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Editorial

We are pleased to present the second issue of the third volume of the Journal of Radiotherapy in Practice. We are very pleased to continue to receive good quality articles from a range of different countries and on a variety of subjects.

If you are considering submitting an article, you will find the instructions to authors a useful guide, found at the back of the Journal or you may prefer to contact a member of the Editorial Board for guidance. We will be pleased to advise you.

For all of us working in Radiotherapy, these are exciting times and the papers presented in this issue reflect some of the technological advancements which impact on accuracy of treatment delivery and verification techniques. There is also the paradox of introducing and implementing new technology while maintaining a treatment service that may hinder innovation.

In the first paper, Garcia-Alvarez, Liney and Beavis from Hull, provide evidence of how the use of functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging can contribute to the treatment planning process for Intensity Modulated radiotherapy (IMRT) in intracranial tumours. This paper is essential reading for all those interested in IMRT.

The theme of IMRT is continued in the second paper by Helen McNair et al., from the Royal Marsden Hospital Trust, Sutton who present their experiences and the practicalities of implementing IMRT for patients with advanced prostate cancer, into the routing workload of the radiotherapy department. The authors outline the process involved in developing appropriate quality assurance and verification procedures and highlight the need for staff development.

O'Shea and McCavana undertake a review of surface dose detectors in radiotherapy and make recommendations on the best method in relation to performing surface and build-up dose measurements to determine the effects of beam modifying devices on skin dose.

In the fourth article, Kim Bichan from the Cromwell Hospital London, undertakes a critical review of the literature to review the role of the conventional simulator with the advancement and use of the CT-simulator. Kim argues that although there is a role for the new technology, there is still a role for the traditional simulator.

Dr Gareth Rees, Chairman of the Clinical Oncology Patient Liaison Group presents an interesting article on the lay influence on service provision: impact of a Royal College Patient Liaison Group on radiotherapy departments. This article demonstrates the importance of enabling patients to have influence over service provision and how invaluable their input can be in improving practice and care.

In his literature review, George Dale from Glan Clwyd Hospital Wales, reviews articles on portal imaging in prostate cancer to produce evidence based portal imaging protocol. George explores the online and offline approaches of electronic portal imaging and the methodological approaches adopted to produce a workable protocol.

Laurie, Chao and Dow from Victoria, Australia present a case study to explore the issues involved in radiation induced liver disease and ask the question, is hereditary haemochromatosis a risk factor?

To complete this issue, Kathy Cooke et al. present a technical note which describes a port film graticule to be used to determine the central axis of a portal image, when used with megavoltage film or on-line portal imaging.

We are delighted to announce the support of the journal for the inaugural Radiotherapy in Practice conference to be held in Sheffield during September (please see announcement on back cover of this issue). We shall be publishing abstracts from keynote lectures and proffered papers from this conference, in a forthcoming issue of JRP.

This promises to be an exciting and innovative conference, which integrates sessions for postgraduate students, within and alongside the conference proper. The aim is to ensure that delegates emerge with something tangible to take away from the conference, providing evidence of learning and development for CPD. We look forward to seeing you there.

Angela Duxbury and David Eddy
Editors-in-Chief

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