

Editorial

We are pleased to present the third issue of the fifth volume of the *Journal of Radiotherapy in Practice*. As Editors, we have the enviable task of selecting articles from a wide range of subject areas and we very much enjoy presenting the author's research and findings in promoting and enhancing evidence-based practice.

In this edition, we present abstracts from papers presented at the Radiotherapy in Practice Conference, held in Sheffield, September 2006. Attendance at this Conference provided an opportunity for delegates to gain academic credit for attendance; this will support practitioners in being able to demonstrate an evidence-based and reflective approach to their practice. As mandatory continuing professional development becomes a reality, documenting and recording learning will be essential.

In 2005, a new research network was launched by the National Cancer Research Institute to revitalise radiotherapy and radiobiology research in the UK, the Academic Clinical Oncology and Radiobiology Research Network (ACORRN). In our guest editorial, Kate Love et al. outline the aims, purpose and priorities for the research network, outline the achievements to date and explain how you can get involved with this important initiative.

In the first paper, Sue Griffiths et al., on behalf of the Radiotherapy Managers Group, present their findings of a survey, undertaken in 2004, of radiotherapy services and staffing levels, aimed to identify if commonality existed in establishment size related to service delivery, and whether staffing levels correlated with activity levels. This paper not only recommends a staffing formula, it also provides a detailed analysis of the roles and skills of therapy radiographers in today's service.

For those of you with an interest in treatment planning and the challenges of radical prostate irradiation for patients who have undergone a

total hip replacement with a metallic prosthesis, the second paper by Laura James will be of interest. The author presents her findings of a retrospective study into the most effective field arrangements for irradiation of the prostate with avoidance of the prosthesis.

In the third article, Kira-Lee Martin and Denyse Hodgson discuss the role of counselling and communication skills and how they can enhance a patient's first day's experience when attending for radiotherapy.

In the fourth article, Marcus Gross et al. present their detailed findings and conclusions of a study which aimed to identify subgroups in glioblastoma with different susceptibilities to radio-chemotherapy by p53 protein and Ki-67 expression.

The proximity of abdominal tumours to non-target organs has motivated exploration of intensity modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) for pancreatic cancer, Clifton Fuller et al. present a case study based on dosimetric data from two patients receiving abdominal IMRT using a sequential tomotherapy technique.

To complete this issue, Ade Fleet from Sheffield Hallam University reviews the 5th edition of *Cancer and its Management* by Souhami and Tobias, published by Blackwell.

If you have any comments or suggestions to make on the Journal, we would very much like to hear from you and we will be very pleased to hear from any individuals who wish to be supported through the process of presenting a paper for publication.

Angela Duxbury and David Eddy
Editors-in-Chief

