

Editorial

We are pleased to present the fourth issue of the *Journal of Radiotherapy in Practice* and hope most of you have seen a copy of the first three issues. The readership of the Journal continues to grow, with a significant number of subscriptions from professionals in countries across the world.

The editorial board is delighted with the response from individuals in the call for papers and articles and we are pleased to receive papers from international authors.

With rapid developments taking place in radiotherapy practice, increasing workloads, the drive to provide efficient cost effective services and in the climate of a UK shortage of therapy radiographers, we are delighted to present two guest editorials.

Both authors, Sue Griffiths with 'Therapy radiography staffing for the treatment and care of cancer patients' and Stephanie McWilliam with 'Cutting work at the cutting edge', present papers on alternative staffing models. Departmental managers are required to address the needs of the patient and the complex requirements of the service, whilst being accountable for scarce resources. Both authors would very much value comments and debate on the issues they raise and we would like to publish some of your letters, so please write in. You can also access and participate in the new online discussion forum dedicated to the Journal at the website: www.greenwich-medical.co.uk. The contents and abstracts for the Journal are also available on the website, as well as instructions to authors for anyone interested in submitting an article.

In this issue we have an original article from John Newnham in which he defines the role of spiral CT in evolving an evidence-based 3D conformal radiotherapy prostate protocol. John also critiques the current literature and identifies the need for undertaking further study relating the localisation, delivery and verification of the treatment of prostate cancer.

To continue the theme of conformal treatment, David Flinton and P. Desai examine and compare the financial costs of conventional radiotherapy for cancer of the prostate with those incurred in undertaking conformal radiotherapy.

In the article presented by Dana Dudek and colleagues, the authors undertake a review of the

literature and outline their methodology for a study of the role of Aloe vera gel in the management of radiation induced skin reactions for post-operative primary breast cancer patients.

Amanda Gee and her colleagues continue the theme of skin care in a paper describing a randomised controlled trial to test a nonmetallic deodorant used during a course of radiotherapy. The results are very detailed and make interesting reading.

Angela Cross and Peter Salmon present a paper on the physical side effects experienced by women with breast cancer: the women's perspective. The authors research the women's perspectives on the treatment side effects; they highlight the need for good sources of accurate information for this group of patients.

To conclude this issue we have a technical note, presented by Andrew Seaby and C. Craven. This technical note provides practical information on the construction and properties of a variable shielding block for irregularly shaped megavoltage X-ray fields.

As the first volume of the *Journal of Radiotherapy in Practice* is completed, the editors would like to thank the members of the Editorial Board for their enthusiasm and contribution to development of the Journal. Also, the Editorial Board would like to express their thanks to the following individuals who have been involved in the preparation and reviewing of articles for publication:

Rob Appleyard; Julie Berridge; Pam Berridge; Kathy Burgess; John Burton; Linda Castleton; Mary Coffey; Hazel Colyer; Nicky Cornelius; Joycelyn Cottrell; Pam Cherry; Kathy Cooke; Jane Day; Dave Flinton; Tony Flynn; Elaine Gannon; Amanda Gee; Sue Griffiths; Marilyn Hammick; Chris Jackson; Sarah James; Julia Jessop; Jan Johnson; Angela Jones; Warren Kilby; Helen Lingham; Irene McIntyre; Cathy Meredith; Heidi Probst; Sally Powley; Jo Ann Reeves; Chris Rymel; Noelle Skivington; Grace Smith; Chris Short; John Svensson; Cei Tuxill; Lorraine Webster; Peter White.

Angela Duxbury and David Eddy
Editors-in-Chief