The overarching mission of *Practical Radiation Oncology* is to improve the quality of radiation oncology practice. *PRO*'s purpose is to document the state of current practice, providing background for those in training and continuing education for practitioners, through discussion and illustration of new techniques, evaluation of current practices, and publication of case reports. *PRO* strives to provide its readers content that emphasizes knowledge "with a purpose." The content of *PRO* includes: Original articles focusing on patient safety, quality measurement, or quality improvement initiatives Original articles focusing on imaging, contouring, target delineation, simulation, treatment planning, immobilization, organ motion, and other practical issues ASTRO guidelines, position papers, and consensus statements Essays that highlight enriching personal experiences in caring for cancer patients and their families Teaching cases that present a diagnostic, ethical, or management challenge. Watch a presentation from Dr. Robert Lee, Editor of *PRO* *PRO* is the sister publication to the *International Journal of Radiation Oncology, Biology, Physics* and *Advances in Radiation Oncology*. Click here to see which types of papers these journals typically accept.

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INTRODUCTION

Practical Radiation Oncology (PRO) is a peer-reviewed journal whose purpose is to document the state of radiation oncology practice. PRO publishes original clinical research related to the practice of radiation oncology and related disciplines. Concise manuscripts that focus on imaging, contouring, target delineation, simulation, treatment planning, immobilization, organ motion, patient safety, quality measurement, and other practical issues are of particular interest. PRO intends to provide its readers with content that emphasizes knowledge "with a purpose."

W. Robert Lee, M.D., M.S., M.Ed. serves as the journal's Editor-in-Chief. He can be contacted at the Department of Radiation Oncology, Duke University Medical Center, Box 3085, Durham, NC 27710. Phone: (919) 668-5640; fax: (919) 668-7345; e-mail: pro@astro.org

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The Editor-in-Chief may solicit an Editorial to accompany an accepted manuscript. Authors may submit editorials that are unrelated to a specific article or related to important research published in another journal.

a) Requirements Disclosure forms - Available at www.icmje.org/coi_disclosure.pdf, this form must be completed by each author and submitted with the manuscript. b) Limitations

Editorials should not exceed 1,500 words and 10 references.

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The Editor-in-Chief typically solicits Critical Reviews, but authors may submit an unsolicited review for consideration. The manuscript must present significant new information to justify publication. Critical Reviews will be reviewed in the same manner as Original Reports.

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Abstract - Abstracts for Critical Reviews should summarize the content of the article and include the purpose of the study, the experimental design, the most important results, and an interpretation of the data, including the conclusion and any implications derived from the results.

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Manuscript - 4,500 words, including the abstract, references, figure legends, and tables.

References - 50 or fewer (additional references may be published online in an appendix).

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Correspondence
Authors may respond to a published article or express an opinion in a short, freestanding piece. If the Correspondence refers to a published article, the Editor-in-Chief may choose to invite a reply. Correspondence is reviewed by the Editor-in-Chief for possible inclusion in the journal. Letters and replies must be submitted electronically using EES.

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Letters must be limited to no more than 400 words and 10 references.

Special Articles
Special Articles are manuscripts whose content and style do not fall under the categories of Original Reports or Critical Reviews. These may include but are not limited to guidelines, summaries of consensus meetings, and other scholarly communications.

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Manuscript - 1,500 words, including the title page, main text, references, figures, and tables.

References - 50 or fewer (additional references may be published online in an appendix).

Figures and Tables - Not to exceed 8 total (includes both tables and figures).

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**Abstract** - The abstract should be structured using the following subheadings: Purpose, Methods and materials, Results, and Conclusions. The Abstract should reflect the content of the article and include the purpose of the study, the experimental design, the most important results, and an interpretation of the data, including the conclusion and any implications derived from the results.

**Introduction** - The Introduction section should include the background and rationale for the study, a clear purpose or hypothesis statement, and a brief description of the experimental design.

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Abstract - 300 words or fewer (included in 4,000 word overall count).

Figures and Tables - Not to exceed 8 total (includes both tables and figures).

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PRO invites interesting high-resolution images, preferably in color, including X rays or scans of characteristic or classic conditions relevant to radiation oncology. Exceptional images may be considered for the cover of the journal.

a) Requirements and Limitations Include a brief overview describing the case.

Do not include an abstract. Limit text to 400 words or fewer.

All identifying information of patients, such as names, dates of birth, dates of service, or patient identification codes must be removed.

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Technical Reports

PRO invites technical reports, which are brief 2- to 3-page descriptions of new developments, devices, or procedures. Technical Reports are concerned with innovations that might enhance practice or address specific challenges in radiation oncology.

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PRO invites Narrative Oncology commentaries that describe the unique challenges in the radiation oncology profession throughout the world. These commentaries are generally invited but we also welcome unsolicited articles of this type.

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b) Limitations

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Manuscript - 1,500 words, including the title page, main text, references, figures, and tables.

References - 50 or fewer (additional references may be published online in an appendix).

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**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 PRO 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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