

To which journal I should submit my paper?

**Practical Radiation Oncology (PRO)**

Todd Pawlicki  
PRO Senior Editor



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**Outline**

- General journal philosophy
- Journal data
- Review process
- Impact factor history
- Physics papers *PRO* would like to get
  - Physics papers *PRO* would NOT like to get



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**General Journal Philosophy**

- Purpose is to document the state of radiation oncology practice
  - A peer-reviewed journal
  - Natural complement to the Red Journal
  - Launched in January 2011
- Publishes original clinical research related to the practice of radiation oncology
  - On issues of quality, safety and ethics in radiation oncology
  - Includes ASTRO's official practice guidelines and white papers



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- A review of safety, quality management, and practice guidelines for high-dose-rate brachytherapy: Executive summary**  
 Bruce R. Thomassen, Beth A. Erickson, Patricia J. Effel, I-Chow Hsu, Rakesh R. Patel, Daniel G. Peteret, Benedick A. Fraass, Mark J. Rivard  
*Practical Radiation Oncology*, Vol. 4, Issue 2, p65-70  
 Preview | Abstract | Full-Text HTML | PDF | Supplemental Materials
- Enhancing the role of case-oriented peer review to improve quality and safety in radiation oncology: Executive summary**  
 Lawrence B. Marks, Robert D. Adams, Todd Pavlicki, Albert L. Blumberg, David Hoopes, Michael D. Brundage, Benedick A. Fraass  
*Practical Radiation Oncology*, Vol. 3, Issue 3, p149-156  
 Preview | Abstract | Full-Text HTML | PDF | Supplemental Materials
- Quality and safety considerations in stereotactic radiosurgery and stereotactic body radiation therapy: Executive summary**  
 Timothy D. Sobberg, James M. Beller, Stanley H. Benedict, Benedick A. Fraass, Brian Kavanagh, Curtis Miyamoto, Todd Pavlicki, Louis Potters, Yoshiya Yasuda  
*Practical Radiation Oncology*, Vol. 2, Issue 1, p2-9  
 Preview | Abstract | Full-Text HTML | PDF | Supplemental Materials
- Safety considerations for IGRT: Executive summary**  
 David A. Jaffray, Katja M. Langen, Gikas Mageras, Laura A. Dawson, Di Yan, Robert Adams EdD, Arno J. Mundt, Benedick Fraass  
*Practical Radiation Oncology*, Vol. 3, Issue 3, p167-170  
 Preview | Abstract | Full-Text HTML | PDF | Supplemental Materials
- Safety considerations for IMRT: Executive summary**  
 Jean M. Moran, Melanie Campsey, Abraham Elstruch, Benedick A. Fraass, James M. Galvin, Geoffrey S. Ibbot, Lawrence B. Marks  
*Practical Radiation Oncology*, Vol. 1, Issue 3, p150-155  
 Preview | Abstract | Full-Text HTML | PDF | Supplemental Materials



## General Journal Philosophy

- Education aspect
- Provides background for those in training and continuing education for practitioners
  - Discussion and illustration of new techniques
  - Evaluation of current practices
  - Publication of case reports
- Strives to provide its readers content that emphasizes knowledge "with a purpose"



## Journal Data

- Numbers of papers received
  - About 300 received in 2013 (medical and technical)
  - About 25 manuscripts per month
- About 40% are revise/accept
- About 60% are decline/reject



## Review Process

- Double-blind review process
  - Authors do not know the identities of the reviewers
  - Reviewers do not know the identities of the authors
- Senior Editors select external reviewers
  - 2 per manuscript although can be more
  - Reviewers come from a database of experts
  - Can people with domain expertise but not in the database




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## Review Process

- The Senior Editor assigned to the manuscript
  - Reads all reviews
  - Add comments as necessary
  - Forwards recommendation to the Editor-in-Chief
- The Editor-in-Chief approves all accept and reject decisions




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## Review Process

- Reject
  - The editors did not select your manuscript for publication
- Unacceptable/Major Revision
  - The editors felt that your article contained information of potential importance but a number of major issues were raised
  - Revised and resubmitted within 2 months after the decision
- Acceptable/Minor Revisions
  - The editors found your manuscript potentially acceptable for publication provided you make some minor adjustments.
  - Revised and resubmitted within 1 month after the decision
- Accepted
  - The editors selected your manuscript for publication




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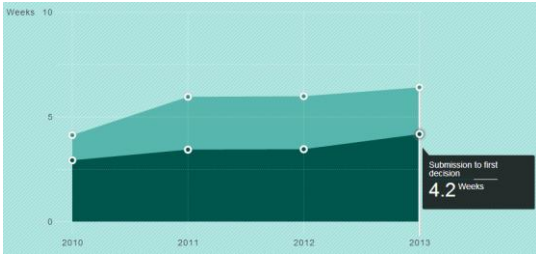
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## Review Process

- Submission to final decision
- Submission to first decision




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## Impact Factor History

- PRO does not have an impact factor yet
- Other resources about journal relevance
  - <http://journalinsights.elsevier.com/journals/1879-8500>




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## SNIP/IPP

	SNIP	Citations	Papers
2013	0.488	77	100
2012	0.955	27	35

**PRO**

	SNIP	Citations	Papers
2013	1.888	9846	2369
2012	2.038	8927	2040
2011	1.779	8012	1963
2010	1.74	8455	1951
2009	1.757	8058	1944

**IJROBP**




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### SJR

	SJR
2013	0.771
2012	0.538

**PRO**

	SJR
2013	2.86
2012	2.628
2011	2.236
2010	2.508
2009	2.31

**IJROBP**




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### Papers *PRO* would like to get

- Articles that focus on imaging, simulation, treatment planning, immobilization, organ motion
- Articles devoted to professionalism, biomedical ethics and practice management
- Interesting case reports with pedagogical merit and other practical issues




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### Papers *PRO* would like to get

- "Quality Corner" section focusing on patient safety, quality measurement, or quality improvement initiatives
- "Point/Counterpoint" section with opposing expert views on current topics and controversies




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## Papers *PRO* would NOT like to get

- Basic science research
- Papers that were rejected from other journals
  - e.g., *Med Phys* or *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys*
  - At least not without review and appropriate modification of the presentation and emphasis

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## Miscellaneous Information

- No fee for publishing a subscription article
- Authors pay USD \$1800 publishing an open access article
  - Open access articles will be immediately and permanently free for everyone to read and download from ScienceDirect
- Indexed in MEDLINE
  - Since January 2014
  - All earlier papers are searchable within PubMed




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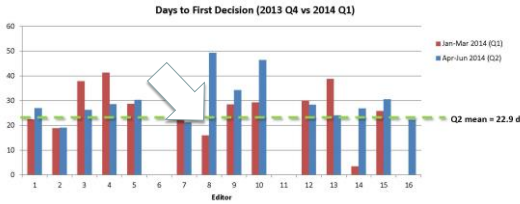
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## Summary

- Journal philosophy
- Data about the journal
- Reviewed the review process
- About the *PRO* impact factor
- Covered what physics papers are appropriate for *PRO*

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