



**THE** | SHAPING A  
**TECHMED** | HEALTHY  
**EVENT** | FUTURE

11:00-12:15 | AI & HEALTH: FROM BENCH TO BEDSIDE | CHARLOTTE BROUWER

# DEEP LEARNING IN RADIOTHERAPY

Dr. ir. Charlotte L. Brouwer – **University Medical Center Groningen**

# DISCLOSURE SLIDE





# DEPARTMENT OF RADIATION ONCOLOGY

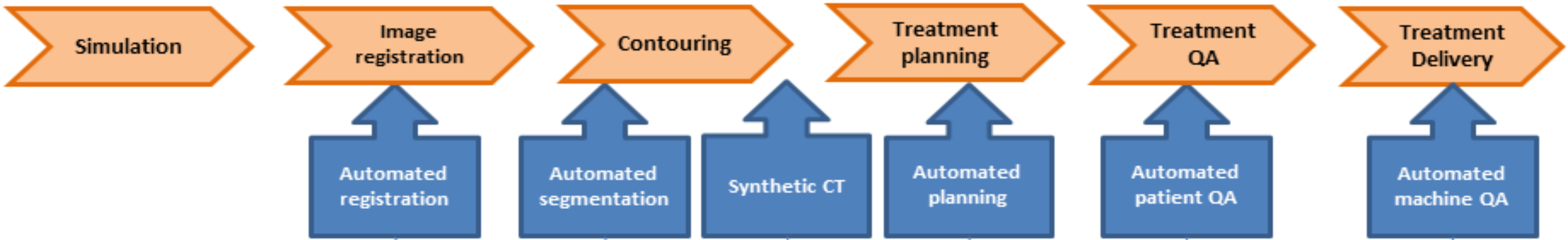
## UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER GRONINGEN

- 4500 patients/y
- 2 locations (Groningen + Emmen)
- 8 linear accelerators, orthovolt, brachytherapy
- 2 gantries proton therapy (jan 2018) 600 patients/y
- 40 radiation oncologists
- 19 medical physicists
- >100 technicians



# AI IN RADIO THERAPY

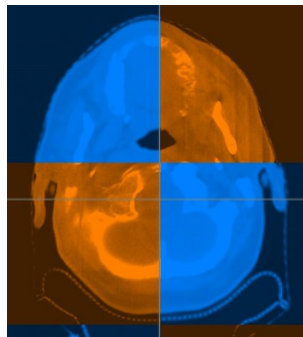
## DEEP LEARNING APPLICATIONS



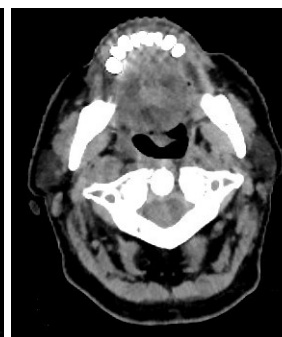
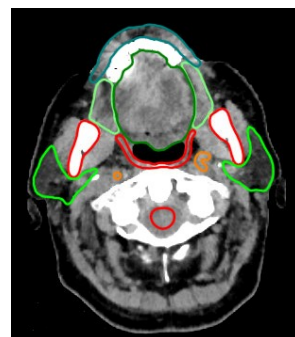
### Legend

(Adaptive) radiotherapy workflow

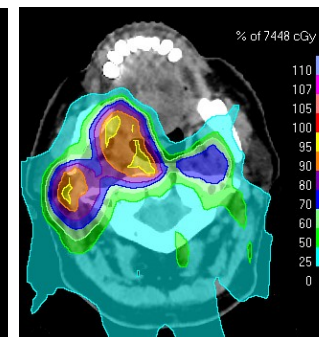
AI applications (ML/DL)



MR and  
PET-CT



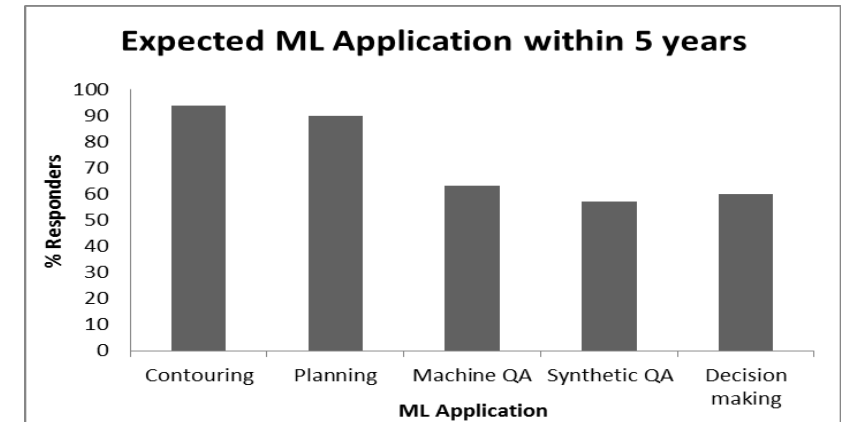
From MR  
or CBCT



# RADIOTHERAPY AI SURVEY RESULTS 2020

EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR RADIATION ONCOLOGY

- 213 medical physicists from 202 radiotherapy departments and 40 countries
- Clinical application of machine learning based applications: 37%
- Contouring (segmentation) and Treatment planning main applications
- Main motivation for introduction:
  1. Time saving & Quality improvement
  2. Increased consistency
  3. Saving resources



# RADIOTHERAPY AI SURVEY RESULTS 2020

## CHALLENGES

- Resistance/fear against automation/AI
- Guidance needed in clinical implementation

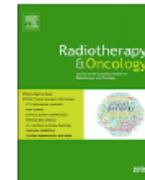
Radiotherapy and Oncology 153 (2020) 55–66



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Review Article

Overview of artificial intelligence-based applications in radiotherapy:  
Recommendations for implementation and quality assurance



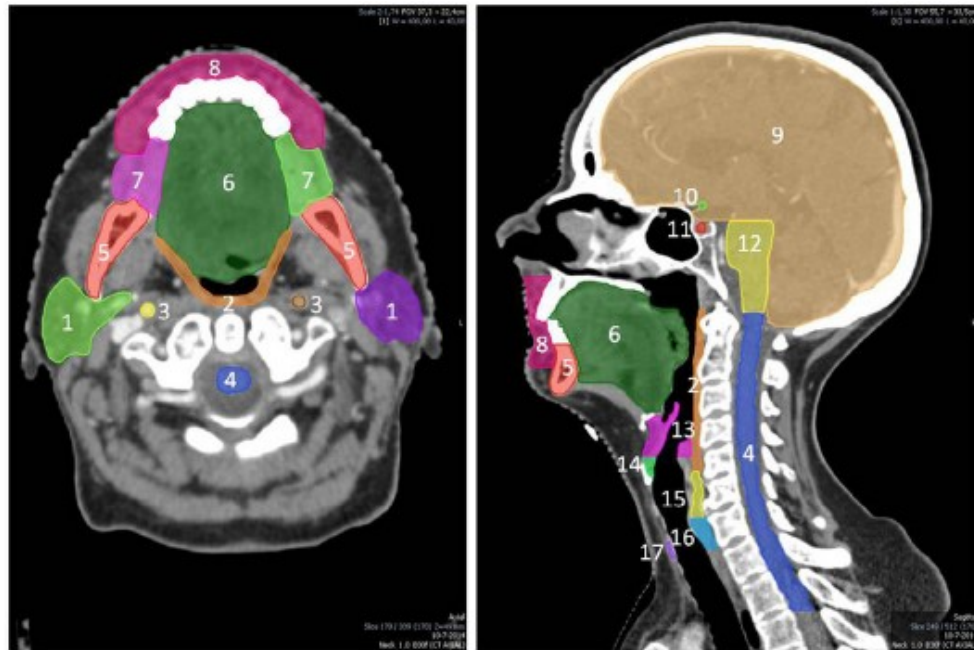
Liesbeth Vandewinckele<sup>a,b,1</sup>, Michaël Claessens<sup>c,d,1</sup>, Anna Dinkla<sup>e,1,\*</sup>, Charlotte Brouwer<sup>f</sup>, Wouter Crijs<sup>a,b</sup>,  
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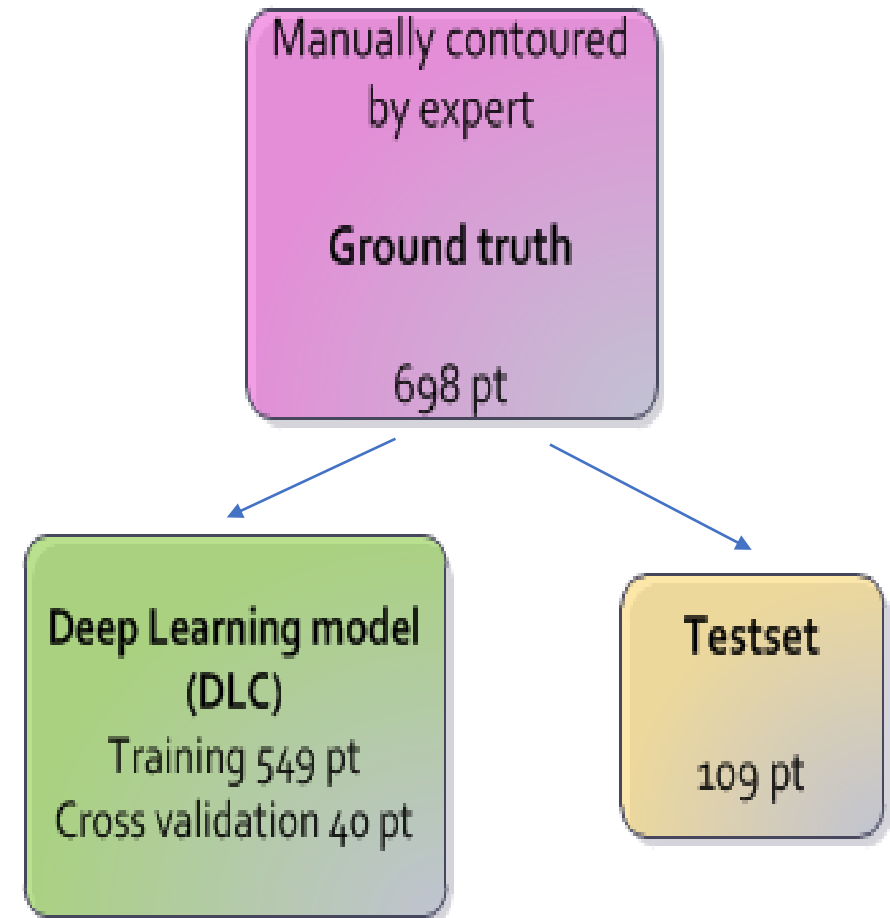
# EXAMPLE: DEEP LEARNING AUTO-SEGMENTATION

## MODEL TRAINING

Head and neck organs at risk



*Brouwer et al. Radioth Oncol 2015*



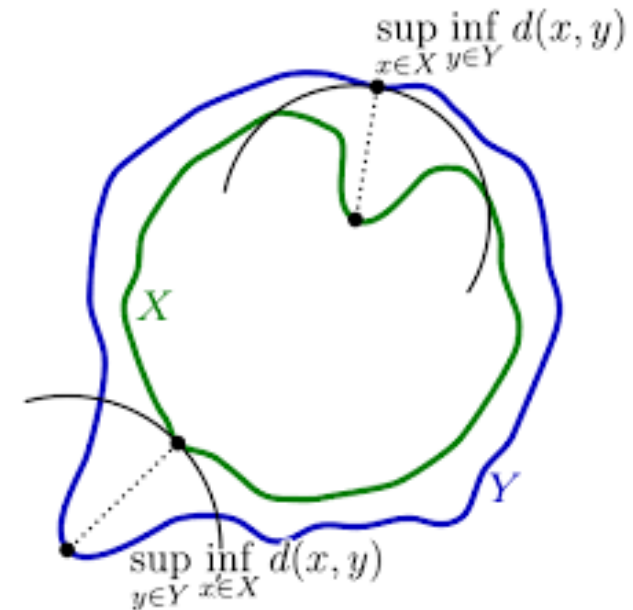
*Van Dijk et al. Radioth Oncol 2020*



# EXAMPLE: DEEP LEARNING AUTO-SEGMENTATION

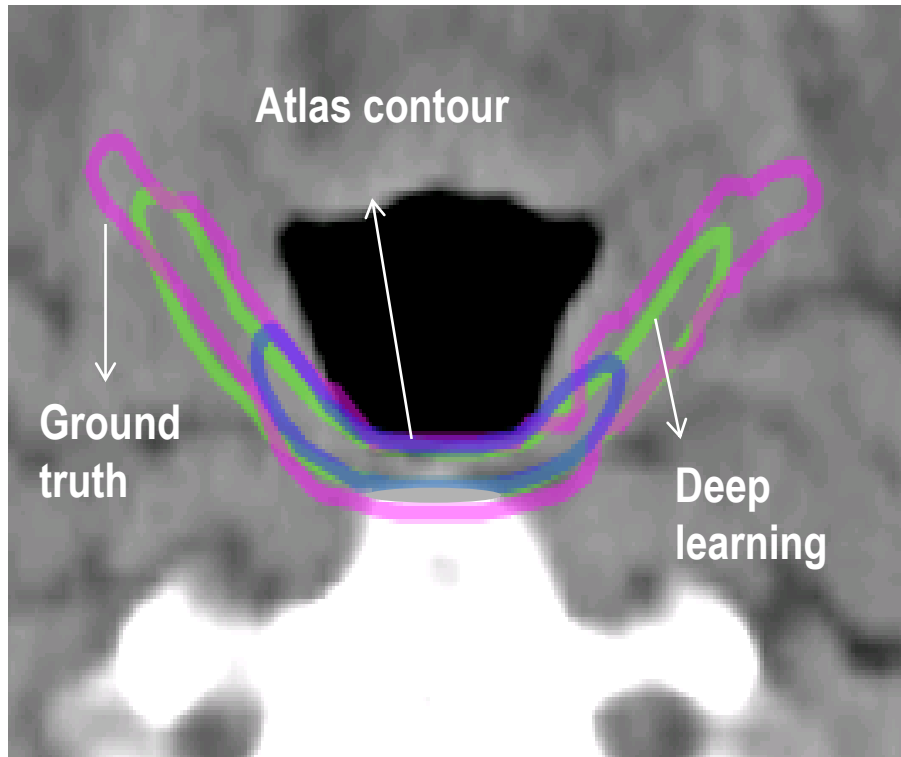
## MODEL EVALUATION METHODS

- Test set 109 patients, ground truth, atlas and deep learning
- Quantitative analysis:
  - Overlap
  - Distance
  - Volume
  - Radiotherapy dose
- Qualitative analysis:
  - Time saving
  - Turing Test



# EXAMPLE: DEEP LEARNING AUTO-SEGMENTATION

## MODEL EVALUATION RESULTS



Van Dijk et al. Radioth Oncol 2020

		DICE	HD	Adose	Corr. needed
<b>Glandular</b>	Parotid L	Green	Green	Green	Green
	Parotid R	Green	Green	Green	Green
	Submandibular L	Green	Green	Green	Green
	Submandibular R	Green	Green	Green	Green
	Thyroid	Green	Green	Green	Green
<b>Upper digestive tract</b>	Cricoid	Green	Green	Green	Green
	Glottic area	Green	Green	Green	Green
	Oral cavity	Blue	Green	Green	Orange
	PCM	Green	Green	Green	Green
	Buccal Mucosa L	Green	Green	Green	Green
	Buccal Mucosa R	Green	Green	Blue	Green
	Esophagus	Green	Blue	Green	Green
	Supraglottic	Green	Green	Green	Green
	Arytenoid L	Green	Blue	Green	Green
	Arytenoid R	Green	Blue	Green	Green
<b>CNS, mandibular, vessels</b>	Brainstem	Orange	Orange	Blue	Green
	Cerebellum	Blue	Blue	Blue	Green
	Cerebrum	Orange	Blue	Blue	Green
	Spinal cord	Orange	Orange	Orange	Green
	Mandible	Green	Green	Blue	Green
	Carotid L	Green	Green	Green	Green
	Carotid R	Green	Green	Green	Green

■ DLC better    ■ ABAS better  
■ no significant difference

# EXAMPLE: DEEP LEARNING AUTO-SEGMENTATION

## TIME SAVING

- Head and neck organs of 19 patients
- Parotid and submandibular glands, thyroid, cricoid, glottic area, oral cavity and pharyngeal constrictor muscles
- Significant time reduction deep learning vs. atlas-based segmentation for beginner observer

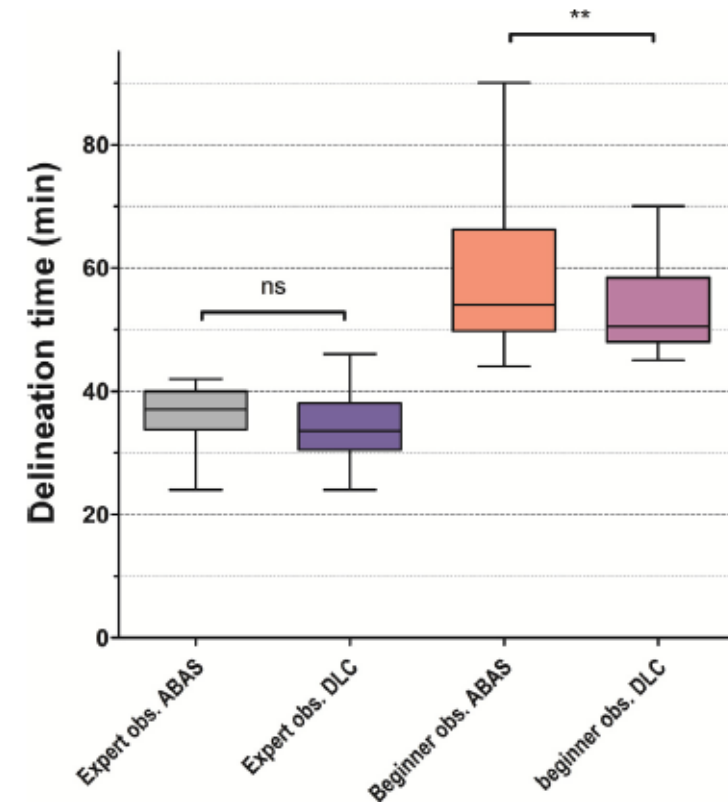
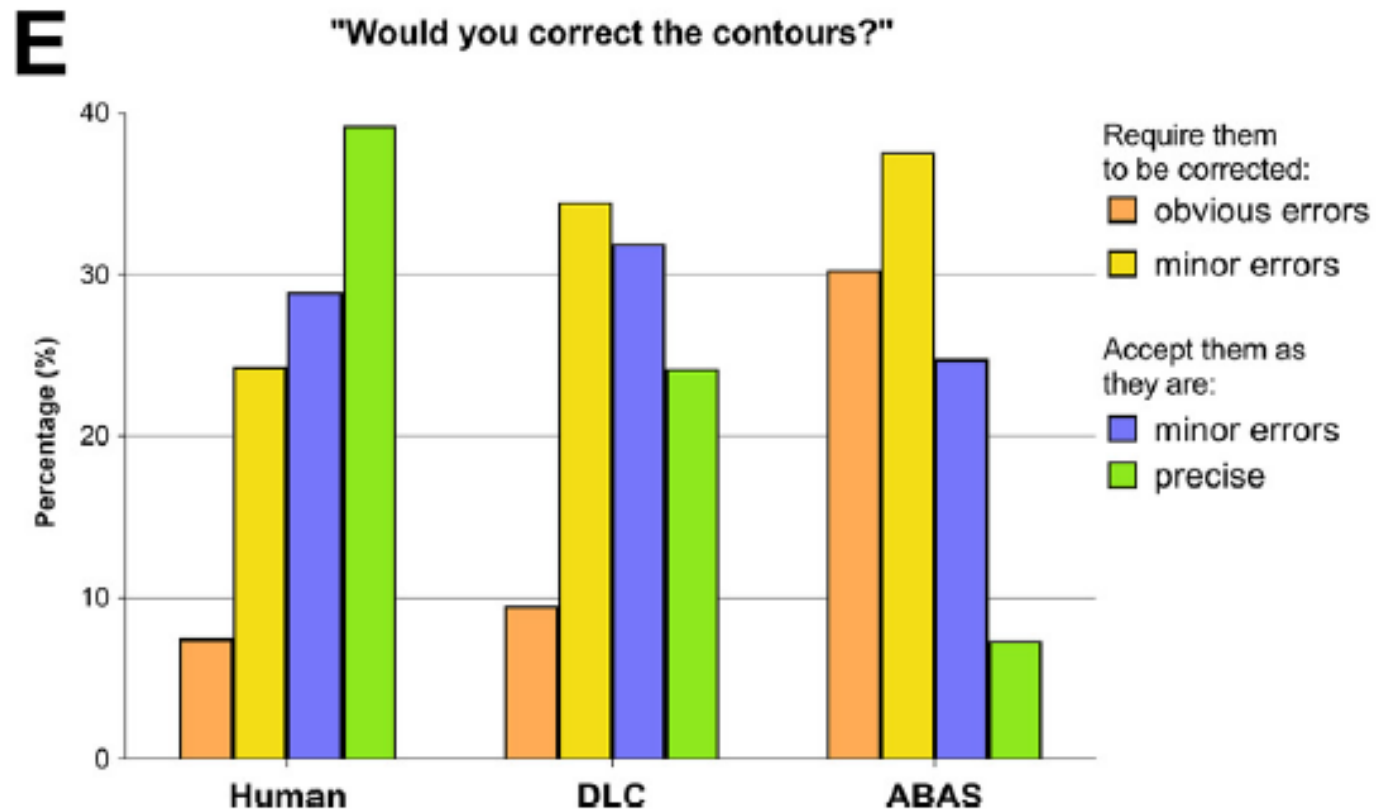


Fig. 5. Time evaluation for adjusting 7 OARs with ABAS vs. DLC for the expert and beginner observer (noted as obs.).

# EXAMPLE: DEEP LEARNING AUTO-SEGMENTATION

## TURING TEST

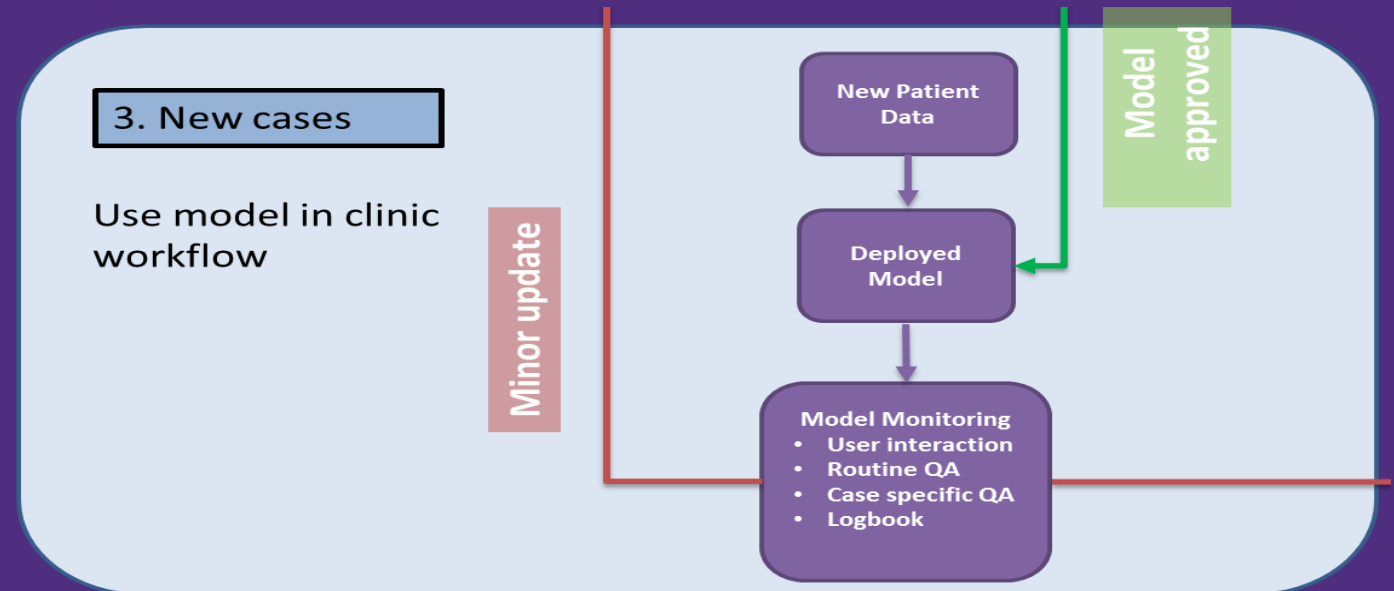




# AI IN CLINICAL PRACTICE

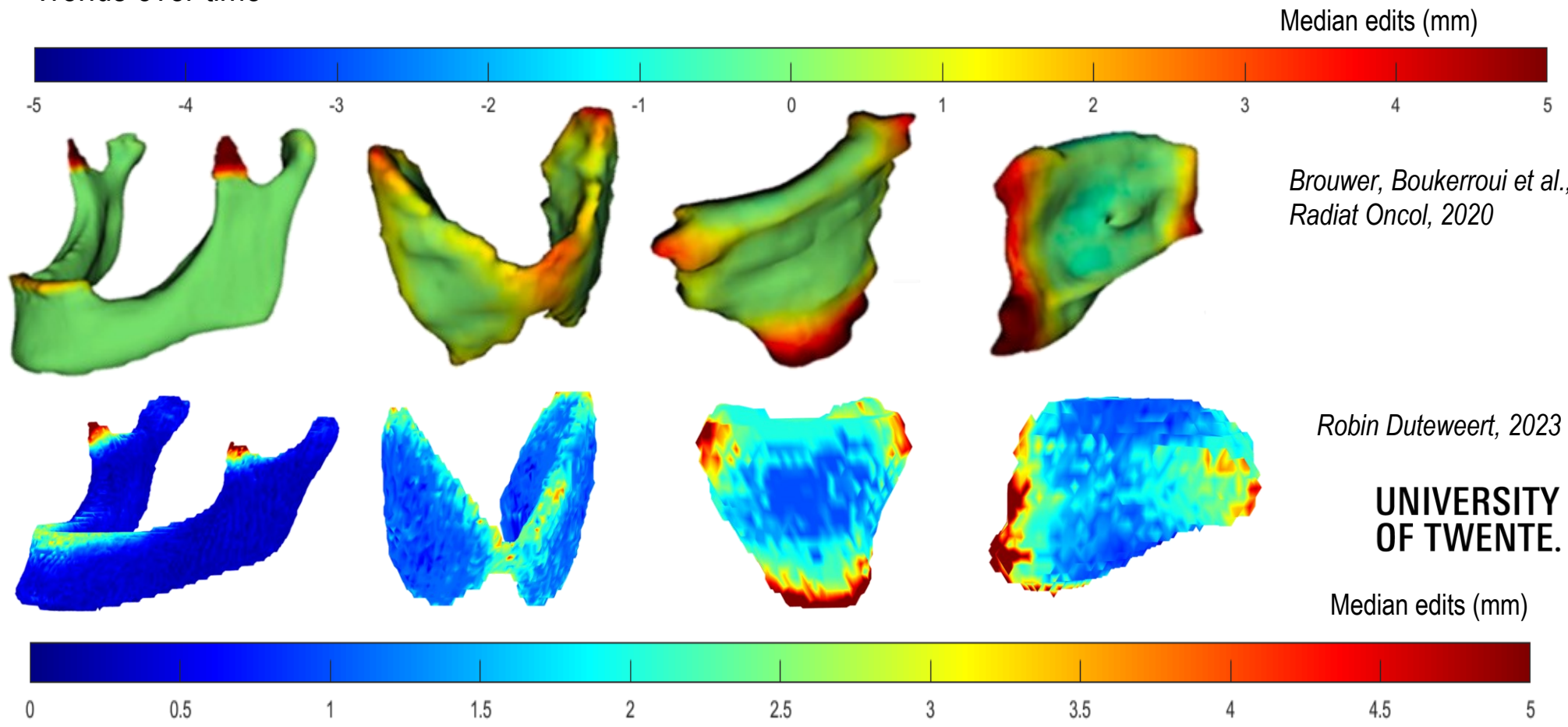
## MODEL MONITORING

- Patient specific QA
- Routine QA
- Monitoring user interactions



# QA: MONITORING USER INTERACTION

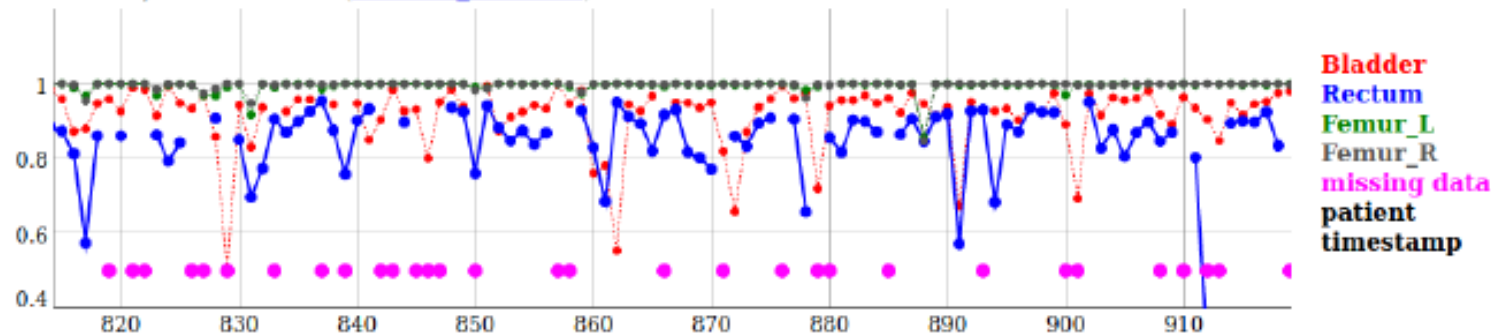
- Consistency in acceptance of deep learning contour?
- Guideline compliance?
- Trends over time



# QA: MONITORING USER INTERACTION

**Prostate OAR auto-segmentation scores (wrt clinical delineations)** Generated: Thu, 06 Oct 22 02:02:47 +0200

(volumetric) DICE score ([Prostate\\_DICE.csv](#))



*DLinRT Symposium October 2022, Alexis Kotte, UMCU*

# FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

## CAN AI QA ITSELF?

- Full automation needed to benefit from AI
  - Online adaptive radiotherapy
  - Trust?
  - Human machine interface

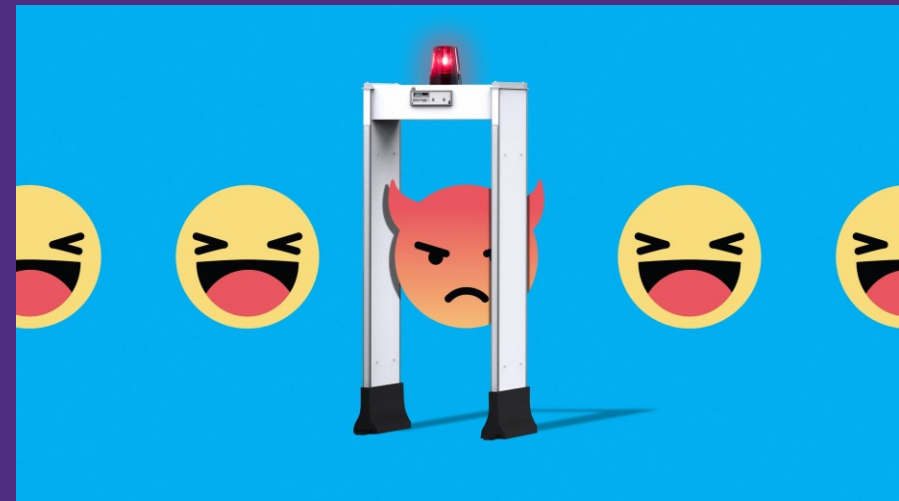


ILLUSTRATION: SAM WHITNEY; GETTY IMAGES



# AUTOMATED PATIENT SPECIFIC QA?


## SECONDARY ALGORITHM

Physics in Medicine & Biology



### PAPER

Machine learning-based detection of aberrant deep learning segmentations of target and organs at risk for prostate radiotherapy using a secondary segmentation algorithm

Michaël Claessens<sup>1,2</sup>, Verdi Vanreusel<sup>1</sup>, Geert De Kerf<sup>1</sup>, Isabelle Mollaert<sup>1</sup>, Fredrik Löfman<sup>3</sup>, Mark J Gooding<sup>4</sup> , Charlotte Brouwer<sup>5</sup>, Piet Dirix<sup>1,2</sup> and Dirk Verellen<sup>1,2</sup>

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**Keywords:** quality assurance, auto-segmentation, artificial intelligence, machine learning, deep learning, time-saving

# AUTOMATED PATIENT SPECIFIC QA?



## Quality Assurance for AI-Based Applications in Radiation Therapy

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Benjamin P. Ziemer, PhD,<sup>§</sup> Jessica E. Scholey, PhD,<sup>§</sup> Hui Lin, PhD,<sup>§</sup> Alon Witztum, PhD,<sup>§</sup>  
Olivier Morin, PhD,<sup>§</sup> Issam El Naqa, PhD,<sup>||</sup> Wouter Van Elmpt, PhD,<sup>#</sup> and Dirk Verellen, PhD<sup>†</sup>

Table 1 QA Tools for AI-Based Applications in RT

Application	Routine QA	Case-Specific QA
1. QA for AI-based auto-segmentation	Inter-institutional datasets <sup>27</sup> Software for auto segmented ROIs comparison <sup>28</sup> Turing test <sup>29</sup>	Statistical models <sup>17,18</sup> ML-based with features <sup>19-21</sup> ML-based secondary algorithm <sup>15,22,23</sup> DL-based probability/uncertainty maps <sup>24</sup>

# Uncertainty Assessment for Deep Learning Radiotherapy Applications

Cornelis A.T. van den Berg,<sup>\*</sup> and Ettore F. Meliadori<sup>†</sup>



Epistemic (model) uncertainties:

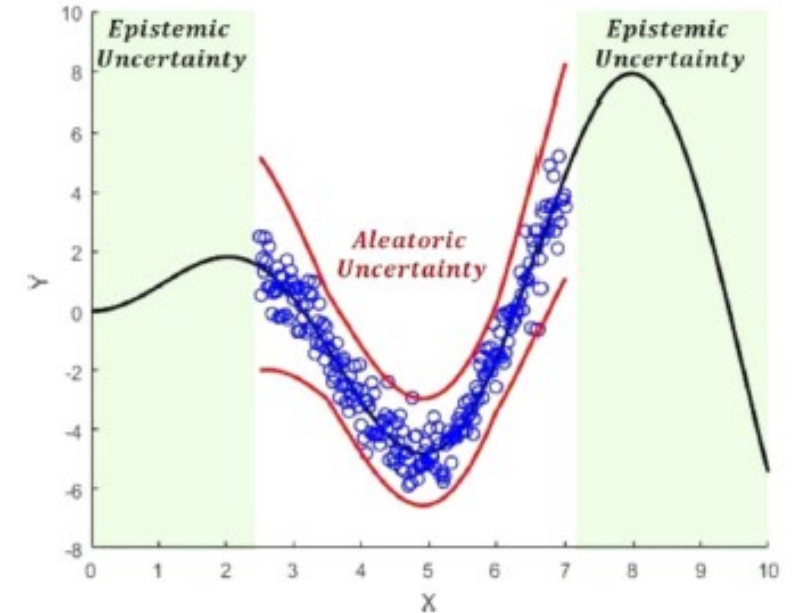
- Model limitations, approximation uncertainty
- Can be reduced by adding more data

Aleatoric (data) uncertainties:

- Related to random probability (stochastic process)
- Cannot be reduced by adding more data

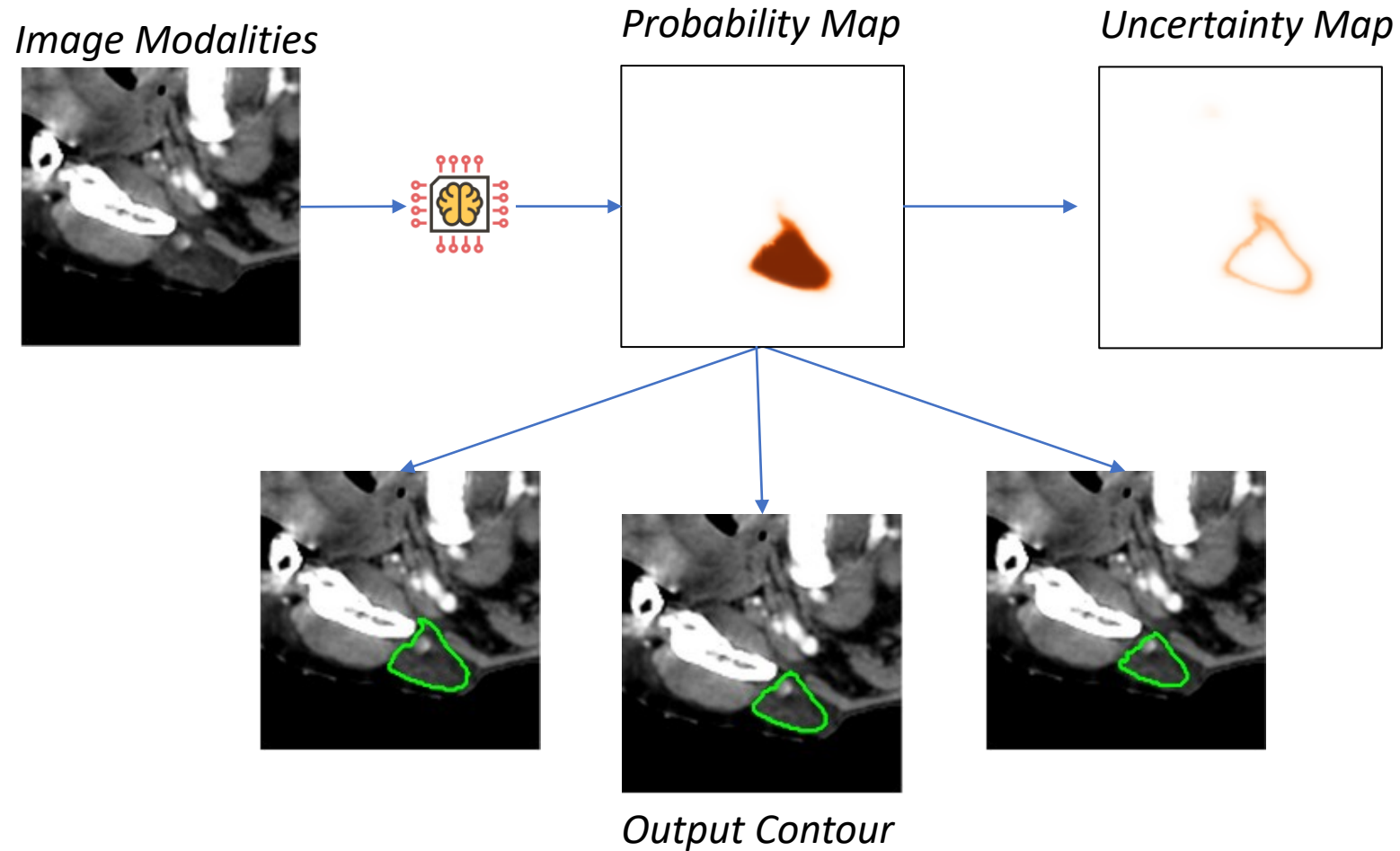
Modeling uncertainty by e.g.

- Monte Carlo dropout
- Ensemble learning



**Figure 5** Illustration of aleatoric and epistemic uncertainties. While the epistemic uncertainty can be reduced by including more training data, the aleatoric uncertainty cannot be reduced because the stochastic component of the data always remains present.

# VISUALIZATION OF UNCERTAINTY



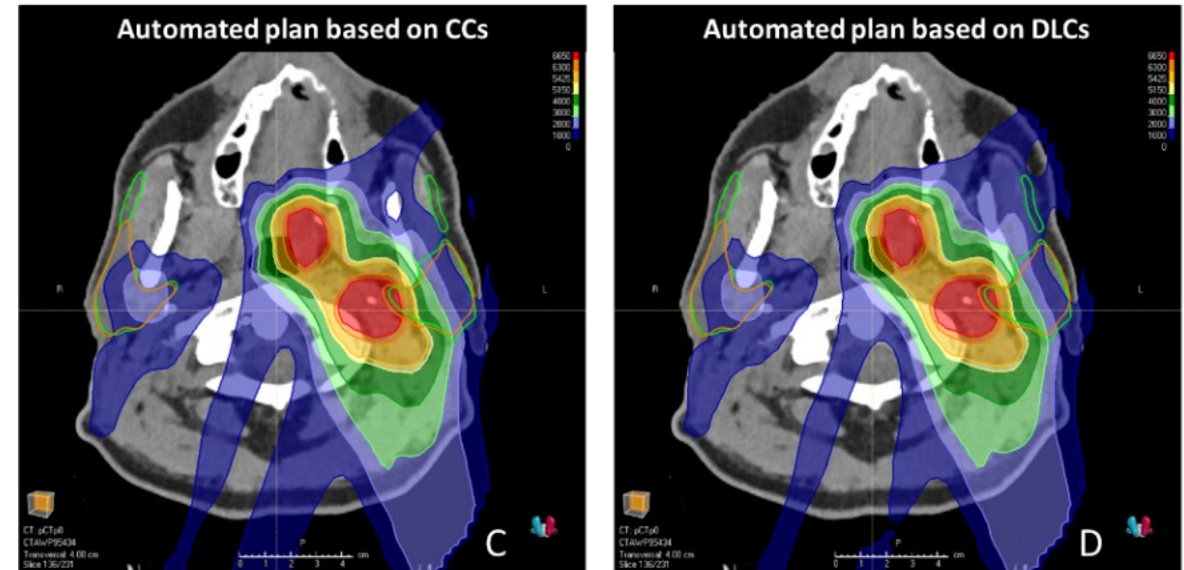
From: Alessia de Biase



# AUTOMATED PATIENT SPECIFIC QA?

## FUTURE

- Technical medicine research line
- Deep learning to detect clinically relevant errors



*Joelle van Aalst, 2023*

**UNIVERSITY  
OF TWENTE.**

# CONCLUSION

## DEEP LEARNING IN RADIOTHERAPY

- AI segmentation of healthy tissue adopted on large scale in clinical practice
- Other applications (treatment planning, synthetic imaging) upcoming
- To improve models and facilitate clinical adoption
  - Optimize and harmonize ground truth definition
  - Develop & integrate automated QA aspects within clinical workflow
- Multi-disciplinary collaboration of all parties involved is and remains crucial





# Seminars in Radiation Oncology

Akila Viswanathan, MD, MPH  
Editor

## Artificial Intelligence: Methods and Applications in Radiotherapy

Guest Editors

Charlotte L. Brouwer  
Ke Sheng



<http://www.semradonc.com>



# Seminars in RADIATION ONCOLOGY

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