Building tools for image-guided adaptive radiotherapy of bladder cancer
Chai, X.

Citation for published version (APA):
Chai, X. (2012). Building tools for image-guided adaptive radiotherapy of bladder cancer Oisterwijk: Boxpress
Acknowledgements

My thesis is the result of four and half years’ work since I came to the Netherlands in 2007. It is not possible to finish without a number of people who have contributed in various ways to my research. I would like to share the joy of completing this thesis with those people and also convey my gratitude towards them.

I want to first thank my advisor Marcel van Herk for his supervision of my thesis. It is my pleasure to have had such a great opportunity to work with him for more than four years. I admire his working style. As a successful scientist and group leader, he still works in the frontlines of research, writing papers and code himself. His hearty laugh is the best support to us and his passion and love for the research work is a great role model for me. I would like to thank him for giving me the freedom to work in my own ways. I also truly appreciate the time and effort he spent in reading and improving my manuscript.

I am particularly grateful to my daily advisor, Arjan Bel, for his supervision and advice over these years. He was always available to answer my questions and have been very patient with me. His input was always determinant and at the right moment. Without his constant encouragement, technical guidance and support for many practical issues, I could not have finished this thesis book.

I owe my deep gratitude to my advisor Caro Koning for her support to me in many different ways.

I also want to express my appreciation to Maarten Hulshof for his support on my research work. He is always very active in learning and trying new techniques. Thanks to him for sharing his knowledge and for his efforts on reviewing my papers.

Furthermore, I am deeply indebted to my colleagues Dominique, Martijn, Petra, Anna, Davi, Leah, Edmond, Silvia, Jean, Nick, Kees, Marcus, Hans and Garard for sharing their research experiences and valuable life suggestions.

In particular, I would like to thank Martijn for his help in debugging my software and for his company in the AMC restaurant and gym in his spare time. I want to express my great gratitude for his parents and sister for their warm hospitality in the Christmas holiday.

My special thanks go to my former colleague Jeroen van de Kamer. His help and enthusiasm gave me great support at the beginning of my PhD life.

I also would like to thank my co-authors: Peter Remeijer, Anja Betgen, Pos Floris, Heidi Lotz, Axel Bex and Theo de Reijke for their important contributions. I am grateful to the anonymous referees, who accepted and sometimes rejected my paper, for their helpful comments.

I work on a collaboration project between Academic Medical Center and the Netherlands Cancer Institute. Some people from the Netherlands Cancer Institute offered me great help and essential support for my thesis. I am grateful for Hermine
for sharing her knowledge and image data with me. We have had fruitful discussions
in the monthly project meetings over the last four years. I appreciate her efforts on the
extra takes of my paper as she can always find some unapparent errors. Also lots of
thanks to other people from the Netherlands Cancer Institute: Jan-Jakob Sonke, Peter
Remeijer, Simon van Kranen, Lambert Zijp, Leenert Ploeger and Jasper Nijkamp for
their kind help on software programming, collecting data and reviewing my paper.

I also want to express my thanks to Hai Li, Zhenyu Wang (Beijing University of
Aeronautics and Astronautics) and Yansheng Jiang (Leuven University) for their
advice and willingness to share their knowledge about finite element modelling with
me.

I would like to thank several secretaries, Judith Dubbeld, Gita Guggenheim, Patricia
Fewer and Eva Hartkamp, from the international office, for their efforts to address
practical issues.

I also want to thank my friends here in Amsterdam: Chun Chen, Hua Zhang, Wei
Chen, Xiwen Zhao, Zigu Chen, Yu Huang, Jing Ping, Rui Yang, Jing Zhao, Yi Wu,
Yanru Zhang, Ling Shan, Juan Zhao, Fang Cui, Jia Wang, Xiaofei Li, Yun Teng,
Shizhong Wu, Jingjing Liu and Hai Hu for the joyful conversations and endless
dinner parties. They have all made my life here in Amsterdam rich and colorful.

Last but not least, I would like to thank my beloved girlfriend Weijia for her personal
support and great patience at all times. I am grateful for her efforts in designing the
cover and reading this thesis manuscript. I would like to thank my parents, as they
have given me great mental support and endless love throughout, as always. I would
not have had such a great experience studying abroad otherwise. I wish them a happy
and healthy life.

Xiangfei Chai