To which journal I should submit my paper?

*Practical Radiation Oncology (PRO)*

Todd Pawlicki
PRO Senior Editor

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

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
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

• 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

• 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
**Review Process**

- **Declined without review**
  - A portion of submissions are declined without external review if such manuscripts are judged to be inappropriate for the journal's readership or any other scientific factors as determined by the Associate Editors.

- **Timelines**
  - Authors can expect to learn of rejection or acceptance in approximately 4 to 6 weeks.

**Impact Factor History**

- **PRO** does not have an impact factor yet.

- Other resources about journal relevance
  - [http://journalinsights.elsevier.com/journals/1879-8500](http://journalinsights.elsevier.com/journals/1879-8500)

**SNIP/IPP**

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**PRO**

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**IJROBP**
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

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
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

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

Days to First Decision (2013 Q4 vs 2014 Q2)

Days to First Decision (2014 Overall)
Summary

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