Onkologie – Its 20th Anniversary

In 1997, the twentieth volume of the journal ONKOLOGIE will be published, an opportunity to look both back and into the future. In 1978, the founders of ONKOLOGIE defined as the main task of this journal 'to pass on the knowledge and information especially needed in practical medicine' [Onkologie 1978;1:1].

In connection with the increasing application of drug therapies not only in hemoblastoses, but also in solid tumors during the following decade the clinical-oncological research, especially research in therapy, gained an increasing importance also in this journal. Thus, ONKOLOGIE presented itself at the end of the 80s mainly as a publication organ of internal oncology. In 1991, the initial concept was modified to integrate today's international needs into ONKOLOGIE [Onkologie 1991;14:5]. This included all original articles being in English now, the rigorous application of the 'peer review' system and the introduction of advisory boards to strengthen the interdisciplinary character of this journal. However, we have kept parts in German, too, knowing that this belongs to our responsibility towards our readers. Due to these and other changes and improvements, ONKOLOGIE, without doubt, has considerably gained in reputation and scientific competence during the last five years.

With this concept we believe to be well-prepared for the future developments in the European Union (EU), and we expect increasing European and international distribution. Starting with volume 20, 1997, an additional advisory board for clinical-oncological education will be established. Thus, we partly return to the original concept of the founders of ONKOLOGIE, educating the doctor working in oncology with concise contributions without repeating established textbook knowledge. Complying with our readers' request, this section will be published mainly in German. Dozent Dr. Scheithauer, Wien, has kindly accepted the responsibility for this educational section. Further, a future aspect is the rapidly growing transfer of information through new media. In our opinion, there is no need to expect a negative influence on the production of scientific journals due to this development. The carefully prepared and peer-reviewed original paper is the condition for a distribution in all bibliographic services. Since 1996, the contents of each issue together with the abstracts of the articles are available through the Internet – simultaneously with the printed version – for all journals published by S. Karger, Medical and Scientific Publishers, Basel. Thus, the journal ONKOLOGIE is access-able through <http://www.karger.ch/journals/onk>.

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