Towards the Next Millennium

1999, in the last year beginning with 19, the 22nd volume of ONKOLOGIE is being published. This gives us an opportunity to look back at how, during nearly a quarter of a century different generations of Editors-in-Chief have conveyed scientific information to our readers. It is also an occasion to thank all those who, over the years, have offered us for publication their excellent articles with topical data on experimental and clinical oncology. We are pleased, as well, to thank our readers for their always lively interest in the journal. Recently, the number of letters to our editors has increased substantially. We have responded to that fact with the establishment of a Section Editor for commentaries, providing a new forum for discussion of both basic science and clinical topics.

Today our special thanks go to Professor Dr. Heinz Huber, Vienna, who since 1992 has guided ONKOLOGIE as an Editor-in-Chief. One of his main achievements has been to increase the influence of our international journal (originating in the «Österreichische Zeitung für Onkologie») in Austria. The large number of articles from that source over the last years are a testament to his efforts. With volume 22 Professor Huber will completely turn over his function as Editor-in-Chief to Professor Dr. Werner Scheithauer, Vienna, in the orderly progression of the journal to a new generation.

It is one of the main tasks of the editorial board of a scientific journal to recognize certain trends early on and to react to them adequately. We realize that more and more clinical fields have focused on problems related to cancer and the use of new, interdisciplinary methods to address these problems.

For example, during the last decade, significant progress has been made in diagnostic imaging, especially with respect to scintigraphic, sonographic and radiological techniques. New

diagnostic tools offer significant potential for the cancer patient both in early detection and in planning of therapy. Therefore, ONKOLOGIE will report oncological radiology with new vigor. In this way, we are expanding beyond our previous role as a solely «therapeutic» journal. As further reflections of this philosophy, head and neck surgery will now be represented in the scientific committee of the journal.

A central challenge into the next century and millennium, without doubt, is the increasingly rapid transfer of information by new media. This will serve only medical practice, however, if the information is both accurate and unbiased. Therefore, our policy will first be to continue to improve the quality of the articles we publish. To that end, the guidelines for our authors were updated thoroughly in the beginning of 1998. An example is our new integration of the CONSORT statement and the checklist for authors submitting randomized controlled trials (ONKOLOGIE 1998;21,2–4). Another important change is the fact that not only original articles but all other scientific contributions like review articles, short reviews, commentaries and articles on oncological education are peer-reviewed.

The journal ONKOLOGIE today is represented in the main international bibliographic services. At the same time, the editorial board strives to improve reader access to ONKOLOGIE by other means, too. The full text and tables of contents of every issue are available on the internet via <http://www.Karger.ch/journal/onkcont.htm>.

With these efforts, we look forward with enthusiasm and confidence to the coming millennium.

W. Queißer, Mannheim
W. Scheithauer, Wien