

Editorial

We are pleased to present the third issue of the *Journal of Radiotherapy in Practice* and hope most of you have seen a copy of the first two issues. We are also pleased to report a growing circulation of the Journal, with a number of subscriptions from 16 different countries.

It seems appropriate to us that the Journal is placed in the international arena; it is an opportunity to share research and development of practice with a world-wide audience.

To date, we have received a good response in the call for papers and articles and we are pleased to receive a number of papers from international authors.

At first glance, the articles published in the Journal appear to fall into categories, e.g. technically orientated or continuing professional development. However, on close inspection, there is a common theme in the articles presented, that is, we as professionals continue to strive to improve standards for patients involved in the treatment process.

In this issue we have an article from Suzanne Stanley in which she evaluates the role of digitally reconstructed radiographs in the verification process and highlights the impact of new technology on practice.

For those experts on reflection and reflective practice, John Newnham thoroughly debates and differentiates between the concepts of reflection and reflective practice and poses some thought provoking questions.

In the article presented by Hazel Colyer and T. Hlahla, the authors undertake a critical review of the role of the information and support therapy radiographer and its significance for the provision

of cancer services. The authors set their discussion in context of both the permissive political environment providing opportunities for role development and old professional boundaries being challenged and the positive contribution an individual in this role can make to patient care.

Marie-Thérèse Bate and her colleagues from Ghent, Belgium, present a paper on a detailed analysis of quality control and error detection in the radiotherapy treatment process.

The article by Peter White highlights the value of complementary medicine in cancer care and discusses the legal issues of medical negligence and redress. Peter raises some important issues and highlights the need for controls and regulations to guide individuals in practice.

Dr William Que and colleagues present a paper on ultrasound guided Iodine 125 permanent prostate implants: seed calibration and radiation exposure levels. The authors recommend calibration methods for the seeds and give estimated radiation doses received by personnel, the patient and spouse due to the procedure.

Grace Smith presents the final essay in ethics, in which she outlines the concepts of autonomy, paternalism, advocacy and consent and in her conclusion highlights the importance for both the patient and practitioner to be fully informed regarding the treatment process.

We hope you find this issue stimulating and would like to hear your comments and views. We look forward to hearing from you.

Angela Duxbury and David Eddy
Editors in Chief