INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF RADIATION ONCOLOGY • BIOLOGY • PHYSICS

An official journal of the American Society for Radiation Oncology

AUTHOR INFORMATION PACK

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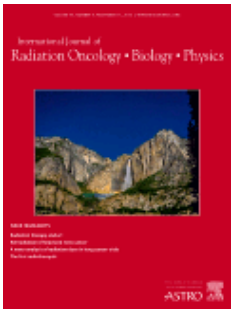

ISSN: 0360-3016

DESCRIPTION

International Journal of Radiation Oncology • Biology • Physics (IJROBP), known in the field as the Red Journal, publishes original laboratory and clinical investigations related to radiation oncology, radiation biology, medical physics, and both education and health policy as it relates to the field.

This journal has a particular interest in original contributions of the following types: prospective clinical trials, outcomes research, and large database interrogation. In addition, it seeks reports of high-impact innovations in single or combined modality treatment, tumor sensitization, normal tissue protection (including both precision avoidance and pharmacologic means), brachytherapy, particle irradiation, and cancer imaging. Technical advances related to dosimetry and conformal radiation treatment planning are of interest, as are basic science studies investigating tumor physiology and the molecular biology underlying cancer and normal tissue radiation response.

The Red Journal's sister publication is Practical Radiation Oncology. Click here to see which types of papers these journals typically accept.

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Radiation Oncologists, Medical Oncologists, Surgical Oncologists, Pediatric Oncologists, Gynecologic Oncologists, Medical Physicists, Radiation Therapists, Diagnostic Radiologists.

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INTRODUCTION

International Journal of Radiation Oncology, Biology, Physics (IJROBP), known in the field as the Red Journal, publishes original laboratory and clinical investigations related to radiation oncology, radiation biology, medical physics, and both education and health policy as it relates to the field.

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Because of the large number of manuscripts submitted annually and the limited print space available, the Red Journal has had to become substantially more selective in what it can accept for publication.

Manuscripts with the highest likelihood of acceptance include novel prospective pilot studies (phase 1 and 2); randomized phase 2 and 3 studies; secondary analyses from prospective studies; and health sciences research, especially research that covers cost effectiveness and comparative effectiveness, quality assurance/quality of care, and meta-analyses/systematic reviews that may influence future directions.

Our lower priority manuscripts include studies with a large-sized population treated in a consistent manner (i.e., the study will be one of the largest series in the medical literature, potentially an instructional "classic"); retrospective, hypothesis-generating studies with truly novel findings and appropriate methodology quality and innovation of methods (i.e., the study introduces some new means of analysis not previously available or newly applied); manuscripts that provide new insights into the natural history of disease or patterns of failure; and manuscripts that cover a current, controversial area in which the impact of findings has the high potential to solicit a related high-profile editorial or counterpoint piece.

How to Submit

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Authors must register with the Red Journal's electronic manuscript system. Those who have previously reviewed or submitted a manuscript for the IJROBP may already be registered. Once the submission files are uploaded, the system automatically generates an electronic PDF proof used for reviewing. All correspondence, including editor decisions and requests for revisions, is conducted by e-mail through EES or redjournal@astro.org

Article Types and Guidelines

Scientific Articles

Original laboratory and clinical investigations related to radiation oncology, radiation biology, and medical physics. Submissions are thoroughly reviewed for scientific originality, significance, relevance, and priority, and the topics must be of broad interest to the journal's readers. The Red Journal only accepts high-priority manuscripts that report cutting-edge science and that promise to have a strong impact on clinical practice. Required elements: title page, summary, abstract, manuscript, references, figure captions if figures are present, uniform disclosure forms (1 for each author). Article limits: summary (≤75 words), abstract (≤300 words), manuscript (≤3500 words; word count includes abstract, text, and figure captions); references (≤50 references preferred); tables and figures (≤6 total).

Editorials

Brief commentary, analysis, or opinion pieces about a published article or other topic of special interest. Required elements: title page, manuscript, references, figure captions if figures are present, uniform disclosure forms (1 for each author). Article limits: manuscript (≤1500 words; word count includes main text and figure captions); references (≤10 references preferred); tables and figures (≤6 total, combined).

Critical Reviews
Invited contributions from experts in the field exploring interesting topics. Required elements: title page, abstract, manuscript, references, figure captions if figures are present, uniform disclosure forms (1 for each author). Article limits: abstract (≤300 words), manuscript (≤6000 words; word count includes abstract, text, and figure captions); references (no restrictions); tables and figures (≤10 total, combined).

Brief Opinions
Opinion on scientific, educational, or policy issues. Required elements: title page, manuscript, references, figure caption if figure is present, uniform disclosure forms (1 for each author). Article limits: manuscript (≤600 words; word count includes text and figure caption); table or figure (1 figure or table).

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Like Scientific Articles, Scientific Letters focus on original laboratory and clinical investigations. The difference is that Scientific Letters are either more preliminary in nature or report a study that is of insufficient size to justify a full Scientific Article yet still has important implications for our field and its practice. that do not have the breadth to be a full-length scientific article. Required elements: title page, abstract, summary, manuscript, references, figure captions if figures are present, uniform disclosure forms (1 for each author). Article limits: abstract (≤300 words); summary (≤75 words); manuscript (≤1000 words; word count includes text and figure captions); references (≤20 references preferred) tables and figures (≤6 total, (combined).

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Comments are letters to the editor that remark on work published in the Red Journal and participate in discussion with the authors. Authors of the original work will usually be invited to respond to these comments before publication. Required elements: title page, manuscript, references, figure caption if figure is present, uniform disclosure forms (1 for each author). Article limits: manuscript (≤400 words; word count includes text and figure caption); references (≤10 references preferred); table or figure (1 table or figure).

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The Red Journal requires a $75 fee for all clinical and critical review submissions. Biology and physics contributors are exempt, as are all submissions from countries considered by the World Bank to be low-income and lower-middle-income economies.. These submission fees are used to offset a small portion of the peer review costs. During the submission process, authors will be directed to the Submission Start site to complete payment by a credit card.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Ethics in publishing
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The Red Journal requires that authors reporting on biomarker studies must adhere to REMARK criteria as listed in their guidelines. Reports that are predictive of therapeutic outcome or the natural history of disease are desired. Highest priority will be given to articles that are likely to have direct clinical applications and are definitive based on size of cohort, methodological approach, statistical analysis, multivariate analysis, reproducibility, and patient follow-up. Biomarker studies of interest to the Red Journal include or are based on and accompanied by supporting mechanistic biological data; if prospective, are definitive in size and statistical power; if retrospective, include a validation study; are predictive and estimate response or survival in advance of therapy and have potential application in clinical practice; contain thorough specimen collection data (see REMARK), assay validation, and statistical rigor; and describe a unique cohort with results that directly impact clinical practice. (For rare cancer types, it is recognized that small cohorts will be analyzed.) Reference link: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16106022

Guidelines for reporting preclinical research
The National Institutes of Health (NIH) held a workshop in June 2014 with the Nature Publishing Group and Science on the issue of reproducibility and rigor of research findings, with journal editors representing over 30 basic/preclinical science journals in which NIH-funded investigators have most often published. The workshop focused on identifying the common opportunities in the scientific publishing arena to enhance rigor and further support research that is reproducible, robust, and transparent. The journal editors came to consensus on a set of principles to facilitate these goals.

The Red Journal editorial board have chosen to uphold the high standards for preclinical research reporting established by the workshop, and we attach the summarized recommendations here. Please pay particular attention to these before submission.

Conflict of Interest

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All authors should have made substantial contributions to all of the following: (1) the conception and design of the study, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data, (2) drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content, (3) final approval of the version to be submitted.

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Double Blind Review
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A brief, structured overview of the research conducted, including its purpose, the methods and materials used, the results, and the conclusions drawn.

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State the objectives of the work and provide an adequate background, avoiding a detailed literature survey or a summary of the results.

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Provide sufficient detail to allow the work to be reproduced. Methods already published should be indicated by a reference; only relevant modifications should be described.

Results
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