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Foreword

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Riding on the coat tails of the previous revolution in medical imaging, external radiation delivery is arguably now advancing faster than nearly any other field of medicine. In particular the contemporary targeting of modern radiation is characterized by ever greater spatial fidelity, i.e. stereotactic delivery, as well as continuously improving dose conformality, which stems from improved hardware and computerized optimization. In addition, more exotic sources of ionizing radiation, such as protons and other heavy particles, can under certain unique circumstances, also facilitate these trends in radiation delivery. The manuscripts published in this edition of Technology in Cancer Research and Treatment are consistent with the above themes. I wish to congratulate all the authors who contributed to this edition for their efforts in driving these basic science and clinical outcome studies in stereotactic irradiation. Of note I have specifically eschewed the words radiation therapy and oncology; while I am certain that today's radiation oncologist will be critical to recognizing the huge emerging opportunities in radiation delivery, I also believe that some of the greatest future impact of these advances may lie far afield of cancer treatment and involve a spectrum of new medical specialists. Consequently, as pertains to the overall field of stereotactic radiosurgery today, my advice to readers is to stay tuned, for the best is yet to come.

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