

B enigN ews

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Information Letter of the German Working Group
„Radiotherapy for Benign Diseases“ and Cooperating Groups

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Editor's Corner

Dear Colleagues and Friends of Radiation Medicine,

BenigN^{ews} is as the name suggests an information letter with much good news regarding the use of ionizing radiation for treatment of so called benign diseases. It is the official news letter of the **German Working Group "Radiotherapy for Benign Diseases"** which was founded in 1995 parallel to the foundation of our national German Radiation Oncology Society (DEGRO) in Baden-Baden. Since then the Working Group has experienced rapid growth of interest from within Germany and outside in Europe and the United States. This is the reason why we have started **BenigN^{ews}** in the English language and via internet to reach friends and colleagues within Europe and abroad. The letter will appear three times per year in January, May and September of each year. This first edition will be distributed on the occasion of the 4th DEGRO Meeting on "Benign Diseases" which is being held in Essen (Germany) on May 5th - 6th 2000.

BenigN^{ews} will be composed of the following sections: An Editorial Corner, Summaries and Literature Reviews of interesting studies dealing with radiotherapy of benign diseases in scientific journals and books, Special Reviews of Hot Topics and Case Reports, an Information Board, Congress Calendar, material for daily clinical practice e.g. Information leaflets for patients, family physicians and the public, questionnaires regarding specific topics of radiotherapy for benign diseases and special forms to report some rare benign diseases and their (hopefully) successful radiation treatment to us in

BenigN^{ews} ! This news letter will be distributed throughout Europe and if necessary beyond to the United States and other parts of the world by internet.

BenigN^{ews} does not intend to compete with any of the official scientific (radiation) oncology journals, but we would rather like to invite interested readers to submit structured or even unstructured, but encouraging material to us which we will help to shape into an appropriate form of information to all of us. We will offer help to have reports in national languages to be translated into readable English language to be published in **BenigN^{ews}**.

A final note to the readers of **BenigN^{ews}**:

News Letters live longer if they are read and stimulate their readers to write letters themselves. We would appreciate such a conversation and all your comments and suggestions for a common future of radiotherapy for benign diseases. Sincerely Yours,

M. Heinrich Seegenschmiedt, Essen (Germany)
& **Hans-Bruno Makoski, Duisburg (Germany)**

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