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Rabex History & its inception in 1995

The concept of a radiobiology practice examination was discussed in the early 1990's. After some encouragement from my colleagues, Drs. L. R. Coia, S. Shahabi, and B. Corn, I agreed to become Editor-in-Chief of this endeavor that produced its first exam in 1995. In 1999, the fifth consecutive radiobiology practice examination was produced at a quality level that has improved in each successive year. The goals of this project were: 1) to provide an educational tool (typical questions with comprehensive answers) for assisting residents of diagnostic radiology and radiation oncology in self-study and preparation for their American College of Radiology board exams in this field of science, 2) to extend the teaching of traditional radiobiology into the new era of molecular biology, and 3) to provide a national scoring system that provided some information about relative standing. Most of these goals have now been achieved, but only after a difficult learning curve. Each year, questions were generated by Associate Editors who are involved directly in the teaching of radiobiology to medical residents. From these, 300 questions of the A, B and X formats were selected and edited for inclusion in the annual exam. Although complete answers to each guestion were requested from their authors, several answers in support of the correct choice were either not provided or were not very informative. References in the answer sections to Hall and a page number refer to the standard radiobiology textbook entitled RADIOBIOLOGY FOR THE RADIOLOGIST, 4th Edition by E. J. Hall and published by J. B. Lippincott Company in 1994. Complete references are included to other cited works. It fell upon the Editor-in-Chief to determine the appropriate explanation for several questions. Some Associate Editors have faithfully served for each of the five years while others could only serve for a portion of that time. The names of all participants in the project are listed on page iv.

This compilation of the best questions from the first five radiobiology practice exams required extensive additional editing and formatting that was accomplished with the assistance of my wife, Beverly, who is a computer-publishing expert and my best friend. She has devoted over 200 hours of her time to the project and deserves much of the credit for any success. I have proofread the questions and answers several times and am responsible for any remaining errors in the questions, their answers and/or typos. We trust that this project in radiation oncology and radiology medical education will find a useful niche in the formal instruction of future medical scholars. Dr. S. Shahabi has provided moral support and encouragement throughout this project and during this larger task of formatting and producing the compilation.

J.D. Chapman, Ph.D.

Editor-in-Chief Fox Chase Cancer Institute January 2000

Siamak Shahabi, PhD Chief-Technical Editor Advanced Medical Publisjing, Inc., USA