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Driving innovation in radiation oncology in a changing world

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Published in:
Radiotherapy and Oncology

DOI:
[10.1016/j.radonc.2024.110586](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.radonc.2024.110586)

IMPORTANT NOTE: You are advised to consult the publisher's version (publisher's PDF) if you wish to cite from it. Please check the document version below.

Document Version
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Publication date:
2025

[Link to publication in University of Groningen/UMCG research database](#)

Citation for published version (APA):

Blanchard, P., Georg, D., Coppes, R. P., & Offersen, B. V. (2025). Driving innovation in radiation oncology in a changing world: The Green Journal's roadmap for the next decade. *Radiotherapy and Oncology*, 202, Article 110586. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.radonc.2024.110586>

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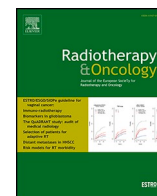
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Radiotherapy and Oncology

journal homepage: www.thegreenjournal.com

Editorial

Driving innovation in radiation oncology in a changing world: The Green Journal's roadmap for the next decade



Radiotherapy and Oncology, also known as the *Green Journal*, has been ESTRO's flagship journal since its first issue in August 1983. It has been a driving force to disseminate science and raise the standards of research and development, and most importantly clinical practice in radiation oncology. As the journal embarks onto its 5th decade, there is a need for reflection. The radiation oncology community, our world and societies, have changed markedly and our journal must reflect this societal evolution as it has always reflected scientific and technological innovations. This editorial will present our main strategic initiatives shaping the journal over the following years.

The science

As reflected in the modified aims and scope, the journal aims to publish high-impact articles covering all areas of interest relating to clinical radiotherapy and oncology, medical physics and radiation biology, as well as other areas relevant to our radiation oncology community, such as education, health policy, environmental and societal sustainability or health economics. Importantly, we aim to drive innovation in radiation oncology. Hence, we have identified the following areas of high interest for *Radiotherapy and Oncology*:

- personalised radiation oncology, prognostic and predictive markers for gains and risks [1]
- development and validation of guidelines for radiation oncology [2]
- artificial intelligence and data science applied to the radiation oncology process, workflow, but also the prediction of treatment decision and patient outcome [3,4]
- novel technologies and radiosensitisers or radioprotectants, both at the physical, biological and clinical levels but also for clinical implementation and economic evaluation [1,5]

A strong link with ESTRO

Our journal has been a key element for our professional society, ESTRO, to disseminate its vision and main messages to the community, and we intend to keep it that way [6]. ESTRO, through its committees, guidelines and focus groups, is a formidable resource for radiation oncology professionals. The *Green Journal* will remain a home for publishing guidelines, consensus, opinions, and vision articles.

Quality & efficiency

The journal is particularly interested in prospective clinical trials

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.radonc.2024.110586>

Available online 10 October 2024

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(either for primary or secondary analyses) or large population-based database analyses. Highly novel technical innovations and first-in-human studies will also be prioritised. Retrospective studies will be discouraged, except if they are highly innovative and preferably multi-centre, as they are less reproducible and generalisable than prospective studies. For radiation biology, we prefer studies that demonstrate a mechanism and with sufficient diversity in cell lines for in vitro studies. Articles deemed of insufficient novelty or clinical impact but still of interest to our community will be offered a transfer to our ESTRO family sister journals using an improved and expedite process: Clinical and Translational Radiation Oncology (<https://www.ctro.science/>), Physics and Imaging in Radiation Oncology (<https://www.phiro.science/>) and Technical Innovations and Patient Support in Radiation Oncology (<https://www.tipsro.science/>). As a journal that serves both readers and authors, it is our responsibility to offer an efficient submission and peer-review process for authors, allowing a high-quality evaluation in a timely manner for all submitted. We will look at metrics to ensure we are improving our turnaround time.

Our community in a changing world

As science and technology have evolved a lot over the last 40 years, so has the society. Our interdisciplinary readership looks at *Radiotherapy and Oncology* for innovation in radiation oncology, but also for societal viewpoints around topics that matter to us all. Social sustainability, including equity, diversity, and professional wellbeing, environmental sustainability, education, global radiation oncology, or health economics or policy are topics that we want to address. A new section will be created to host such topics, using standard articles, but also using new formats, such as opinion pieces, debates, podcasts and social media. One such new format, called the "GTV: Green Technical Vision" will provide a platform for discussion on technical topics around treatment, planning, delivery or other key technical issue of our discipline.

The structure

The journal relies for its daily functioning on highly motivated experts who dedicate their time to ensure that articles are evaluated and selected for their scientific rigour and innovation. Some of those experts have served on the Journal's editorial board for years and we really address them a heartfelt thanks: the Journal would not be where it is without all their efforts over the years. However, the journal's structure and governance need to evolve to allow us to reach our goals of innovation and efficiency and reflect the diversity of our community. A team

of deputy editors-in-chief, one for each major area, clinical, physics, and biology, has been appointed to advise the editor-in-chief on the strategy and significant daily decisions. Editors, chosen for their expertise and dedication, will now be appointed for a four-year term, which will be renewable once. New editors will be primarily recruited from the pool of editorial board members, where young and motivated professionals will be encouraged and invited to participate. We will open calls for applications for editorial positions on a regular basis, but will also be looking at ad-hoc applications.

For the next decade

The fifth decade of *Radiotherapy and Oncology* will be the one where we reconcile innovation, science, and an ever-changing society. We hope that our interdisciplinary readership will appreciate these initiatives. Our journal is primarily intended for our readers, and we will listen to advice and comments to improve the service we aim to render to our global radiation oncology community.

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