

European Perspectives: A Dialogue with the European Oncology Community

As part of our commitment to the European cancer community, this issue of *The Oncologist European Edition* introduces a new initiative entitled *European Perspectives*. Under the stewardship of Section Co-Editors, Thierry Le Chevalier (Paris, France) and Pierfranco Conte (Modena, Italy), *European Perspectives* will be a regular monthly feature and will provide expert up-to-date information on topics that are most relevant to the European oncology community, through a combination of print articles and online material.

The format of *European Perspectives* will be flexible, including concise reviews, opinion pieces, commentaries, roundtable discussions, interviews, debates, and Cancer Focus reports in response to pressing European oncology issues and current concerns, and will highlight breakthroughs in cancer care and cancer research. *European Perspectives* will provide balanced commentary on relevant policy and funding developments and will not be afraid to confront significant issues that are of relevance to our European physician readership and cancer patients. It will not be afraid to confront controversial issues and is intended to catalyse debate and to act as an opinion leader in the oncology community in Europe.

The online component of *European Perspectives* will be a crucial interactive educational resource, enabling the oncology community to hear and see opinion leaders and policy drivers provide their insight, not only on the successes that have been achieved, but also on the challenges that we collectively face to reduce the burden of cancer in Europe. In addition, *European Perspectives* will provide an online discussion forum and two-way channel of communication to encourage dialogue.

Forthcoming content over the next months in *European Perspectives* includes:

Commentary: Funding for Cancer Clinical Trials and Cancer Research in Europe

This series, focusing on the informed opinions of leading cancer physicians and researchers, cancer funders, and cancer policy makers in the current economic climate in Europe, will highlight some of the success stories from a European perspective, as well as pose challenging questions in relation to the obstacles/hurdles that we all face in this critically important area. The first article will focus on cancer funding, incorporating an interview with

a senior member of the European Commission (EC), and will include practical information on current EC sources of funding and an update on developments like Horizon 2020, and the EC's proposal for an €80 billion EU funding programme to secure Europe's competitiveness through research and innovation for the period 2014–2020 (<http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020>), currently under discussion in the European Parliament.

Opinion Leaders Forum: Prostate Cancer — Can We Rise to the Challenges?

An important component of *European Perspectives*, this forum will provide a conduit for opinion leaders across the oncology community, but with a particular emphasis on Europe, to outline the current state of the art and the key

issues, advances, and obstacles in their specialist area. Prostate cancer, the first topic for the *Opinion Leaders Forum*, will build on the Prostate Cancer Roundtable held during the *Society of Translational Oncology (STO) Second Annual Conference* in Belfast in 2011 (<http://sto-online.org/medialibrary>). Future areas in this series will include personalised

cancer medicine, disparities in cancer care, new algorithms in cancer clinical trials, etc.

Cancer Focus: European School of Oncology Advanced Course, “Evidence-Based Cancer Care and Research, the Role of Systemic Reviews,” Belfast 26-27 July 2012

Cancer Focus reporting on European conferences/meetings/courses will include special articles on cancer centres/research institutes/organisations that are pushing back the boundaries in their particular areas of expertise in Europe. The first report will focus on the *European School of Oncology (ESO)* (<http://www.eso.net>) and its vital role as a leader in education in the European oncology community. As ESO celebrates its 30-year anniversary, *European Perspectives* will focus on this ESO advanced course using a combination of print articles and online discussions/interviews to capture the value of this type of educational initiative from the viewpoint of ESO, the course faculty, and most importantly, the course participants. *The Oncologist European Perspectives* will welcome the collaboration of prominent European organisations such as the European Society of Medical Oncology, European Cancer Organisation, and European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer as we focus on our shared mission.

“*European Perspectives* is an exciting new landmark initiative from *The Oncologist* that will create a dynamic forum focused on “hot topics” relevant to the cancer community in Europe.”

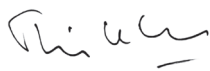
— Patrick G. Johnston

“As we congratulate the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC) on its 50th anniversary and salute its fundamental efforts in bringing European oncologists together and laying the foundation for quality treatment of the cancer patient in Europe, we also congratulate the European School of Oncology (ESO) on its 30th anniversary, and we welcome their collaboration with *The Oncologist’s European Perspectives*.”

— H.M. Pinedo

Accompanying this issue of *European Perspectives* is an online audio discussion by Patrick G. Johnston and H.M. Pinedo, European Co-Editors of the European Edition, and Thierry Le Chevalier and Pierfranco Conte, Co-Editor of the *European Perspectives* section, facilitated by Mark Lawler (Belfast, Northern Ireland) about this exciting new venture and its potential to act as a “lightning rod” to energize and catalyse informed discussion and debate in the European oncology community (http://sto-online.org/european_perspectives).

In conclusion, we hope that you will find *European Perspectives* both informative and relevant, but also potentially provocative. We value your input and feedback as to how *European Perspectives* can best serve the needs and the challenges you face in the European oncology community as we move forward together.



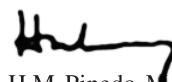
Thierry Le Chevalier, M.D.
Co-Editor, *European Perspectives* Section



Pierfranco Conte, M.D.
Co-Editor, *European Perspectives* Section



Patrick G. Johnston, M.D., Ph.D.
Co-Editor, *The Oncologist* European Edition



H.M. Pinedo, M.D., Ph.D.
Co-Editor, *The Oncologist* European Edition