BOOK REVIEW

Medical Imaging and Radiotherapy Research: Skills and Strategies (2nd edition)

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This the 2nd edition of this book is once again edited by Aarthi Ramlaul, based at the University of Hertfordshire, in the United Kingdom.

In this edition, the content has been updated with current developments from practice and the profession in general. Of note is that the way in which concepts are related to examples from medical imaging and radiotherapy practice in the 1st edition have been strengthened in this edition.

The chapter authors selected by the editor are experts in their respective fields and whose collective knowledge and contributions have resulted in a publication that can be used by all researchers. The book is divided into six major sections comprising a total of 20 chapters. In keeping with advanced technology in radiographic practice, there is a need to generate quality evidence based on sound clinical practice. This publication contextualizes research-related information that was lacking and also encompasses valuable research paradigms. Hence the book provides a quality reference guide to researchers.

Getting started with research is covered in Part 1. It deals with the historical beginnings of research, formulating of the research question, literature search with evaluation and critique, reflective practice and research related ethical considerations. The theme of Part 2 is research planning. It incorporates the plan of the study, the different types of information, epidemiology, sampling errors, bias and research outcome measures. Part 3 covers health technology assessment. Part 4 deals with radiation dosimetry and clinical audit. Part 5 provides a comprehensive section on data collection and analysis. The concluding section (Part 6) includes the final writing-up of a dissertation and writing papers for publications and conferences. It also includes a much needed chapter on applying for funding and some excellent research writing tips and errors. Each chapter is dedicated to a particular area of the research process and widely covers the information relevant to that area. In addition each chapter concludes with a useful list of references.

The book is easy to follow especially for novice researchers and is an excellent reference on the ‘skills and strategies’ required to conduct research.

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