The Patient Impact Factor

Dear Colleagues,

It has been an incredible 10 years. *Molecular Cancer Therapeutics* (MCT) was launched because the membership of AACR and many other investigators felt that important pieces of work in chemistry, experimental therapeutics, and other areas of drug development were being scattered into many non-cancer specialty journals, where they were not being seen by many cancer researchers. *MCT* was designed to provide a place to publish those important pieces of work in drug development. The first issue of *MCT* was published in November 2001. Over the past 10 years, the mission of *MCT* has been refined: to publish the best science in the areas of therapeutic discovery, preclinical development, and molecular medicine in practice.

We have had an incredible editorial team (see list below of past and present Deputy and Senior Editors) that has worked hard to develop and improve *MCT*. Of course we have tried to ensure that *MCT* had an excellent impact factor (now 5.225). More importantly however, we always tried to make sure that what was being published eventually had an impact in the clinic. We called this the "patient impact factor"—that is, manuscripts that have a lasting impact on research and patient care. I believe we have been successful in this effort, and the commentaries that follow are an illustration of this "patient impact factor" concept.

In reviewing the past 10 years of articles published in *MCT* (9,547 manuscripts submitted and 3,701 published through August 2011), our editorial team has selected 16 outstanding articles we feel resulted in an important patient impact factor. For these 16 articles, we asked the authors to provide a commentary on their work (now that it has had a chance to age—or mature," as some of us would say). I believe you are in for a treat upon reading these.

This year marks my tenth and last year of service as Editor-in-Chief of *MCT*. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the AACR and its Publications Committee for the opportunity to serve in this role. I want to thank everyone who helped get the journal started, including our past editors and editorial board members, and our current editorial team and staff, who have worked diligently to ensure the journal is the best it can be. I would also like to recognize the undying support from AACR on the part of Margaret Foti, PhD, MD (h.c.), Chief Executive Officer; Diane Scott-Lichter, Publisher; Helen Atkins, Editorial Director; and Candice Nulsen, PhD, Senior Associate Editor of *MCT* for their tireless work and creativity, understanding, and support over the years we have worked together on *MCT*.

Finally, I want to say thank you to the thousands of investigators/authors who have submitted their manuscripts for evaluation by *MCT*. Some were accepted, and some were not—but I hope you all realize the tremendous respect we have for you—the pioneers trying to make a difference against this terrible disease.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel D. Von Hoff, MD, FACP
Founding Editor-in-Chief
*Molecular Cancer Therapeutics*

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