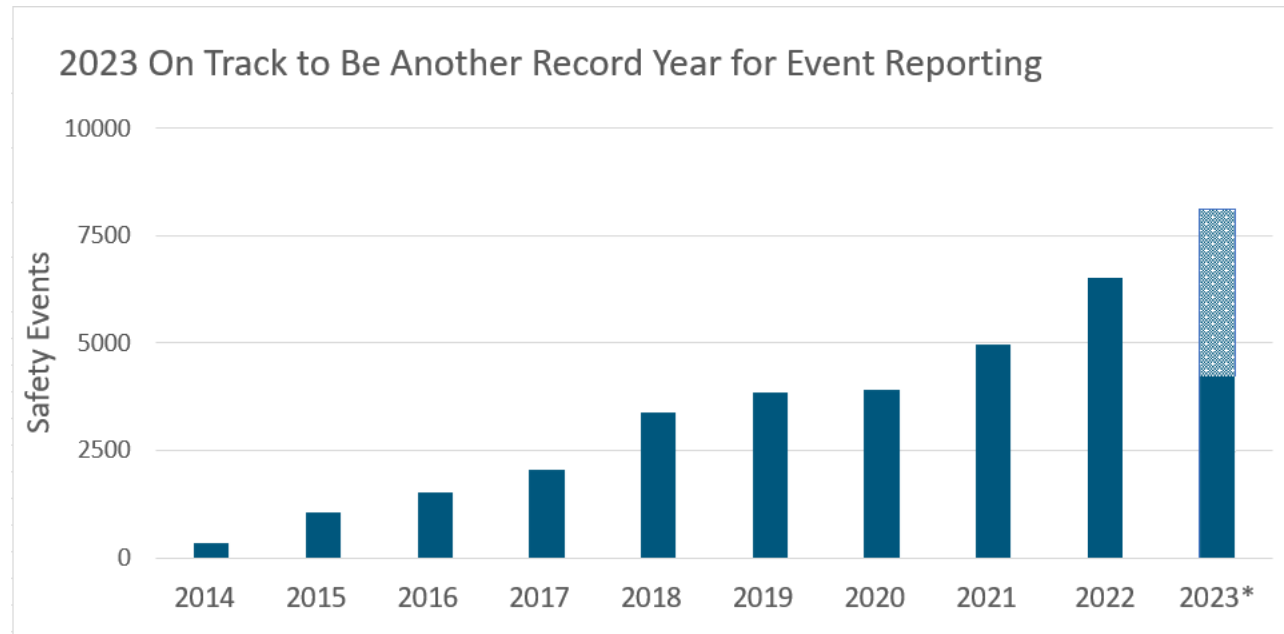
## WHAT IS RO-ILS?

- Radiation Oncology-**Incident Learning System** (RO-ILS)
  - Captures events and near-misses
  - Helps strengthen safety culture
  - Voluntary and free for licensees to use
  - More valuable as more people participate
- Data stored by a patient safety organization (PSO), Clarity
- Safety event data reviewed by expert group, Radiation Oncology Healthcare Advisory Council (RO-HAC)
  - Publish safety alerts and case studies



## IMPLEMENTATION AND ACTIVITIES

- Presently, 825+ facilities across the country using RO-ILS
- On track for over 7500 events to be submitted this year.





## HOW RO-ILS CAN HELP THE NMP

- Provides safety cases
- Educational materials
- Trends in radiation oncology safety
- Aggregate national information will improve field of radiation oncology

Review educational material here:  
(or Google "**RO-ILS Education**")





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# THANK YOU!



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