

# Rapid Review of Radiotherapy and Associated Radiobiology 2008



NCRI

National  
Cancer  
Research  
Institute



## Executive Summary

A group of research funders and experts met in April 2008 to consider and update the actions which had been undertaken as a result of NCRI's first review of radiotherapy and associated radiobiology in 2003. A 10-point action plan has been agreed by the NCRI Board and implementation has begun in the autumn of 2008:

1. National leadership will be provided through a senior clinical oncologist with dedicated time and scientific support, working through a new multi-workstream Clinical and Translational Radiotherapy Research Working Group which he will chair. The first national leader will be Professor Tim Maughan, Professor of Cancer Studies at Cardiff University. The work of this group will be broad-ranging in scope and ambitious in intent. The expertise and resources hereby created will provide direction and impetus to all other actions in this plan.
2. Steps will be taken to break down barriers to access to funds for physics and radiotherapy support for radiotherapy trials within the NHS, and where necessary to provide additional resources.
3. The Medical Research Council (MRC) will organise a workshop on research methodology for the evaluation of new radiotherapeutic techniques.
4. The National Cancer Intelligence Network (NCIN) will undertake a study of patterns of radiotherapy practice, and how these impact on outcomes in terms of both survival and late effects of radiotherapy treatment.
5. Cancer Research UK, the MRC and the Royal College of Radiologists will review resources and incentives for academic career development in radiation oncology, and take steps accordingly.
6. The Society and College of Radiographers, the National Cancer Research Network (NCRN) and UK Clinical Research Network (UKCRN) will work together to develop new training and career development resources for radiographers.
7. Greater engagement of the pharmaceutical industry in the opportunities for combined drug and radiotherapy trials will be promoted.
8. Resources to provide incentives for NHS-employed clinical oncologists to engage in research will be reviewed, and new actions initiated where necessary.
9. The national leader and the Working Group will work with NHS service providers to ensure a timely and evidence-based approach to the implementation of new radiotherapy technologies for the benefit of patients.
10. Following the last review, Cancer Research UK and MRC have recently invested heavily in radiation oncology and biology research, specifically by establishing a new Institute in Oxford. They will continue to explore opportunities to support excellent research in this important area.

Progress will be actively monitored by the NCRI Board and progress reports published on the NCRI website.