tipsRO Young Investigator Award

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What have been the highlights of your career?

I feel very lucky to have a job that enables me to work with novel and exciting radiotherapy technology such as the magnetic resonance linear accelerator (MR-linac). It has been an honour to assume the role of radiotherapy research superintendent and to be able to work with a dedicated, innovative and patient-focussed multi-disciplinary team. Winning the tipsRO young investigator award at the 2022 meeting of the European SocieTy for Radiotherapy and Oncology (ESTRO) was a career highlight. Our project on systematic multi-disciplinary sequence evaluation for integration into the MR-linac workflow was a team effort and we were proud of the workflow and patient-experience benefits it presented.

What does this award mean to you?

To win the award was very exciting and unexpected as many other worthy projects were shortlisted. The award honours and celebrates the hard work of the whole team that conducted this project; winning it allowed us to reflect on and celebrate our achievements. The win has also encouraged us and made us enthusiastic to publish this work in tipsRO.

To whom would you like to dedicate this award?

I would like to dedicate it to the multidisciplinary team that worked together on this project and in particular to my co-authors: Joan Chick, Trina Herbert, Robert Huddart, Manasi Ingle, Adam Mitchell, Uwe Oelfke, Alex Dunlop and Shaista Hafeez. I would also like to dedicate this award to our patients, who graciously gave up their time and shared their experiences for research and development that would benefit others.

What is your next challenge?

We always strive to improve and optimise our radiotherapy practice. Our next project on the MR-linac is to implement MRI-guided pancreas stereotactic body radiotherapy. We look forward to being able to offer this treatment to our patients later this year.

In March 2021 I commenced a PhD with the Institute of Cancer Research, London. My project is titled 'stratifying patients for optimal benefit from novel adaptive radiotherapy'. The hypothesis is that information that is derived from patients' pre-treatment images,

for example, organ volume, diameter and position, with patient-specific factors such as levels of physical activity, mental health and medical history, can be used to predict which patients will benefit most from the application of daily adaptive radiotherapy.

We've recently published a paper on prostate-volume changes during extreme and moderately hypofractionated, MR, image-guided radiotherapy and currently I'm completing a scoping literature review titled GI factors: potential to predict prostate motion during radiotherapy? I hope to present some of this work at ESTRO 2023.

What has been your involvement within ESTRO?

I have been fortunate to have the opportunity to present work at ESTROs 2019, 2021 and 2022. The ESTRO congresses have offered great chances to learn from and network with members of the radiation oncology community. I have also benefitted from attendance at the ESTRO school courses 'Image-guided and adaptive radiotherapy' and 'In-room MRI-guided radiotherapy'. I found these courses incredibly interesting and beneficial to my practice. I look forward to future ESTRO involvement.