

TPM and the “Beautiful Virus”

Whilst visiting a client’s site to review the kick-off and roll out of a TPM programme, we had a chance meeting with the Quality Manager who was very enthusiastic about using TPM to support their objectives. During the conversation they said something that delighted us but first let’s explain the background.

Having carried out a number of pilots to demonstrate the value and effect of TPM, the site was rolling out the programme into more production areas. The results were strong, as were the levels of engagement and enthusiasm.

And so, returning to the Quality Manager and an impromptu chat over coffee and hot chocolate. They were clearly excited about the potential of TPM to help with their quality agenda but we wanted to understand what it was that had created this wonderful enthusiasm. They went onto to explain that TPM was spreading like a virus across the site, which made us a bit nervous regarding the choice of wording and context. However, they went on to describe how areas of the site were asking to start TPM and in some cases were just going ahead without asking management permission. They said it is like a “Beautiful Virus” that spreads on its own.

The Quality Manager went onto explain that as antibiotics become less effective against bacteria, there is an area of research in many countries using viruses as a weapon against infection and disease. The viruses are called “Macrophages” or “Phages”, which is Greek for “Big Eaters” or “Eaters”. They are being developed to target specific conditions including cancer and showing great promise for the future.

They explained that in every area that starts TPM, production losses are being eliminated and costs reduced.

They described TPM as; “It’s like a Beautiful Virus that spreads on its own and everywhere it goes it kills losses”.

We think that’s quite a commendation.

References:

- 1 SDSU scientists discover new way for viruses to fight bacteria -<http://www.thedailyaztec.com/71279/news/sdsu-scientists-discover-new-way-for-viruses-to-fight-bacteria/#sthash.96bCyqkJ.dpuf>
- 2 Cancer treatment that promises to 'obliterate' tumours to be given to patients for the first time - <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3329792/The-Trojan-horse-therapy-promises-destroy-prostate-tumours-hiding-cancer-killing-viruses-immune-system.html>