Editorial

Onco: A Promising Player Amidst Oncology Journals

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As the new Editor-in-Chief of the journal, I believe that I must continue the efforts of my predecessor even more actively and with greater enthusiasm and dedication so that the journal becomes a pole of attraction for the publication of excellent studies of basic, translational and clinical research for the treatment of cancer. It will be equally important to focus on the publication of clinical studies for targeted cancer therapies in the context of precision oncology. Of course, cancer treatment is an expanding and evolving field whereby immunotherapy has made an enormous impact. By paying attention to the advancements made so far in the field, we may conclude that immune-oriented treatments of cancer are mostly based on the knowledge we obtain from exploring mechanisms of immune resistance utilized by the tumor cells. The scientific field of immuno-oncology is quite complex and multidisciplinary given that in the tumor microenvironment, but also in the periphery, there is an abundance of factors that can influence the endogenous antitumor immune response which, as we learned in the early 2000s, constitutes the cornerstone for the outcome not only of immunotherapy but also of other anticancer treatments. Given that cancer heterogeneity consists of tumor clones employing various resistance mechanisms, along with the fact that immune surveillance within the tumor microenvironment can be influenced variously, it is reasonable to propose that exploring the most effective targeted treatments could be the most appropriate modality for cancer management. As a next step, these effective targeted therapies combined with established immunotherapies (or other cancer therapies) may provide robust and durable clinical benefits for patients. Targeting tumor cell metabolism and tumor cell cycle, gut microbiota, angiogenesis, apoptosis-inducing pathways and oncogenic signal transduction could represent some selected targeted cancer therapies. However, whatever the therapeutic protocol may be, we should always keep in mind that this should be safe and applicable to the majority of patients and cancer types. I sincerely hope that the *Onco* journal will showcase cutting-edge research papers and reviews paving the way to accomplish this aspiring goal. I am confident that my successful collaboration with the Managing Editor and the Editorial Board Members will contribute to the upward trajectory of the *Onco* journal via the submission of manuscripts from reputed research centers, oncology clinics, universities and industries. We encourage you to submit your work (research manuscripts, reviews, editorials, communications, etc.) for reviewing and publication. We can ensure that by publishing in the *Onco* journal, you will be a part of the research progress and clinical improvements in cancer.

Conflicts of Interest: The author declares no conflict of interest.

Short Biography of Author

Constantin Baxevanis is one of the leading scientists in the development of cancer vaccines and cancer immunotherapy. Throughout the last 20 years, he has developed various strategies in the immunological treatment of cancer. He is actively involved in ongoing vaccine trials as well as in translational research aiming to identify prognostic and predictive biomarkers, and he has put major efforts into the development of various cancer immunotherapeutic strategies. Dr. Baxevanis' research interests include therapeutic pre-clinical mouse models for transplantable and spontaneous tumors; the identification of immunological approaches for the prevention of carcinogenesis; the identification of new tumor antigens involved in cancer progression; pre-clinical definition and the validation of cellular and peptide-based vaccines to induce antitumor immunity; the identification of prognostic and predictive biomarkers for personalized precision medicine; and clinical trials vaccinating cancer patients with synthetic peptides representing immunogenic (e.g., mutated) MHC class I and class II epitopes from oncoproteins alone or combined with immune checkpoint inhibitors/epigenetic drugs, standard chemotherapy or radiotherapy. He has several translational projects ongoing and has received over EUR 10 million in research grands and clinical trials. Dr. Baxevanis is an active member of various scientific societies including the European Society for Cancer Research, the American Association for Cancer Research, the European Society for Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy, the American Association of Immunologists and the European Academy of Tumor Immunology. He also served as a member of European Evaluation Committees (EC) including the Biomedical Research Programmes in the 6th and 7th Framework Programs (FP6 and FP7) announced by the European Union for 2002–2013, the HORIZON 2020 and the TRANSCAN 2022. Since 2018, he has been a member of the European Scientific Foundation EC. Dr. Baxevanis is an Editorial Board Member of several scientific journals including *Cancers* (Basel) and acts as Guest Editor of Special Issues for this journal. He has been active in organizing international scientific conferences on cancer research including the Symposium on "Advances in Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy" (on a yearly basis since 2015) and the "Progress in Vaccination Against Cancer (PIVAC)" (in 2005, 2017, 2019 and 2023). He has received numerous awards and honors including the Academic Prize for Biomedical research from Bodossaki Foundation. Dr. Baxevanis has 178 publications in PubMed, with nearly 10,500 citations and with an h-index of 52.