

Letters to the Editor

Submitting a letter to the editor allows you to participate in a scientific discourse of the work published by your colleagues, and demonstrates the active nature of our professional community. Ideally, letters should elevate or add to the level of discussion, and/or provide an interesting perspective to an issue.

- Submit letters in a Word document directly to the Managing Editor at: editor@camrt.ca.
- 500 words or less are preferred.
- Letters addressing a specific article must reach us within 2 months of publication of the original item.
- Letters of general interest are also welcome at any time and will be published in the next available issue.
- Please note that the journal may invite replies from the authors of the original publication, or pass on letters to these authors.
- If you include references in the letter, please add the full reference listing (see sample below).
- All letters are edited and proofs will be sent out to the authors before publication.

Sample letter format:

Dear Editor,

RE: First three authors, et al. Title. J Med Imaging Radiat Sci Year;Volume(Number):Page range.

I read with great interest the paper by Koo et al [1]. Their work aimed to assess the predisposing factors for occupational stress within the palliative care program. They surveyed all members of the palliative care team, all radiation therapists, and all nurses within a large urban cancer centre. Based on their findings and analysis, the authors report that greater psychological distress was seen in health care professionals who worked a greater percentage of their time with palliative patients. The authors conclude that occupational stress is evident and present among the majority of health care professionals practicing within the oncology setting. Finally, they suggest that strategies should be introduced to minimize workplace stress with emphasis on promoting stress-relieving activities.

The publication of this article was very timely because mental health and wellness is recognized as an area of high need. Earlier this year, the Mental Health Commission of Canada released a voluntary guideline for employers that provides a framework to create and continually improve a psychologically healthy and safe workplace [2]. Mental health affects one in five people in Canada each year with a cost to the economy estimated to be in excess of \$50 billion annually [2].

I commend the authors for tackling an important issue, which is in its infancy for discussion within the oncology setting. I look forward to reviewing future work on the subject.

Name
Email Address
Institution
Location

References

[1] Koo, K., Zeng, L., & Zhang, L., et al. (2013). Comparison and literature review of occupational stress in a palliative radiotherapy clinic's interprofessional team, the radiation therapists, and the nurses at an academic cancer centre. J Med Imaging Radiat Sci 44(1), 14–22.

[2] Mental Health Commission of Canada. National Standard of Canada for Psychological Health and Safety in the Workplace. Available at: www.mentalhealthcommission.ca/English/node/5346. Accessed June 30, 2013.