1. ABOUT THE JOURNAL

Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology (TRO), originated in 1994 and known in the field as the Blue Journal, publishes papers describing original research, case reports and clinical investigations related to radiation oncology. This includes clinical radiotherapy, radiobiology, chemotherapy, immunotherapy, hyperthermia, tumor biology, experimental therapeutics and clinical oncology. It also covers fields of medical physics, radiology, nursing care, education, technology, health information and health policy as it relates to radiology and oncology.

Advancements in therapeutic radiology and oncology have allowed physicians to better treat their patients with cooperation from multidisciplinary team members. The Journal TRO focuses on the most recent advances on a worldwide basis. It plays as a professional and comprehensive platform for readership relating to radiology and oncology.

The journal welcomes a wide range of submission types, including high-quality research, clinical trials reports, technique reports, review articles, editorial letter, etc. Articles will be solicited from recognized experts in these fields, while submissions for peer review will also be considered. The high quality of its content is assured by a rigorous review process, supervised by an international editorial board.

2. MANUSCRIPT CATEGORIES

(1) Original Article

Word limit: 4000 words maximum including abstract but excluding references, tables and figures.

Abstract: 250 words maximum, with sub-headers (Background, Methods, Results and Conclusions).

References: 40 maximum.

Figures/tables: total 10 maximum.

Description: Originality and clinical impact are essential for acceptance of Original Articles. The abstract should contain the following subheadings: Background, Methods, Results and Conclusions. Descriptions of the following points are
critically evaluated. Original article should entail a section
describing the contribution each author made to the
manuscript. See section “Authors’ Contribution” for details.
Meta-analysis will be categorized into this type.

(2) Review Article
Word limit: 6,000 words maximum including abstract but
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Abstract: 250 words maximum, unstructured (no use of sub-
headers).
References: 100 maximum.
Figures/tables: no limit.
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each author made to the manuscript. See section “Author
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Abstract: 200 words maximum, unstructured (no use of sub-
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References: 20 maximum.
Figures/tables: total 5 maximum.
Description: A small-scale study that includes
important new information may be published as a short
communication.

(4) Correspondence
Word limit: 1,000 words maximum excluding references,
tables and figures.
Abstract: not required for this manuscript type.
References: 10 maximum.
Figures/tables: total 3 maximum.
Description: Correspondence on content published in
the Journal or on other topics of interest to our readers
is welcomed. The journal might invite replies from the
authors of the original publication, or pass on letters to
these authors. Correspondence is also referred to as Letter
to the Editor.

(5) Editorial
Word Limit: 2500 words maximum excluding references,
minor, or unable to provide consent, then consent must be sought from the parents or legal guardians of the patient. In these cases, the statement in the 'Consent' section of the manuscript should be amended accordingly.

(8) Meeting Report
Word limit: 4000 words maximum including abstract but excluding references, tables and figures.
Abstract: 250 words maximum, unstructured (no use of sub-headers).
References: 40 maximum.
Figures/tables: total 10 maximum.
Description: Reports of symposia and conferences about health technology. Reports must be submitted within 2 months of the meeting date in order to maintain their timeliness. Only those Meeting Reports dealing with topics of interest to the readership and that contain novel information and insights from the meeting are accepted for publication. A Meeting Report should be a thoughtful, critical commentary which shows an appreciation of the connections among the various presentations and reveals the consensus, if any, which emerged at the meeting. Before submitting a full Meeting Report, authors should only send an outline of the proposed paper for initial consideration.

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Word limit: 2000 words including abstract but excluding references, tables and figures.
Abstract: 200 words maximum, unstructured (no use of sub-headers).
References: 20 maximum.
Figures/tables: total 5 maximum.
Description: Technical report articles should present a new experimental or improved method, test or procedure. The method described may either be completely new, or may offer a better version of an existing method. The article must describe a demonstrable advance on what is currently available. The method needs to have been well tested and ideally, but not necessarily, used in a way that proves its value. Please note that the risk of losing chance to apply patents in areas like Europe and China will be faced.

(10) Clinical Guideline
Word limit: 6,000 words maximum including abstract but excluding references, tables and figures.
Abstract: 450 words maximum, unstructured (no use of sub-
headers).
References: no maximum.
Figures/tables: no maximum.
Description: Guidelines need to be the product of a large group of individuals who are recognised authorities in their field. Guidelines will be written by a working party to include a steering committee (usually at least 4 members) and other authors representing a wide range of those with special relevant expertise as well as those whose everyday practice will be influenced by the guidelines.

3. STRUCTURE OF THE MANUSCRIPT
The length of manuscripts must adhere to the specifications under the section Manuscript Categories.
Manuscripts should be presented in the following order: (i) title page, (ii) abstract and key words, (iii) text, (iv) acknowledgments, (v) footnote, (vi) references, (vii) supplementary material, (viii) figure legends, (ix) tables (each table complete with title and footnotes) and (x) figures.

Title Page
The title page should contain (i) the title of the paper. Concise titles are easier to read than long, convoluted ones. Titles that are too short may, however, lack important information, such as study design (which is particularly important in identifying randomized controlled trials). Authors should include all information in the title that will make electronic retrieval of the article both sensitive and specific. (ii) the full names of the authors and (iii) the addresses of the institutions at which the work was carried out together with (iv) the full postal and email address, plus facsimile and telephone numbers, of the author to whom correspondence about the manuscript should be sent. The present address of any author, if different from that where the work was carried out, should be supplied in a footnote.
In keeping with the latest guidelines of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors, for the systematic review/meta-analysis, original article and review article, the information of author contribu-tion is needed.

Abstract and Keywords
The length of abstracts must adhere to the word count specifications under the section Manuscript Categories. The abstract should state the main problem, methods, results and conclusions. Do not use reference, table or figure in the abstract. It must be factual and comprehensive. The
structured abstract should state the background, methods, results, and conclusions. The use of abbreviations and acronyms should be limited and general statements (e.g. “the significance of the results is discussed”) should be avoided. The abstract of a systematic review/meta-analysis, original article and review article should be structured into four paragraphs with sub-headers of background, methods, results and conclusions. The abstracts for all other manuscript types should be unstructured.

Three to five key words should be supplied below the abstract, in alphabetical order, and should be taken from those recommended by the US National Library of Medicine’s Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) browser list at: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/meshhome.html.

Text
Authors must use the following sub-headers to divide the sections of their Original Article manuscript: Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, Acknowledgment, Footnote, References, and when relevant, Supplementary Material. Plus, authors should follow the same structures in systematic review and meta-analysis. However, review, Editorial and others do not have those clear sections, they can be written in several sections with their own headers according to the topic.

Author Contributions
This section is only required for original article, review article, systematic review and meta-analysis article. It describes the contribution each author made to the manuscript. Authorship credit should be based on 1) substantial contributions to conception and design, acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data; 2) drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and 3) final approval of the version to be published. Authors should meet conditions 1, 2, and 3. Please note that acquisition of funding, collection of data, language editing or general supervision of the research group alone does not constitute authorship.

The Author contributions section should be completed as follow:
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(II) Administrative support:
(III) Provision of study materials or patients:
(IV) Collection and assembly of data:
(V) Data analysis and interpretation:
(VI) Manuscript writing: All authors
(VII) Final approval of manuscript: All authors

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Acknowledgments
Textual material that names the parties which the author wishes to thank or recognize for their assistance in, for example, producing the work, funding the work, inspiring the work, or assisting in the research on which the work is based.

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Footnote
a. Conflicts of Interest: See section “Conflict of interest” for details.
b. Financial Disclose: Some variables, such as “measures of income inequality and degree of financial openness, are not included in our study because of the limited availability of good-quality data across countries over the sample period”. When there is no financial disclose, authors should also indicate “Financial Disclose” section as “None”.
c. Ethical statement: the authors are accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved. Please note that the above statement must be included in the footnote of the article as part of the Ethical Statement.

References
In the text, references should be cited using Arabic numerals in round brackets in which they appear consecutively [e.g., “cancer-related mortality (19); “heart failure (29,30)”]. If cited in tables or figure legends, number according to the first identification of the table or figure in the text.

In the reference list, cite the names of all authors when there are three or fewer; when three or more, list the first three followed by et al. Do not use ibid. or op cit. Reference to unpublished data and personal communications should not appear in the list but should be cited in the text only (e.g. Smith A, 2000, unpublished data). All citations mentioned in the text, tables or figures must be listed in the reference list. Names of journals should be abbreviated in the style used in Pubmed. Authors are responsible for the accuracy of the references.

The format of reference sees as follow.

- **Journal article**

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An online article that has not yet been published in an issue (therefore has no volume, issue or page numbers) can be cited by its Digital Object Identifier (DOI). The DOI will remain valid and allow an article to be tracked even after its allocation to an issue.

- **Book**

- **Chapter in a Book**
e.g.: Gilchrist RK. Further commentary: Continent stroma.


Tables
Tables should be self-contained and complement, but not duplicate information contained in the text. All tables should be numbered consecutively in the order of reference in the text. Each column must carry an appropriate heading and, if measurements are given, the units should be given in the column heading. Column headings should be brief, with units of measurement in parentheses; all abbreviations must be defined in footnotes. Footnote symbols: †, ‡, §, ¶, should be used (in that order) and *, **, *** should be reserved for P-values. Statistical measures such as SD or SEM should be identified in the headings.

If tables have been reproduced from another source, a letter/permission from the copyright holder (usually the Publisher), stating authorization to reproduce the material, must be submitted as supplemental materials during paper submission. Plus, when a manuscript is accepted for publication, please provide us with the tables in tabular form which is convenient for copyediting and typesetting.

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All illustrations (line drawings and photographs) are classified as figures. Figures should be numbered consecutively in the order of reference in the text. Magnifications should be indicated using a scale bar on the illustration. If figures have been reproduced from another source, a letter/permission from the copyright holder (usually the Publisher), stating authorization to reproduce the material, must be submitted as supplemental materials.

Size: Figures should be sized to fit within the column (82 mm), intermediate (118 mm) or the full text width (173 mm).

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Color figures: Files should be set up as CMYK (cyan, magenta, yellow, black) and not as RGB (red, green, blue) so that colors as they appear on screen will be a closer representation of how they will print in the Journal.

Line figures: Must be sharp, black and white graphs or diagrams, drawn professionally or with a computer graphics package.
Appendix

The supplementary appendix should be paginated, with a table of contents, followed by the list of investigators (if there is one), text (such as methods), figures, tables, and then references. The supplementary appendix should not be included in the article’s reference list.

The appendix must be submitted in a Word file. The appendix will not be edited for style. It will be presented online as additional information provided by the authors. The published article will contain a statement that supplementary material exists online and will provide the reader with a URL and link. To reference the supplementary appendix in the text of the article, refer to it as in the following example:

“Many more regressions were run than can be included in the article. The interested reader can find them in a supplementary appendix online”.

Equations

Equations should be numbered sequentially with Arabic numerals; these should be ranged right in parentheses. All variables should appear in italics. Use the simplest possible form for all mathematical symbols.

4. STYLE OF THE MANUSCRIPT

Manuscripts must follow the style of the Vancouver agreement detailed in the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors’ revised ‘Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals: Writing and Editing for Biomedical Publication’, as presented at: http://www.ICMJE.org/.

Author name: Each author’s given name should be followed by family name.

Capitalize the first letter of those words/syllables that they hope to be abbreviated in their given name, otherwise, DO NOT capitalize the first letter and use a hyphen to connect it with its anterior word.

Spelling: The Journal uses US spelling and authors should therefore follow the latest edition of the Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary.

Units: All measurements must be given in SI or SI-derived units. For more information about SI units, please go to the Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM) website at: http://www.bipm.fr.

Abbreviations: Must be used sparingly – only where they ease the reader’s task by reducing repetition of long, technical terms. Initially use the word in full, followed by the abbreviation in parentheses. Thereafter use the abbreviation only.

Trade names: Drugs should be referred to by their generic names. If proprietary drugs have been used in the study, refer to these by their generic name, mentioning the proprietary name, and the name and location of the manufacturer, in parentheses.

5. REVIEW PROCESS

Manuscripts are assigned sequentially to Science Editors. An Science Editor solicits reviewers (typically, two external reviews are sought). The reviewers’ evaluations and Science Editor’s comments are compiled by the Editor-in-Chief for disposition and transmittal to the authors. A decision is made usually within four weeks of the receipt of the manuscript.

The Editor-in-Chief will advise authors whether a manuscript is accepted, should be revised or is rejected. Minor revisions are expected to be returned within two weeks of decision; major revisions within three weeks. Manuscripts not revised within these time periods are subject to withdrawal from consideration for publication unless the authors can provide extenuating circumstances.

A number of manuscripts will have to be rejected on the grounds of priority and available space. A manuscript may be returned to the authors without outside review if the Editor-in-Chief and Science Editor find it inappropriate for publication in the Journal. Similarly, the Editors may expedite the review process for manuscripts felt to be of high priority in order to reach a rapid decision. Such ‘fast-track decisions’ will normally occur within one week of receipt of the manuscript.

Authors may provide the Editor-in-Chief with the names, addresses and email addresses of up to three suitably
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The Editor-in-Chief’s decision is final. If, however, authors dispute a decision and can document good reasons why a manuscript should be reconsidered, a rebuttal process exists. In the first place, authors should write to the Editor-in-Chief.

All journals Manuscripts should be written in a clear, concise, direct style so that they are intelligible to the professional reader who is not a specialist in the particular field. When contributions are judged as acceptable for publication, the Editor and the Publisher reserve the right to modify manuscripts to eliminate ambiguity and repetition and improve communication between authors and readers. If extensive alterations are required, the manuscript will be returned to the author for revision.

6. ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Authors must state that the protocol for the research project has been approved by a suitably constituted Ethics Committee of the institution within which the work was undertaken and that it conforms to the provisions of the Declaration of Helsinki (as revised in Edinburgh 2000), available at: http://www.wma.net/en/30publications/10policies/b3/. The journal retains the right to reject any manuscript on the basis of unethical conduct of either human or animal studies. All investigations on human subjects must include a statement that the subject gave informed consent. Patient anonymity should be preserved. Photographs need to be cropped sufficiently to prevent human subjects being recognized (or an eye bar should be used).

In general, submission of a case report should be accompanied by the written consent of the subject (or parent/ guardian) before publication; this is particularly important where photographs are to be used or in cases where the unique nature of the incident reported makes it possible for the patient to be identified. While the Editorial Board recognizes that it might not always be possible or appropriate to seek such consent, the onus will be on the authors to demonstrate that this exception applies in their case.

Any experiments involving animals must be demonstrated to be ethically acceptable and where relevant conform to national guidelines for animal usage in research.

7. INFORMED CONSENT

Identifying information, including names, initials, or hospital numbers, should not be published in written descriptions, photographs, or pedigrees unless the information is essential for scientific purposes and the patient (or parent or guardian) gives written informed consent for publication. Informed consent is required for Case report and original/research articles. The statement should be included in the footnote. It may be possible to publish without explicit consent if the report is important to public health (or is in some other way important); consent would be unusually burdensome to obtain; and a reasonable individual would be unlikely to object to publication (all three conditions must be met).

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Our journal complies with the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors’ uniform require-ments on Conflict of Interest statement.

Conflict of Interest exists when an author (or the author’s institution), reviewer, or editor has financial or personal relationships with other persons or organizations that inappropriately influence (bias) his or her actions. The existence of such relationships does not necessarily represent true conflict of interest. The potential for conflict of interest can exist whether or not an individual believes that the relationship affects their judgment. Financial relationships (such as employment, consultancies, stock ownership, honoraria, paid expert testimony, patents) are the most easily identifiable conflicts of interest and the most likely to undermine the credibility of the journal, the authors, and of science itself (http://www.icmje.org/index.html). Conflict of interest would be included in the FOOTNOTE section.

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When authors submit a manuscript of any type or format they are responsible for disclosing all financial and personal relationships that might bias or be seen to bias their work.

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Reviewers should be asked at the time they are asked to critique a manuscript if they have conflicts of interest that could complicate their review. Reviewers must disclose to editors any conflicts of interest that could bias their opinions of the manuscript, and should recuse themselves from reviewing specific manuscripts if the potential for bias exists. Reviewers must not use knowledge of the work they’re reviewing before its publication to further their own interests.

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Editors who make final decisions about manuscripts should recuse themselves from editorial decisions if they have conflicts of interest or relationships that pose potential conflicts related to articles under consideration. Other editorial staff members who participate in editorial decisions must provide editors with a current description of their financial interests or other conflicts (as they might relate to editorial judgments) and recuse themselves from any decisions in which a conflict of interest exists. Editorial staff must not use information gained through working with manuscripts for private gain. Editors should publish regular disclosure statements about potential conflicts of interests related to the commitments of journal staff. Guest editors should follow these same procedures.

(2) Reporting Conflicts of Interest
Articles should be published with statements or supporting documents, declaring:
- Authors’ conflicts of interest; and
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- Whether the authors had access to the study data, with an explanation of the nature and extent of access, including whether access is on-going.

To support the above statements, editors may request that authors of a study sponsored by a funder with a proprietary or financial interest in the outcome sign a statement, such as “I had full access to all of the data in this study and I take complete responsibility for the integrity of the data and the accuracy of the data analysis.”

If there is conflict of interest for the authors, authors must state conflict of interest based on the actual condition; if there is no conflict of interest, state conflict interest section as the following format: “The author has no conflicts of interest to declare.” or “The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.”

9. CLINICAL TRIALS REGISTRY
We require, as a condition of consideration for publication, registration in a public trials registry. Trials must register at or before the onset of patient enrollment. This policy applies to any clinical trial starting enrollment after January 1, 2006. For trials that began enrollment before this date, we require registration by April 1, 2006, before considering the trial for publication. We define a clinical trial as any research project that prospectively assigns human subjects to intervention or comparison groups to study the cause and effect relationship between a medical intervention and a health outcome. Studies designed for other purposes, such as to study pharmacokinetics or major toxicity (e.g., phase 1 trials) are exempt.

We do not advocate one particular registry, but registration must be with a registry that meets the following minimum criteria: (1) accessible to the public at no charge; (2) searchable by standard, electronic (Internet-based) methods; (3) open to all prospective registrants free of charge or at minimal cost; (4) validates registered information; (5) identifies trials with a unique number; and (6) includes information on the investigator(s), research question or hypothesis, methodology, intervention and comparisons, eligibility criteria, primary and secondary outcomes measured, date of registration, anticipated or actual start date, anticipated or actual date of last follow-up, target number of subjects, status (anticipated, ongoing or closed) and funding source(s).

Registries that currently meet these criteria include: (1) the registry sponsored by the United States National Library of Medicine (www.clinicaltrials.gov); (2) the International Standard Randomized Controlled Trial Number Registry (http://www.controlled-trials.com); (3) the Australian Clinical Trials Registry (http://www.actr.org.au); (4) the Chinese Clinical Trials Register (http://www.chictr.org); and (5) the Clinical Trials Registry - India (http://www.ctri.in).
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Reporting of randomized controlled trials should follow the guidelines of The CONSORT Statement: http://www.consort-statement.org

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13. SUBMISSION OF MANUSCRIPTS

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General

All articles submitted to the Journal must comply with these instructions. Failure to do so will result in return of the manuscript and possible delay in publication.

- Submissions must be double-spaced.
- All margins should be at least 30 mm.
- All pages should be numbered consecutively in the top right-hand corner, beginning with the title page.
- Do not use Enter at the end of lines within a paragraph.
- Turn the hyphenation option off; include only those hyphens that are essential to the meaning.
- Specify any special characters used to represent non-keyboard characters.
- Take care not to use l (ell) for 1 (one), O (capital o) for 0 (zero) or ß (German esszett) for (Greek beta).
- Use a tab, not spaces, to separate data points in tables. If you use a table editor function, ensure that each data point is contained within a unique cell (i.e. do not use carriage returns within cells).

Each figure should be supplied as a separate file, with the figure number incorporated in the file name. For submission, low-resolution figures saved as .jpg or .bmp files should be uploaded, for ease of transmission during the review process. Upon acceptance of the article, high-resolution figures (at least 300 d.p.i.) saved as .eps or .tif files should be uploaded. Digital images supplied only as low-resolution files cannot be used for publication.

Cover Letter

Papers are accepted for publication in the Journal on the understanding that the content has not been published or submitted for publication elsewhere except as a brief abstract in the proceedings of a scientific meeting or symposium. This must be stated in the covering letter. The covering letter must also contain an acknowledgment that all authors have contributed significantly, and that all authors are in agreement with the content of the manuscript. In keeping with the latest guidelines of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors, each author’s contribution to the paper is to be quantified.

Suggest Reviewers

Authors could suggest three reviewers to the Editorial Office during the online submission of the manuscript.

14. PROOFS

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