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 publications are *Practical Radiation Oncology* and *Advances in Radiation Oncology*. Learn more about which types of papers these journals typically accept.

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AUDIENCE

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

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GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

INTRODUCTION

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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.

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 redjournal@astro.org

**Article Types and Guidelines**

*Scientific Articles*

Manuscript ≤3500 words, tables and figures ≤6, references ≤50

Required Elements:

- Title page
- Summary ≤75 words
- Abstract ≤300 words
- Blinded manuscript
- References
- Figure captions
- 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.

*Scientific Letters*

Manuscript ≤1000 words, tables and figures ≤6, references ≤20

Required Elements:

- Title page
- Summary ≤75 words
- Abstract ≤300 words
- Blinded manuscript
- References
- Figure captions
- 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.
**Critical Reviews**
Manuscript ≤6000 words, tables and figures ≤

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Title page Summary ≤75 words Abstract ≤300 words Blinded manuscript References Figure captions if figures are present Uniform disclosure forms (1 for each author) Invited contributions from experts in the field exploring interesting topics.

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Manuscript ≤1500 words, tables and figures ≤6, references≤10

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Manuscript ≤250 words, tables and figures ≤2, references ≤2

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**Expert Opinions (Invited)**

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Miscellaneous
Around the Globe

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Cover Images

Manuscript ≤400 words (200 about the work, 200 about the artist)

Required Elements:
Title page Manuscript Image References Uniform disclosure forms (1 for each author) The Red Journal welcomes interesting images and original artwork by people within the radiation oncology community.

Errata

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Required Elements:
Title page Manuscript References Figure captions if figures are present Uniform disclosure forms (1 for each author)

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Manuscript ≤600 words (400 about the history behind the image, 200 about the artist)

Required Elements:
Title page Manuscript Image References Uniform disclosure forms (1 for each author) The Red Journal welcomes interesting historic images from over a century of radiation oncology.

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Manuscript ≤1500 words, tables and figures ≤1, references ≤10

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BEFORE YOU BEGIN

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If the work involves the use of human subjects, the author should ensure that the work described has been carried out in accordance with The Code of Ethics of the World Medical Association (Declaration of Helsinki) for experiments involving humans. The manuscript should be in line with the Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals and aim for the inclusion of representative human populations (sex, age and ethnicity) as per those recommendations. The terms sex and gender should be used correctly.

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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.

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All authors are requested to disclose any actual or potential conflict of interest including any financial, personal, or other relationships with other people or organizations within three years of beginning the submitted work that could inappropriately influence, or be perceived to influence, their work. See also https://www.elsevier.com/conflictofinterest. Further information and an example of a Conflict of Interest form can be found at: http://service.elsevier.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/286/supporthub/publishing. IJROBP adheres to the policy on conflict of interest promulgated by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE), which states, in part, that "to prevent ambiguity, authors must state explicitly whether potential conflicts do or do not exist." (See Conflict of Interest Notification.) All authors are required to include an ICMJE form with submission, available for free download at http://www.icmje.org/. Authors also must state their disclosures on the title page of the manuscript. If there are not disclosures, authors must say, "Conflict of interest: none."

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A brief, structured overview of the research conducted, including its purpose, the methods and
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**Introduction**
State the objectives of the work and provide an adequate background, avoiding a detailed literature
survey or a summary of the results.

**Methods and Materials**
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**
Results should be clear and concise.

**Discussion**
This should explore the significance of the results of the work, not repeat them. A combined Results
and Discussion section is often appropriate. Avoid extensive citations and discussion of published
literature.

**Conclusions**
The main conclusions of the study may be presented in a short Conclusions section, which may stand
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