Editorial

Clinical and experimental cancer research is proceeding at an increasing, almost breathtaking speed. At present, clinical research can not keep up with the high number of important findings from basic and translational studies. Further, the speed of publications increases while the half-life of printed knowledge decreases constantly. To many, the amount of printed information seems unmanageable. In this environment the question can be raised: are scientific journals with a classical coinage still of significance?

In other words: do we still need ONKOLOGIE? For me the answer is simple, a straightforward 'yes'. Otherwise I would not have become Editor-in-Chief, a task I most enthusiastically take on.

Why? First, this journal is the only scientific publication in the German-speaking area. Indeed, through the years-long work of Prof. Queißer, the Associate Editors and the members of the Editorial Board, ONKOLOGIE has reached a respectable degree of recognition throughout Mid-Europe and is top-ranking in this area of circulation. From this position, we plan to increase the international importance and renown of ONKOLOGIE through continuing efforts to improve the quality of the published articles. Because German oncological research in many fields bears favorable international comparison, it provides an ideal base for the effort to provide a scientific journal with an oncological emphasis.

The specialty of ONKOLOGIE is its interdisciplinary approach. Though articles from all areas of oncological research are not published in each edition of ONKOLOGIE, it still is our goal to bring attention to the different facets of clinical and translational research with every issue. This integrated approach, which should be at the heart of oncological thinking and doing, is represented in our Editorial Board, whose composition guarantees continued focus on this idea for the future.

ONKOLOGIE is a project that has functioned well for more than 25 years, which is rare in the media world. This is another

firm base for us to further develop the journal and to improve the quality of oncological therapy in Germany. For this reason, editorials, critical reviews and further education will be more strongly featured in the future, complementing a steady increase of good original articles from the whole oncological spectrum.

A scientific journal does not live through its dedicated Editors or Editorial Board, but rather through its readership and through articles from the scientific community. Therefore it is in the hands of you, the readers, to strengthen ONKOLOGIE with your original work from experimental or clinical research, critical letters, commentaries and reviews. The Editorial Board in the near future will therefore frequently contact research groups and researchers, actively seeking out substantial manuscripts. ONKOLOGIE will not be able to gain from a German-speaking area of circulation alone the reputation of international journals like *Annals of Oncology* or *Journal of Clinical Oncology*. But there are, from many sources, numerous research reports and original articles at a good scientific level which would be well placed here. Together with the publisher, I intend not only to optimize ONKOLOGIE as to content, but also with respect to formal presentation and to shortening of the review process. This means that you generally should know 6–8 weeks after submission whether your manuscript has been accepted by receiving detailed written review. Be assured, then, of both rapid replies and a fair review process for your articles. From this, not only the reputation of the journal, but also that of the author, can profit. Both the Publisher and I request from you, the readers and users of ONKOLOGIE, your notions, wishes and critical thoughts.

Only by this reflection will constant improvement of our journal be possible. Thank you in advance for your support!

H.-J. Schmoll, Halle
Editor-in-Chief