

EDITORIAL

Welcome to Volume 4 Issue 4 of the *Journal of Radiotherapy in Practice*.

As we come to the close of Volume 4, it is timely to look ahead to some exciting changes and developments, which will impact during 2006 and the publication of Volume 5 of the Journal.

During 2005, following Cambridge University Press becoming the new publishers of the *Journal of Radiotherapy in Practice*, subscribers have increasingly enjoyed online access to articles and issues via Cambridge Journals Online.

From Spring 2006, the *Journal of Radiotherapy in Practice* will be publishing papers on Cambridge Journals Online as soon as the author's corrections have been completed to the editors' approval, and before the paper is incorporated into a printed issue. To acknowledge this, a new reference item is added to the first page of the paper in the Journal catch-line; this is the DOI (Digital Object Identifier), and is a global publishers' standard. For each published paper there will be a unique DOI number created, which can be used for citation purposes in place of Volume, Issue and page numbers. This will facilitate early citation of papers that are published online before they have appeared in a printed issue.

The Journal will further benefit from plans to support authors via an online submission and peer review system. The *Journal of Radiotherapy in Practice* will shortly trial Scholar One's® Manuscript Central™, and plans to make the system available to authors towards the middle of Volume 5 (2006). The experience of Cambridge University Press with an ever-increasing number of its international journals has demonstrated that Manuscript Central™ is the system best designed to cater for the needs of the *Journal of Radiotherapy in Practice*; the online platform will guarantee the authors benefit from the advantages this offers over the current submission process by post and e-mail, a method which will be gradually phased out.

Manuscript Central™ is a secure password-protected online system, which will allow authors

to submit their manuscripts at any time from virtually anywhere in the world, and to track their progress through the editorial process. It is anticipated that the main benefits of the process will include a saving of time and an acceleration of the decision-making and eventual publication process.

The *Journal of Radiotherapy in Practice* will provide further information on these key developments to subscribers and authors as Manuscript Central™ becomes available during 2006. Full instructions for paper-free, online submission will follow at this time.

This has also been a busy time for the Editors-in-Chief of the *Journal of Radiotherapy in Practice*, as we have been involved in a restructuring of the Editorial Board over recent months. We are pleased therefore to welcome the following new members (to be incorporated in the Editorial Board list in publications from Volume 5, Issue 1) and look forward to working with them in the future: Peter Kirkbride (Sheffield, UK), Amanda Bolderston (Ontario, Canada), Penelope Engels-Hills (Western Peninsula, South Africa), Bozidar Casar (Ljubljana, Slovenia), Caroline Wright (Melbourne, Australia), Jane Head (Cambridge, UK) and Heidi Probst (Sheffield, UK).

It is also timely in the evolution of the *Journal of Radiotherapy in Practice* 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 the peer review of articles for the Journal. After all, this is one way of demonstrating learning and development for Continuing Professional Development (CPD), so pick up the phone or e-mail us today!

For this final issue of Volume 4, we include abstracts from papers proffered and presented at the Radiotherapy in Practice 2 (RIP2) conference, held at Sheffield Hallam University, UK, during September 2005. A number of those contributors are further developing work undertaken and

presented at the conference, for publication in future issues of the *Journal of Radiotherapy in Practice*. The publication of abstracts from RIP2 reflects the Journal's commitment to fostering the sharing and dissemination of practice at an international level. We are delighted to continue our association with this conference and will be publishing abstracts from the forthcoming Radiotherapy in Practice 3 conference, to be held in Sheffield, UK on September 9th and 10th 2006, towards the end of Volume 5.

Also in this issue, Rob Appleyard and colleagues follow up their initial publication in the Journal of work undertaken to review the implementation of systematic in vivo dosimetry at a UK clinical site, with a review of entrance dose measurements for a range of techniques and sites, to determine whether there is a need for different action/alert protocols for those different categories. The authors present their recommendations for each treatment category.

Liz Reeves et al undertake a timely systematic literature review of the current role of systemic therapy in the management of malignant melanoma. This is a disease which has an increasingly prominent public focus as the dangers of over exposure to sunlight continue to be brought to

the public's attention. Some interesting conclusions are drawn and some recommendations made for future study.

Also in this issue is an interesting contribution from our Polish colleagues, Zaucha et al. They undertook a retrospective analysis of treatment outcomes from a group of patients suffering from spinal cord ependymoma. En bloc microsurgical resection seems to offer an effective treatment outcome in this series of patients, with external beam radiotherapy in reserve for inoperable or incompletely excised tumours.

As Editors-in-Chief we continue to encourage colleagues to interact with the *Journal of Radiotherapy in Practice* and the members of the Editorial Board. It is your Journal and we welcome and encourage your involvement, participation and views. Please let us know how the *Journal of Radiotherapy in Practice* can be improved to further enable us to meet your needs? Please feel free to visit the online pages for the Journal via Cambridge Journals Online and the following website: www.journals.cambridge.org/jid_JRP

David Eddy and Angela Duxbury
Editors-in-Chief