Editorial

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This year's Nobel prizes were given out to two people who have made important contributions to fundamental biology. Their work probes the essence of human characteristics, namely, the gene. Recently, I visited a lab course for first year medical students who are learning how to use a PCR machine to look at specific genes taking advantage of some of the fundamental discoveries. I also see patients every day who require my expertise to diagnose and treat their cancers. I am struck by how much our current clinical knowledge of cancer is still very empiric and not based on modern molecular biology. We still use the same mixture of chemicals for all patients with the same stage of breast cancer or Hodgkin's disease. We almost completely ignore the known heterogeneity of cancer. We still have no meaningful way to measure residual disease and either overtreat or undertreat many patients. Our attempts at cancer prevention are still very crude. When and how can we translate the knowledge learned in the lab to the clinic? How can we speed up that translational activity? Are there enough opportunities for the basic and clinical scientists to interact and learn from each other? I see the basic mission of the journal, *Oncology*, to bring to the readers and the scientific community not just a clinical result, but also some exciting and important laboratory results that might impinge favorably on cancer incidence, morbidity or mortality. A journal dedicated to receiving clinical as well as laboratory papers from all over the world would be my idea of adding to the universe of knowledge. This journal traditionally has not restricted itself to clinical reports or lab experiments. It has tried to incorporate new information from many areas. I would like to see that continued. I also see this journal as adding to the world's literature by providing an opportunity for those investigators from all over the globe to submit articles. Finally, in time, I would like to foster a section of the journal that will include reviews of important topics in laboratory or clinical science. I would appreciate hearing from anyone who would like to contribute.