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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

*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.

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 if figures are present Uniform disclosure forms (1 for each author) 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 if figures are present Uniform disclosure forms (1 for each author) 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 ≤

Required Elements:
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.

Short Communications
Editorials

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

Required Elements:
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Manuscript ≤500 words, tables and figures ≤1

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Manuscript ≤400 words, tables and figures ≤1, references≤10

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Gray Zone
Cases

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

Required Elements:
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Expert Opinions (Invited)

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Miscellaneous
Around the Globe

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Required Elements:
Title page Summary ≤75 words Abstract ≤300 words Blinded manuscript References Figure captions if figures are present Uniform disclosure forms (1 for each author) These articles are usually, but not always, commissioned by the Editor-in-Chief. They describe the nature of health care in an individual nation and the unique and distinguishing influence of local culture, training, and economics on the practice of radiation oncology.

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

Manuscript ≤200 words, tables and figures ≤1, references ≤5

Required Elements:
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Imaging the Past

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.

Obituaries

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

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Title page Manuscript References Figure captions if figures are present Uniform disclosure forms (1 for each author) A biographical and research contribution retrospective may be solicited by the Editor-in-Chief; however, outside submissions are welcome, preferably with photographs. The Editor-in-Chief, as well as the Red Journal Senior Editors, will determine acceptability of these submissions, as they will not be sent out for review.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Ethics in publishing

Please see our information pages on Ethics in publishing and Ethical guidelines for journal publication.

The Red Journal maintains a zero-tolerance policy when addressing allegations of plagiarism, duplicate publication (self-publication), data falsification, and scientific misconduct. Articles will be retracted if ethics violations are substantiated. Plagiarism is defined by the World Association for Medical Editors (WAME) as the "use of others' published and unpublished ideas or words (or other intellectual property) without attribution or permission, and presenting them as new and original rather than derived from an existing source." The Red Journal participates in the CrossCheck/iThenticate program to investigate incidents of possible plagiarism.
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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.

Authors should include a statement in the manuscript that informed consent was obtained for experimentation with human subjects. The privacy rights of human subjects must always be observed.

All animal experiments should comply with the ARRIVE guidelines and should be carried out in accordance with the U.K. Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act, 1986 and associated guidelines, EU Directive 2010/63/EU for animal experiments, or the National Institutes of Health guide for the care and use of Laboratory animals (NIH Publications No. 8023, revised 1978) and the authors should clearly indicate in the manuscript that such guidelines have been followed. The sex of animals must be indicated, and where appropriate, the influence (or association) of sex on the results of the study.

**Studies Involving Biomarkers**

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**

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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PREPARATION

Double Blind Review
The Red Journal uses double-blind review, which means that the identities of the authors are concealed from the reviewers, and vice versa. For more information please refer to https://www.elsevier.com/reviewers/peer-review.

Files for Submission
Our submission system accepts the following files for upload. Note that the title page, summary, blinded manuscript, and table files must be submitted as Word documents. Figure file requirements are detailed in the Artwork section below.

Article Structure
Cover Letter

You are welcome to include a letter addressing the Editor-in-Chief to introduce your manuscript or to explain things not conveyed elsewhere in the submission process.

Title Page (With Author Details):

This should include the title, the short title, authors' names and affiliations, the name of the author(s) responsible for statistical analyses, a complete address for the corresponding author and author(s) responsible for statistical analyses including telephone and e-mail address, the conflict of interest statement, and the acknowledgments.

Summary

This brief description of the manuscript (=75 words in length) should be included in its own separate file. The summary should be no more than 3 brief sentences in length, and it should simply state the problem, the methodology, and the conclusions. Data is unnecessary.

Blinded Manuscript (No Author Details)

The main body of the paper should not include any identifying information, such as the authors' names or affiliations.

The blinded manuscript should include the following:
Abstract: A brief, structured overview of the research conducted, including its purpose, the methods and materials used, the results, and the conclusions drawn.

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 alone or form a subsection of a Discussion or Results and Discussion section.

References: List the references in the order in which they appear in the text, making sure each reference cited is provided and vice versa.

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Appendices If there is more than one appendix, they should be identified as A, B, etc. Formulae and equations in appendices should be given separate numbering: Eq. (A1), Eq. (A2), etc.; in a subsequent appendix, Eq. (B1) and so on. Similarly for tables and figures: Table A1; Fig. A1, etc.

Uniform Disclosure Form Each author is required to complete and include an International Committee of Medical Journal Editors uniform disclosure form with submission, available for free download at http://www.icmje.org/.

Editorial Decisions
Once the peer review process is complete, each manuscript will receive one of the following decisions: Decline: The manuscript was not selected for peer review. Reject: The manuscript was not selected for publication. Many factors contribute to acceptance, including but not limited to the importance
of the research to the field of oncology, the originality of the work, the quality of the study, or the priority of the work to the Red Journal and its readership. **Unacceptable/Major Revision:** A number of issues were raised in peer review that need to be addressed for the manuscript to be reconsidered. If the author wishes to address the issues, the manuscript must be revised and resubmitted within two months of the decision. **Acceptable/Minor Revision:** The editors and reviewers found the manuscript potentially acceptable for publication provided minor adjustments are made. Such manuscripts must be revised and resubmitted within one month of the decision. **Accept:** The manuscript has been selected for publication. Additional information will be provided regarding the production process.

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Subsections should be used as much as possible when cross-referencing text: refer to the subsection by heading as opposed to simply "the text."

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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 alone or form a subsection of a Discussion or Results and Discussion section.

**References**
List the references in the order in which they appear in the text, making sure each reference cited is provided and vice versa.

**Figure Captions**
Include a caption for each figure. The caption should consist of a brief title (not on the figure itself) and a description of the illustration. Be sure to explain all symbols and abbreviations used within the figure.
Appendices
If there is more than one appendix, they should be identified as A, B, etc. Formulae and equations in appendices should be given separate numbering: Eq. (A1), Eq. (A2), etc.; in a subsequent appendix, Eq. (B1) and so on. Similarly for tables and figures: Table A1; Fig. A1, etc.

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