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Introduction

Combined use of irradiation and chemotherapy has become the standard of treatment in number of clinical settings. The challenge is how we should optimise these often complex regimens to achieve the best therapeutic ratio and improve the overall outcome for patients. Some things are clear—progress will only be made by closer collaboration of medical and radiation oncologists and improved understanding of the biological principles influencing the interactions of both treatment modalities. This issue attempts to bring together some of the important theoretical concepts with reviews of current clinical usage and I am grateful to all the con-

tributors who have contributed generously of their time and energy to bring us up to date with their specialist area. The publication would not have been possible without the foresight of the *European Journal of Cancer* who commissioned this issue and the expert assistance of the Editorial Office. It was a pleasure to work with them all and I hope that you will find our efforts informative and valuable.

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