Onkologie 1995: The Completed Editorial Staff Realizes New Concepts

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One of the essential tasks of a scientific journal's editorial staff is to offer the authors an appropriate conception that is in accordance with the requirements of the present situation. This conception should permit them to adequately publish the results of their research and, at the same time, should satisfy the readership's needs. During the last five years (1989-1994) ONKOLOGIE could be consolidated as an international journal. Nowadays relevant results of research should be printed in English. Accordingly, since 1992 all scientific original articles and all review articles with predominantly scientific subject have been published exclusively in English in this journal. Clinical oncology is essentially an interdisciplinary field. In order to act in an integrative manner, already since 1991 specialized editorial staffs have been appointed for surgical, gynecologic and urologic oncology as well as for radiotherapy and clinical experimental research work. In addition, it was attempted to strengthen the supranational character of the journal by enlisting experts from Austria and Switzerland. Of late there is increasing cooperation with oncologists in the new Lands of the Federal Republic of Germany.

By inviting well-known experts to write review articles and other reports, the editorial staff has the opportunity to suitably structure and arrange the contents of the journal. This possibility has been used intensively, so that the central topics of clinical oncology could be discussed on a high scientific level. In 1994 the 'FAX Communication' section was set up in order to meet the needs of – particularly young – research scientists for quite rapid publication. These papers are reviewed by an internal fast evaluation process permitting to print the communications in the journal's next issue. Authors are invited to use this opportunity to a still higher degree in 1995. It is the editorial staff's goal to consolidate ONKOLOGIE, even more than hitherto, as a scientific forum for discussions. The reader will easily convince himself that in 1994 the number of 'Letters to the Editors' increased considerably. Every reader can make use of this opportunity to express his opinion concerning the scientific contributions published in the journal. The new sections 'Commentary' and 'Opinion' are additional possibilities for free comments. Readers are invited to take advantage of these chances.

The description of interesting patients and their courses of disease is known to be an excellent means for the further education of physicians. Astonishingly, in our scientific journals such descriptions are scarcely used. Therefore the editorial staff and the publishing house S. Karger (Basel/Freiburg i. Br.) have agreed to establish a specialized editorial staff for the sections 'Casuistic Contribution' and 'Clinical Pathological Conference', which will be headed by Professor Dr. R. Hartenstein (Munich) as of 1995.

Moreover, we wish to meet, more than hitherto, the requirements of many readers concerning German-language oncologic education on a high scientific level. Recently a specialized editorial staff 'Oncological Education' was set up in agreement with the publishing house S. Karger; Professor Dr. H.-J. Schmoll (Hannover) will take over its administration and management. Thereby, the year 1995 will see the introduction of a series of new trends aimed at further increasing the attractiveness of the journal ONKOLOGIE.

We are pleased to have won well-known collaborators over to the realization of these tasks. Thus, Professor Dr. H. Rübber (Essen) will henceforth take charge of the department 'Urologic Oncology' and promote it. The scientific advisory committee could be expanded substantially: by additional election of appropriate experts several fields have been strengthened, particularly Clinical Experimental Research, Hematopathology, and Pediatric Oncology.

Finally we wish to thank all those who, partly after years of cooperation, now retired. This gratitude is especially intended for the two members of the founding staff of the journal ONKOLOGIE (1978), Professor Dr. H.J. Holzner (Vienna) and Professor Dr. W. Wilmanns (Munich). We thank Professor Dr. N. Jäger (Hildesheim) who was in charge of the specialized editorial staff 'Urologic Oncology' since 1991. Moreover, our thanks are due to Professor Dr. C. Dittrich (Vienna), Professor Dr. B. Kornhuber (Frankfurt), and Professor Dr. H.W. Wacławiczek (Salzburg) for their outstanding support of our journal.

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