

Editorial

We are pleased to present the fourth issue of the fifth volume of the *Journal of Radiotherapy in Practice*.

If you are considering submitting an article, you will find the instructions to authors a useful guide, available online at http://journals.cambridge.org/jid_JRP or you may prefer to contact a member of the Editorial Board for guidance.

For all of us working in radiotherapy, we continue to strive for service improvements and is it pleasing to publish research and experiences which have the potential to inform better treatment delivery and improved radiotherapy services.

In the first paper, Cowley and Thomas, from the Medical Physics Department at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge, describe a method to establish the setup accuracy of immobilisation devices without the use of ionising radiation. A laser scanning camera is used to assess the movement potential for a subject inside an immobilisation device with good accuracy and precision.

In the second article, Roberts and Stanley, from Cookridge Hospital in Leeds, and the UK's first Radiotherapy Centre to trial computed radiography, present their findings of an observer study comparison of computed radiography to electronic portal imaging.

Also in this issue, Armoogum *et al.*, from Ninewells Hospital in Dundee, give a detailed account of their experiences in the setting up and implementation of an intraoperative radiotherapy service. The authors present useful information on patient selection and details of treatment delivery, providing a useful model for introducing this new radiotherapy technique for the management of patients with cancer.

We also have a Canadian contribution in this issue. Sperduti *et al.* present their study of an internal control methodology using hydrocortisone cream for the management of skin reactions in patients receiving radical radiation therapy for cancers of the head and neck.

Next, Jo Treeby, an advanced practitioner at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge, discusses the issues and dilemmas in gaining consent for radical radiotherapy from patients with early stage prostate cancer. Jo emphasises that practitioners have a duty of care to ensure that patients receive a level of information appropriate to their level of understanding and ability to absorb knowledge, and longstanding legal precedents are established to ensure that risks as well as benefits of treatment are discussed with patients.

The theme of prostate cancer continues with an article by Elizabeth Sharman, a senior radiographer from Derby, who undertakes a critical evaluation of the clinical value of high-dose rate brachytherapy in the treatment of prostate cancer.

In the final paper, Martin *et al.*, based at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Australia, present a case study of a patient with primary anal adenocarcinoma who was treated with the conservative approach with chemoradiotherapy. In their report, they also describe the difficulty in identifying a group of patients that can be managed by chemoradiotherapy alone.

To complete this issue, Adrian Fleet, a Senior Lecturer at Sheffield Hallam University, reviews the 6th edition of Radiobiology for the Radiologist, published by Lippincott Williams and Wilkins.

Angela Duxbury and David Eddy
Editors-in-Chief

