Perspectives for ONKOLOGIE

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The journal ONKOLOGIE was founded in 1978 by Karger publishers. During the past 34 years, ONKOLOGIE has experienced many developments: while in the first years all articles were submitted in German, more and more English manuscripts were received in the 1980s. In 1991 publication language was changed to English to adapt to the needs of an increasingly international readership. Thanks to the diligent efforts of Werner Queißer, who had been editor of ONKOLOGIE since 1989, the quality of the journal steadily increased and ONKOLOGIE was listed in PubMed in 2000. When Hans-Joachim Schmoll took the position of Editor-in-Chief in 2002, the journal was established as the major journal in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland in the field of oncology. Over the past 10 years, ONKOLOGIE has become internationally recognized and has achieved a world-wide distribution and authorship. Continuous investments of Karger publishers in up-to-date technical equipment (e.g., soft- and hardware for online submission and peer review, e-pub ahead of print) allowed to generate a competitive e-pub time of 8–10 weeks. The number of manuscripts submitted for publication is rising, and the current rejection rate is around 70%, reflecting the increasing strength and quality of the published manuscripts. Based on these improvements, ONKOLOGIE has gained internationally high acceptance and recognition.

By nominating Michael Hallek as additional Editor-in-Chief, Karger publishers and Dr. Schmoll express their intention to develop ONKOLOGIE into a leading oncology journal in Europe. The two editors share the vision to further raise the international visibility of the journal and to establish a strong European journal of cancer medicine with an intensified focus on translational medicine.

To achieve this goal, the following changes will be implemented:

- Young, active clinical scientists will be invited to become members of the editorial board.
- The *active* participation of the entire editorial board will be used to constantly improve the journal.
- To increase the visibility of key articles the editors will select important manuscripts to be published as ‘Editors’ Choice’. These articles are freely available on the journal’s homepage and deposited in PubMed Central.
- The journal will invite reviews and original contributions in the field of translational cancer medicine in addition to reviews on clinical oncology.
- The journal will open a new ‘fast track’ section that will allow the rapid, peer-reviewed publication of particularly innovative original articles.
- The time from submission to publication will be further shortened, with a turn-around time for fast-track publications from submission to publication of less than 3 months.
- The journal will seek closer cooperation with cancer societies and scientists throughout the world, with a particular focus on European collaborations.
- The journal wants to steadily increase its impact factor in the next 5 years.

We look forward to this challenging new task. We know that the success of ONKOLOGIE will depend on the acceptance in the scientific community. Therefore, we will continue to work on our relationship with the scientific societies that use ONKOLOGIE as their official journal, such as the German and Austrian Societies for Hematology and Oncology (DGHO and ÖGHO), the Working Group Medical Oncology (AIO), and the German Fatigue Society (DFaG). In addition, we will strive to earn the respect and interest of a new generation of scientists to create a strong and competitive international journal in the field of clinical and translational oncology.