

Editorial

We are pleased to present the fourth issue of the second volume of the *Journal of Radiotherapy in Practice* and hope that you will agree with us that the standard and variety of published papers and articles continue to be impressive.

Cancer continues to be a Government priority and there is increasing public interest in cancer survival. The Government now publishes cancer survival rates and other disease outcomes in the Department of Health publication *Quality and Performance in the NHS: NHS Performance Indicators*. Cancer survival is a key operational measure of the success of cancer treatment services.

Therefore, it is important that we share the findings of research and report on how services and treatment can be improved upon to have impact on outcomes for patients. With this in mind, it is pleasing to note that the dissemination of research findings in this Journal will have some impact on practice now and in the future.

The content of the papers presented in this issue continue to provide an evidence base for treatment accuracy, optimum treatment planning and in giving advice to cancer patients undergoing radiotherapy.

In the first paper, Rachel Harris and colleagues from Plymouth Oncology Centre present their methodology and detailed findings of a study undertaken to assess set-up reproducibility of pelvic treatments for obese patients in the prone position, with and without the use of an immobilisation shell. The data presented from the study makes interesting reading and the authors conclude that the use of the pelvic shell was found to increase positioning errors.

The second paper presented by Laub, Yan, Robertson and Martinez from the William Beaumont Hospital, MI, USA will be relished by those who have a keen interest in intensity modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) and who share the quest to produce accurate optimised treatment plans. The authors identify two methods, which were used to optimise IMRT plans for rectal cancer patients in an attempt to reduce the volume of small bowel irradiated during treatment.

Mowbray and Bonnett from Leicester Royal Infirmary present a study using electronic portal imaging to assess the daily accuracy of treatment set-ups in the pelvis. It is pleasing to note that as a

result of their study practice in their department was changed in light of their findings.

David Flinton and colleagues from City University London, Essex County Hospital and St Bartholomew's Hospital, London explore the effect of the recommendation of two different physical activity strategies on fatigue experienced by patients during radiotherapy. The investigation was undertaken on 147 patients and the authors provide a good statistical analysis of their findings.

In the last article of this issue, Janet Crane from the Royal United Hospital, Bath, guides the reader through the process of the implementation of 'gap' policy over the last five years and how the process has been subjected to a continuation audit. This article is an invaluable source to service managers who are considering service delivery to avoid unscheduled interruptions during courses of radiotherapy.

To conclude this issue, we would like to thank Keith Langmack for undertaking a book review on: *Radiotherapy Physics and Equipment* by Samantha Morris, published by Churchill Livingstone.

As the second 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 this Volume. Also, the Editorial Board would like to express their grateful thanks to the following individuals who have been working diligently throughout the year in the preparation and reviewing of articles for publication:

Rob Appleyard; Julie Berridge; Pam Berridge; Kathy Burgess; Mary Coffey; Hazel Colyer; Joycelyn Cottrell; Pam Cherry; Kathy Cooke; Jane Day; Sara Faithfull; Dave Flinton; Lesley Forsyth; Elaine Gannon; Amanda Gee; Sue Griffiths; Marilyn Hammick; Russell Hart; Chris Jackson; Kay Jeffery; Julia Jessop; Jan Johnson; Angela Jones; Warren Kilby; Helen Lingham; Irene McIntyre; Cathy Meredith; John Newnham; Heidi Probst; Sally Powley; Jo Ann Reeves; Noreen Sinclair; Grace Smith; Jon Svensson; Moira Tomlinson; Simon Walker; Lorraine Webster; Peter White; and Cathy Williams.

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