

Dear reader,

I believe that over the last two years, we managed to improve on the quality of the journal: the visual aspect and readability are better due to the high professional skills of our technical editor, and the excellent printing quality. Thank to our collaborators (unfortunately, again, not many from outside the core team working in the Institute), we were able to publish some important articles, including the therapeutic guidelines for endometrial cancer, uterine sarcomas and conformal radiotherapy of lung cancer. In this number the breast cancer protocol of our Institute's multidisciplinary team is published, summarizing three years of work, public discussions and revisions performed by the breast cancer team. I want to personally thank each and every member of the team for their hard work and perseverance to produce this document, awaited by our colleagues, with the hope it will ease the daily clinical decisions, and with the conviction that many patients will benefit from the widespread use of these recommendations. Original papers tackling several therapeutic areas have been published by authors from our country and abroad; complementing these larger papers, a number of interesting case reports highlighted important clinical conditions, of value for the practicing oncologist. We tried to keep our readers informed on important cancer-related events, both from abroad, through congress reports, and nationally- one example being the report on the establishment of the Romanian Federation of Cancer Societies.

We were glad to see a number of international authors sending their papers for our journal. However, this was merely the results of the efforts of the editorial board, requesting papers from collaborators abroad, and not the attraction or visibility that our Journal had. In truth, the Journal has survived due to the work of a few colleagues. My sincere thanks and appreciation go to all contributors that had sacrificed, repeatedly, their time and effort to sustain the Journal!

Competing duties are, unfortunately, preventing me from continuing to serve the Journal as Editor-in-chief, and my terms ends with the publication of this last number of 2013. The main reason for retiring from the Editor-in-Chief position is that my ESMO (European Society of Medical Oncology) functions do not allow me to dedicate enough time for the journal: starting in January 2014, I was appointed as a member of the ESMO Executive Board. In addition to that, I serve as the ESMO National Representative for Romania and I am a member and the Chairman of the Emerging Countries Committee; I am also a member of the ASCO International Affairs Committee. I took the decision to step down with the belief that, under my current obligations within ESMO I can better serve our members of the RSRMO, our Society and, more broadly, the oncological Romanian community.

You may ask how can this activities be of help for you?

I will give you a few examples: as ESMO National Representative, one of my first initiatives was to negotiate a lower membership fee for our Romanian ESMO members- and that was approved. Although Romania is not any more on the ESMO List of Developing Countries that benefit from a reduced fee, it was approved by the ESMO Executive Board that Romanian members are eligible for a reduced fee for full membership benefits of only 75 euros.

Acting as National Representative, I also tried to avoid the "competition" between the RSRMO annual meeting and the SNOMR meeting, to allow our colleagues to benefit from

the educational content of both meetings, supporting the idea that the two meetings are held at separate dates. This was not successful, but both meetings received the ESMO label.

As the ESMO guidelines have been adopted as national recommendations several years ago, but have been updated several times since then, I obtained for our Society the rights to translate in Romanian all the 54 updated ESMO Clinical Practice Guidelines. The contract has been signed, and these important will soon be available for all of you, in Romanian, on the website of our Society, helping each of us in our daily practice.

The Emerging Countries Committee (ECC) that I chair has conducted and published last year the results of the Global Opioid Policy Initiative survey results on availability of opioids across the globe, showing that more than half of the world's population live in countries where regulations leave cancer patients without access to opioid medicines for managing cancer pain.

Within the ECC, I am also currently launching the European Antineoplastic Survey, working together with the WHO and European Drug Agency (EMA) to tackle the issue of limitations in drug access across the European countries, with the clear goal to improve access to both new, expensive molecules, but also to the good old drugs that are missing from our pharmacy due to current shortages.

More recently, we contributed to the publication of the important ESMO position paper on the role of medical oncologist, that aims to summarise the various and vital contributions of medical oncology and medical oncologists to today's and tomorrow's professional cancer care. I urge you all to read it, free of charge, on the ESMO website (<http://www.esmo.org/Policy/Position-Statements-Recommendations/2013-Position-Paper>) -where you can also find information on all other initiatives that I described- especially as RSRMO is among the professional societies that endorsed this paper at the time of publication.

I hope that you will consider that these initiatives are important for you and that you will now better understand my decision. My future plans are to continue to strive for the benefit of our Romanian oncology community, here in our country but also abroad, and to increase our presence internationally. Definitely your collaboration and input is extremely important for me, and I thank you for all your help, in the clinic or through the other projects that we have been developing, and I will be very happy to continue to work with you!

I also hope that you will find more time to support our journal, by writing!

Alexandru Eniu, MD, PhD