

Editorial

We are pleased to present the second issue of the *Journal of Radiotherapy in Practice* and hope most of you have seen a copy of the first issue. We have received many favourable comments from readers and are pleased to report a growing circulation of the Journal, with a significant number of subscriptions from professionals from countries all over the world.

To date, we have received a good response in the call for papers and articles and we are sure that there are a great many professionals out there who have much to report on the ongoing development of the quality of the services we are associated with.

We would like to welcome several new members on the Editorial Board: Mary Coffey, Course Director, School of Therapeutic Radiography, Dublin; John Coret, Superintendent Radiographer from Utrecht, Netherlands; Angela Jones, Principal Lecturer, Kingston University; and Sally Powley, Consultant Physicist from St George's Hospital, Lincoln.

One of the Journal's aims is to present articles which will stimulate professional debate on current issues. To facilitate this process we have a dedicated member of the Editorial Board acting as correspondence editor, Hazel Colyer, who will comment upon and reply to the letters we receive and will also give the right to reply from the original author, should they so wish. So, if you would like to comment on a previous article or have any burning issues you wish to raise, then please write in.

Publication of the first issue also coincided with the launch of the National Institute of Clinical Excellence, which is currently the focus of the *New NHS* reforms. It can be argued that the creation of this new Institute acknowledges that quality of provision is more important than the structure of the NHS. We can assume that the work undertaken by this Institute will both challenge existing practice and command professional confidence. Given this and the impact of the Calman/Hine report in attempting to tackle the 'cancer lottery' of treatment outcomes, there has never been a more important time for profession-

als involved in service delivery to provide evidence of practice which strives to improve the quality and efficiency of provision.

One issue highlighted in the Calman/Hine report is that of the importance of communication and collaboration between practitioners in order to promote quality enhancement of the cancer services. One way in which we can assist this process is to report and publish articles to inform others, contribute to debates and develop and improve practices. We sincerely hope that this Journal will provide one such forum where practitioners will be stimulated to put pen to paper in the belief that the audience would really like to hear about initiatives in your area of work or share experiences of good clinical practice.

It is recognised that to find the time to write articles or a review takes considerable time and some expertise, but please do not let this put you off. For those of you who would like to write a paper and would like some guidance there are several options which we can offer.

Firstly, Guidance Notes for potential authors. These can be viewed on our web site or a hard copy can be obtained from a member of the Editorial Board. Alternatively, you can contact an Editorial Board member for advice and support in writing your paper.

Some of you will have received the paper 'Therapeutic radiographers within the cancer care team: future workforce planning', a paper prepared by The College of Radiographers, May 1999. In view of some of the recommendations made in this paper, we are pleased to publish the Guest Editorial 'Shortage of therapy radiographers: local problem or UK crisis?' (pp. 45-49). The authors highlight and discuss their growing concerns about the recruitment of Therapy Radiographers and make several recommendations to address the situation. The authors would like the Guest Editorial to stimulate a debate on the issues and would very much like to hear from you.

Angela Duxbury and David Eddy
Editors-in-Chief