

Dummy Source

The Best and Only Medical Physics Newsletter

Issue #1

Economic Report:

1 Monitor Unit to be Worth Only 0.88 cGy By Year's End

"It's standard Roentgenomics" says NIST. (J. DeCunha)

CAMPEP Introduces Standards for Accreditation of pre-Kindergarten Programs

(J. DeCunha)

Elekta launches new LINAC with integrated bunk bed for live-in engineer

(J. DeCunha)

Lars Ulrich to sue MRI Metallic Artifacts for Copyright Infringement

The litigious Metallica founding member is demanding they be renamed to "rtifacts", and can no longer "fade to black" in medical images. (P. Watson)



MSc Physicist accidentally called "Doctor" by an MD; doesn't correct them

"It was just easier to go along with it. And besides, a PhD isn't a real doctor anyway." (P. Watson)

The Saddest Story Ever Written in Six Words

For Sale: An OSLD, never worn.

EPID?

More like EP-I-Don't care what it does.

ISMRM or Bust

"I know I didn't make it again this year, but next year I'm definitely going to try and attend COMP". -MRI Physicist

DECAY WITH DIGNITY

HALF-LIFE HOMES
RETIREMENT COMMUNITY
FOR MEDICAL PHYSICISTS

- Daily QA walks
- Monte Carlo bingo nights
- Lead-lined jacuzzis

Sensible Chuckles
by Pete Watson

The results came back from my MRI. It turns out I have claustrophobia.

Yo momma is so fat, when she does Monte Carlo simulations she causes a statistical fluctuation in the variance.

I made an MRI scanner on my shirt out of spangles. You could say it's an MRI sequins.

My employer is really into QAnon. That's QA non-stop.



Overheard at a Party

"Actually, it's only called a Monte Carlo simulation if the coding was done in Monaco, otherwise it's just a sparkling random number sampling simulation"

Radiation Physics for Medical Physicists, Podgorsak 4th Ed.
(Gen Z Version)

2.2 Geiger-Marsden Experiment
TL;DR

- Rutherford, Geiger, and Marsden: "Let's shoot alpha particles at gold and see what's good"
- Atoms "We got a dense 'lil core, skibidi ohio rizz"
- Physics: 🤪
- Humanity: "This changes everything..."

7.3 Incoherent Scattering (Compton Effect)

Basically, the photon is like "yo square up, you 'bout to catch hands" and hits the electron. Then, the photon dips in a new direction with lower energy, like it got humbled. And the electron? He gets yeeted out of the atom, which is pretty sus fr.



Forget Drake and Kendrick, do standards labs write diss tracks?

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Peter Watson

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Submissions?

Forget PMB and Med Phys, send to:
Dummy.Source@proton.me

Quiz: Which subatomic particle are you?

By Trey Chernoff

1. Do you like to party?

- a) Of course
- b) Sometimes
- c) Meh
- d) No, obviously not

2. Why would you be most likely to go to the gym?

- a) To meet people
- b) To get a sick bulk
- c) To get more jacked than the person who answered b)
- d) To do cardio and nothing else

3. You recently got broken up with. To drown your sorrows, what do you do?

- a) Party
- b) Move on
- c) I was in a relationship?
- d) Plot my revenge

4. On the flipside, you recently broke up with your partner, and fear that they may be assembling a team of your exes for some sort of evil revenge. How do you respond?

- a) Bring it on. I can take 'em, easy. It might even be fun.
- b) Invite them all to therapy.
- c) I have exes?
- d) I assemble a league of their exes. This is not a battle, it's a war.

5. How would your friends describe you?

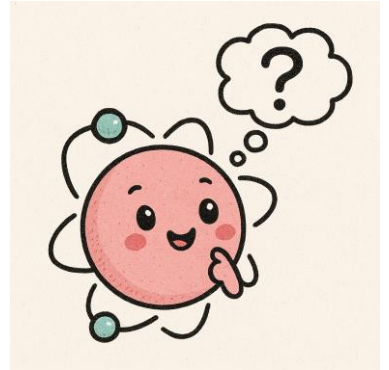
- a) A bit annoying, and uh... that's it.
- b) My friends are mostly horses and they like to call me "pretty stable".
- c) However they want, it's a free country.
- d) My friends hate me, and they know the best way to get rid of me is by playing something off of NWA's first record.

6. What's your favourite word or phrase that starts with "Pork"?

- a) corp? Sorry, I don't understand the question.
- b) pork chop
- c) pork
- d) -upine

7. You are in the midst of an online roast battle with an eccentric billionaire. After your most recent, very successful roast, he shows up at your door, hands you a cell phone, and says "here's a phone. Call somebody who cares." What do you do?

- a) Look at their search history
- b) Call 911
- c) Nothing. Maybe cry a little bit.
- d) Lament the fact that they have 37 missed calls from someone with a number saved as "DO NOT ANSWER OR BLOCK"



8. You find a sealed radiation source in a public trashcan at the park. What do you do?

- a) Take it and run. That's gotta go for at least 40 bucks on Craigslist.
- b) Open it
- c) Nothing.
- d) Throw it at a small child.

RESULTS:

To determine your personality, you will first need to do some math. For each "a" you scored, add 1 point. For each "b", add 2 points. For each "c", add 3, and for each "d" add 4. The sum total is your score.

0 and 7 points: you are a **Higgs Boson!**

Your personality: Either you don't know how to do math, or you are a cheater who skipped to the end of this quiz and got curious about what the personality type of a Higgs Boson personality type might be. With that said, low efforts beget low rewards, so please enjoy this ChatGPT summary of what such a personality might entail: "Your observant, understated aura radiates essential and lasting order, stabilizing every realm. You're the quiet force that makes everything possible. Like the Higgs boson giving mass to other particles, you give substance to the people and projects around you. You don't always crave the spotlight, but your presence fundamentally shapes the environment. Friends describe you as grounding, stabilizing, and mysteriously influential – people just feel more capable around you. You tend to be patient, observant, and deliberate, stepping in only when you know it will make the most impact. But don't mistake your calm demeanor for passivity; without you, things simply wouldn't hold together the same way. Your vibe: the understated architect of reality." Now, if you think this is an apt description, go back and read the first letters of the first ChatGPT sentence.

8 and 14 points: you are a **positron!**

Your personality: You're happy-go lucky and turn into a ray of light when you encounter the right person. You like roller-blading, returning videotapes, and have been described as having a strong 80s aesthetic. You love the filmographies of both Paul Thomas Anderson and Paul W.S. Anderson equally because you have equal affinities for people named "Paul" and "Anderson". You also have been known to really enjoy the works of Jeff VanderMeer. Your favourite foods are excessively sweet and high in glucose. You have been compared to Elvis Costello but, personally, you think that you have a far more bitter, cynical sense of humour. You released your most accomplished album in 1987, with a variety of hits so catchy that people didn't listen to the lyrics. But they should! It was an album not just about the pleasures of conformity and the importance of trends, but it was also a personal statement about yourself as an artist.

15 to 20 points: you are a **proton!**

Your personality: You're a positive force to be reckoned with. You're a bit of a slacker, but people tend to gravitate towards your good vibes. This is your ninth "sick day" this semester, and if you go for ten, you're probably gonna have to barf up a lung... better make this one count. Life moves pretty fast, and if you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it. You do actually have a test today (that part wasn't bullshit), but it's on European socialism. You ask yourself: what's the point? You're not European, you don't plan on being European, and you don't give a crap if they were fascist anarchists or what. None of it changes the fact that you don't own a car.

21 to 26 points: you are a **neutron**!
Your personality: You are a neutron.

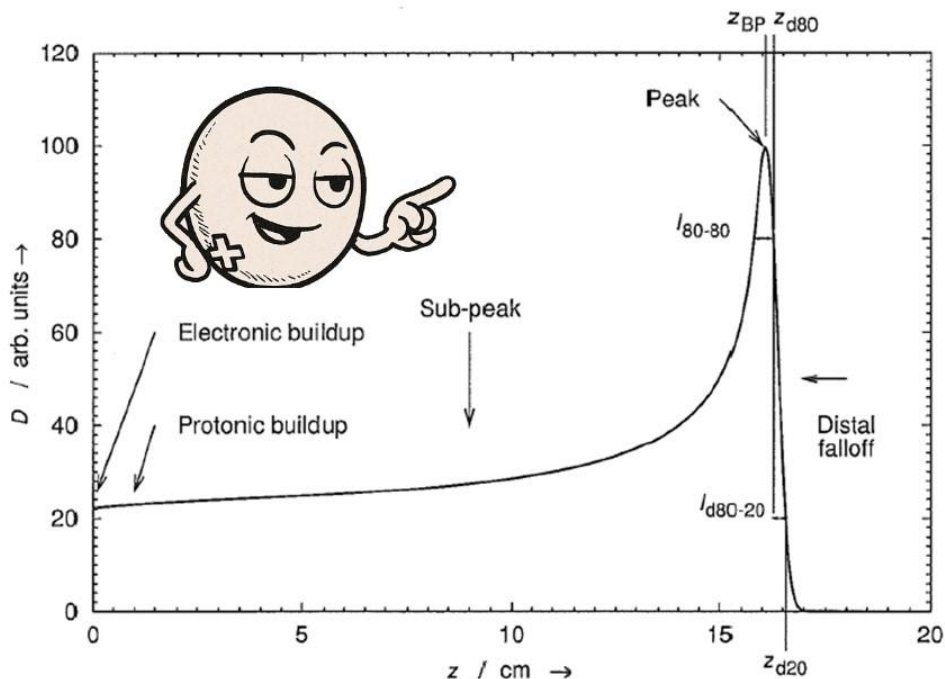
27 to 32 points: you are an **electron**!
Your personality: Your negativity and pessimism are sights to behold, but you're proud of that. You're always willing to offer unsolicited advice or criticisms, and the guilt keeps you from ever getting a good night's sleep. You toss and turn, wondering what you're doing with your life. When you go to the gym, all you do is run. What are you running from? You're not sure... you just know that you can't look back. You're not going that way.

above 32 points: you are a **neutrino**!
Your personality: I dunno, I had a tough time observing you speeding to the bottom of this article.

****Conflict of Interest**** - Dummy Source has accepted money from protons and is a shareholder of electrons. Dummy Source also had a really awkward date with a positron, nothing untoward or problematic happened, but they feel like they can't be around them without feeling any tension or weird vibes.

Protons

Cure for the common PDD!



Here is the promise of H.R. Roberts, PhD

TO ALL MEDICAL PHYSICISTS, DOSIMETRISTS, AND TECHNOLOGISTS:

For over 30 years, I have conducted business with those in your profession, and have walked the halls of your hospitals and clinics. In this time, I have heard the cries of those suffering with inferior methods of tracking quality assurance. Know you this: I have listened to your sighs and have taken your grumblings to heart.



QA IS MY CREED, TOLERANCES, MY TESTAMENT

I have calloused my hands from positioning phantoms. I have stood in the beam's path (not literally, for I value my marrow, but spiritually) as a guardian of precision and steward of safety. I have stared into the cold, unblinking eye of a CT scanner and whispered, "Your uniformity will not falter under my watch." The moment I emerged from my mother's womb, I was wrapped in a 0.5 mm Pb equivalent apron and sought only one thing: ACCURACY. I began by calibrating my baby monitor, and soon moved on to performing end-to-end tests on the family television. By age 12 I was tracking the trend from baseline of our toaster.

THE SOFTWARE I SELL IS THE SOFTWARE I USE

When I perform QA, I do so with the very same tracking software that I offer you, my esteemed colleagues. I do not peddle in bloatware or makeshift solutions, but only the most robust and validated QA tracking tools legally available. My system is so elegant, so audit-friendly, that it has brought the ACR to tears of joy.

I WILL GIVE YOU A SQUARE DEAL. NOT A CIRCULAR COLLIMATOR ERROR, NOT A TRIANGULAR UNCERTAINTY DISTRIBUTION. A SQUARE DEAL.

I have listened to every technologist's lament, every physicist's passive-aggressive email. You have my solemn vow that our pricing is as low as it can be without compromising quality. And should you find a better QA tracking system than mine, I will personally recalibrate my soul.

H.R. Roberts, PhD, President and Gen. Mgr.
Beamline QA Systems, Inc.

Nuggets of Wisdom

By Pete Watson

How come nobody talks about the largepox epidemic? It was probably worse than smallpox if size has anything to do with it.

If Sweden and Denmark ever decided to merge together, the resulting country would probably be named Sweden/Denmark.

I once attended a party *in situ*, where beverages were served *in vitro* and video games were played *in silico*. We would have listened to *in utero*, but were having too much fun *in vivo*. Came home *in ebriated*.

You know the expression "firing on all four cylinders"? Well, in Egypt they have a similar expression, but it's "firing on all four pyramids." This is actually derived from the ancient Greek expression, "firing on all four conic sections."

Sometimes I feel bad about not going to medical school, but then I remember that "doctor" is also a pejorative synonym for deceptively altering something, and suddenly I don't feel so bad!

The times tables are so overrated, multiplication is just a rich man's addition.



What are people saying about Dummy Source?

"This has no right being this funny." -My Wife

"Indulgent and self-serving, with many glaring omissions."
-My PhD Supervisor

"It's good, but they don't know their physics." -Harold Johns

"They're the only ones with the balls to say what everyone else is thinking" -Joe Rogan

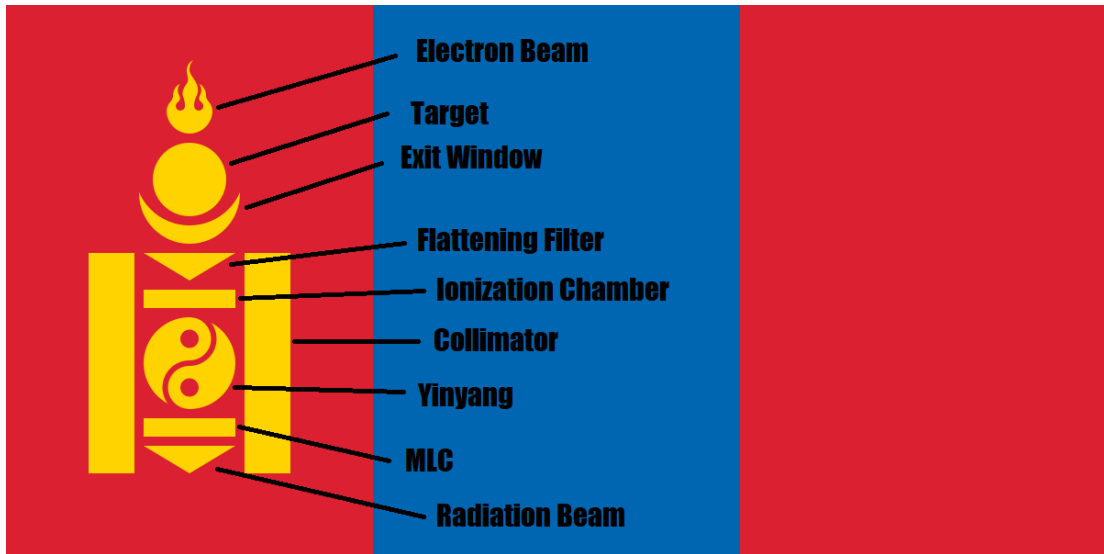
"Too artsy, too intellectual." -Patrick Bateman

What aren't people saying about Dummy Source?

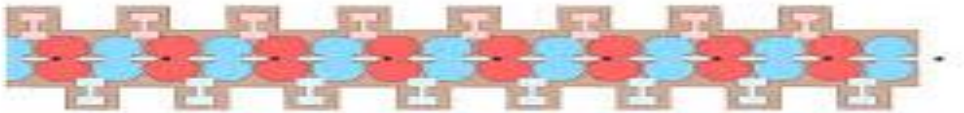
"Excellent use of time and resources. Promoted!"
-My Chief Physicist

The Mongolinac Horde

- If you ever forget the components in the head of a linac, just remember the flag of Mongolia!



- If you ever forget that "linac" stands for "linear accelerator", just remember the capital of Mongolia!
Ulan Bator ---> Ulinear Baccelerator



From the Editor

Thank you for reading the inaugural issue of *Dummy Source*, a quarterly newsletter FOR physicists BY physicists. In these trying times, I thought we all could use a laugh and look at the lighter side of our profession. These are early days and we're still trying to figure out what this newsletter is all about, but you can count on indulgent niche jokes and the kind of high IQ comedy that nerds like us yearn, nay, crave for.

-P



Coming up in the next issue of *Dummy Source* - **The Holiday Issue!**
Send your submissions to dummy.source@proton.me by 1 Dec 2025