

## Editorial

As we commence the fourth volume of the *Journal of Radiotherapy in Practice*, we are delighted to announce that we have new publishers. Cambridge University Press (CUP) who have recently taken over Greenwich Medical Media. The Editors and members of the Editorial Board, look forward to a long and fruitful association. This development will result in an improved and more integrated service for JRP subscribers and contributors, with subscriptions, customer service enquiries, typesetting, printing and distribution all undertaken on site at CUP. Further information about CUP can be found in the section 'From the Publisher.'

This is an exciting time for the JRP, which into its fourth volume, has established itself as a quality peer reviewed publication dedicated to the sharing of practice in all current modalities specific to clinical oncology and radiotherapy. The Editors and members of the Editorial Board are currently involved in a restructuring process which will allow the appointment of additional board members from the UK and overseas, to reflect the growing international diversity of our subscribers and contributors.

It is also timely in the evolution of the journal to revise and expand our list of reviewers to help deal with the increasing number of submissions we are receiving. To this end, the Editors-in-Chief would welcome expressions of interest from colleagues wishing to participate in peer review of articles for the JRP. After all, this is one way of demonstrating learning and development for CPD, so pick up the phone or e-mail us today!

Rapid progress is now being made in the development of the JRP website and a range of on-line services which will make the JRP more visible and accessible to the radiotherapy and oncology community world-wide. From the next volume of JRP (Volume 5) we will have the facility for on-line submission, review and amendment of

articles, which can only enhance turnaround times from submission of articles to publication. To review work in progress, please visit our website at [www.journals.cambridge.org/jid\\_JRP](http://www.journals.cambridge.org/jid_JRP)

During this volume of JRP we will also commence a regular CPD series comprising a range of articles to support and underpin this pivotal activity for all health care professionals working in the field of Radiotherapy & Oncology. It is timely therefore, that the first article in this issue from Halkett et al, coincidentally reflects the philosophy which will underpin this development by providing guidance on developing a research question and identifying the steps involved in developing an appropriate methodology, before rooting this 'in practice' to demonstrate the application of these approaches.

With an international shortage of therapy radiographers and medical oncologists and with cancer services treating increasing numbers of patients, the pressure on existing staff to deliver a quality service continues to increase at a time of rapid change in both technological development and professional role and responsibilities. It is interesting therefore, in this 'high pressure' context to see the findings of the study undertaken by Helen French, looking at the occupational stresses and coping mechanisms of therapy radiographers. This aspect is important to consider at a time when retention of existing staff is a priority and this area may merit further study.

Equally timely in this context and again rooted 'in practice', Joanne Cameron offers a perspective upon some of the issues surrounding role expansion with a particular focus upon radiographer led review clinics. It is important to share practice and encourage debate in this increasingly common area for role extension and development in the UK. We look forward to receiving letters discussing the issues raised here and the experience of other colleagues in this aspect of practice.

The fourth article in this issue explores the management options for the treatment of vestibular

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The Journal is delighted to announce that Angela Duxbury has been conferred the title of Professor in Therapy Radiography. Our congratulations to Professor Duxbury.

schwannomas, a benign but potentially fatal condition due to its proximity to critical structures. Kristy Hickey draws on her previous experience as a treatment radiographer at the Gamma Knife Centre, Cromwell Hospital, London by investigating how surgical and technological advances have resulted in altered approaches to the management of this rare but important condition and advocates an increasing role for stereotactic radiosurgery in this area of practice.

The next article in this issue emphasises the need to develop an evidence-based approach to our practice. Carolyn Pacitti explores this in the context of the symptomatic management of oropharyngeal mucositis and concludes that a consistent approach to this problem is currently lacking. This is a thought provoking message given the frequency with which our patients experience this type of reaction and emphasises yet again the importance of sharing information and practice. Publication of these findings in peer-reviewed journals such as JRP can only serve to enhance our resolve to seek to improve the quality and consistency of service we provide for our patients.

In the final article of this issue Pete Bridge discusses the potential benefits of hadron therapy compared with conventional radiotherapy. This will be of great interest to those of you with a physics or radiobiological leaning.

We would like to take this opportunity to provide you with advanced notice of the 2nd Radiotherapy in Practice conference, which will be hosted at Sheffield Hallam University in association with the JRP on September 17th and 18th 2005. More information will follow shortly regarding conference themes, but an overarching focus will be one of showcasing solutions as opposed to highlighting problems.

Finally, as Editors-in-Chief we would continue to encourage colleagues to interact with the JRP and the members of the Editorial Board. It is your journal and we welcome and crave your involvement, participation and views. Please let us know how the JRP can be improved to further enable us to meet your needs?

*David Eddy and Angela Duxbury*  
*Editors in Chief*