Annals of oncology in 2015: the year in review

In 2015, the oncology arena has continued to evolve at an accelerated pace, with exciting novel developments notably in the fields of immunotherapy, precision medicine, epidemiology and the health economics of cancer care. This evolution also holds true for *Annals of Oncology*, which recognizes the need to adapt to meet the needs of this changing face of oncology. I believe that in 2015 we have made a successful start to this process of evolution, and I am confident that the journal will continue to progress in 2016.

At the beginning of 2014, I welcomed a group of internationally renowned leaders in their fields to form our new Associate Editorial team. Their dedication, hard work and continuing enthusiasm has been invaluable in moving *Annals of Oncology* towards our common goal of creating a modern, high-profile journal.

In addition, I am proud to announce that we have welcomed a number of new Associate Editors. Holbrook Kohrt, a cancer immunotherapy specialist working at Stanford, Dirk Arnold, an expert in the field of gastrointestinal cancers from the University Cancer Centre Hamburg, and Charles Ferté, an expert in digital medicine from Gustave Roussy Cancer Campus, have joined the team. This year we will also introduce new Associate Editors in melanoma, bioinformatics and gynecological cancers to further strengthen the team, in the persons of Georgina Long from the Crick Institute, and Bradley J. Monk from the University of Sydney, Nicholas McGranahan from the Francis Crick Institute, and Charles Ferté, an expert in digital medicine from Gustave Roussy Cancer Campus, have joined the team. This year we will also introduce new Associate Editors in melanoma, bioinformatics and gynecological cancers to further strengthen the team, in the persons of Georgina Long from the Crick Institute, and Bradley J. Monk from the University of Arizona. Each brings new expertise and ideas to the journal, adding value to an already first-class group of Associate Editors.

To encourage collaboration with industry, Kapil Dhingra, former industry consultant specializing in gastrointestinal cancers from the University Cancer Centre Hamburg, and Charles Ferté, an expert in digital medicine from Gustave Roussy Cancer Campus, have joined the team. This year we will also introduce new Associate Editors in melanoma, bioinformatics and gynecological cancers to further strengthen the team, in the persons of Georgina Long from the Crick Institute, and Bradley J. Monk from the University of Arizona. Each brings new expertise and ideas to the journal, adding value to an already first-class group of Associate Editors. To encourage collaboration with industry, Kapil Dhingra, former industry consultant specializing in gastrointestinal cancers from the University Cancer Centre Hamburg, and Charles Ferté, an expert in digital medicine from Gustave Roussy Cancer Campus, have joined the team. This year we will also introduce new Associate Editors in melanoma, bioinformatics and gynecological cancers to further strengthen the team, in the persons of Georgina Long from the Crick Institute, and Bradley J. Monk from the University of Arizona. Each brings new expertise and ideas to the journal, adding value to an already first-class group of Associate Editors.

In addition to the new Associate Editors, we have added a number of new associate editors in areas such as immunology, genomics, and clinical trials. These changes reflect our commitment to staying at the forefront of oncology research and ensuring that *Annals of Oncology* is a leading journal in the field.

One of the major aims for the new *Annals of Oncology* team was to increase the number of randomized trials, top-level studies and high-profile guidelines and reviews published in the journal, which we believe will raise the visibility of *Annals of Oncology* and increase its impact factor. Indeed, in 2015 we saw our impact factor rise to 7.040, consolidating our position as one of the most widely read and cited journals in oncology. This reflects the efforts of the previous Editor-in-Chief Jan Vermorken and his team of Associate Editors. I am confident that we can continue their good work. In 2016, we expect to see our impact factor increase further. I believe that we are on target to achieve our aim of raising the Impact Factor to 10 by 2017. In order to achieve this, we have increased our overall rejection rate which has now reached 87% of all submitted manuscripts, to ensure we publish only the highest quality papers.

Our aim to increase publications of high-profile studies, guidelines and reviews is evident when looking at the most viewed articles in the journal. The ESMO Updated Clinical Practice Guidelines [1] remain among our most viewed articles of 2015, along with recommendations for the evaluation of tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes (TILs) in breast cancer [2] and the St. Gallen consensus statements on breast [3] and prostate cancer [4]. In 2015, we have increased the number of original articles published in the fields of onco-immunology, precision medicine, bioinformatics and statistics. In addition, under the guidance of our associate editor Marc Buyse, we have introduced the ‘Statistical controversies in clinical research’ series of articles, which aims to involve oncologists in the debate surrounding new developments in clinical research methodology. For certain cancers, where few treatment options previously existed, progress in tumor immunotherapy has brought hope to many patients. Research in this field is thriving, not only with continuing clinical trials of existing and novel immunotherapy agents, but also with studies into applications of immunotherapy across different cancer types and into reducing the adverse effects of these agents. Understanding why immunotherapy can induce remarkable and durable responses for some patients, but not all, continues to be an area of intense interest. With many heralding onco-immunology as the cornerstone of a new era of cancer medicine, I believe that *Annals of Oncology* is addressing the demand for papers on this topic, as illustrated by the appointment of an additional Associate Editor in the field, Holbrook Kohrt, to work alongside George Coukos.

I strongly believe that the evolution of *Annals of Oncology* towards becoming a top-level journal is well underway. I would like to thank all those involved in this process, including the Editorial Board, our committed reviewers, and our authors and readers for helping us on the road to achieving this aim. I would also like to thank the *Annals of Oncology* Editorial Office staff members and Oxford University Press, who provide all the necessary support for all those involved with the journal. In 2016, I look forward to building on the success of the past year, attracting readers and authors from the global cancer community and continuing our progress towards becoming the reference oncology journal.

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acknowledgement

I would like to thank Vanessa Marchesi, Fabrice André and Charles Swanton for their helpful insights regarding this editorial.

disclosure

The author has declared no conflicts of interest.

references