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Editorial

Fast reports on toxic and non-toxic anti-cancer agents

I am pleased to introduce *Anti-Cancer Drugs*, a new forum for fast communications in this topical area of cancer research.

This exciting new journal will publish high-quality articles on therapeutic agents against cancer, including both cytotoxic chemical and hormonal agents; biological modifiers; and methods for diminishing the adverse effects of drugs (anti-emetics, growth factors, etc.). All papers are peer-reviewed and are normally published within 30–60 days of acceptance.

This journal will be essential reading to all involved in this fast-moving field. The papers take the form of original articles, brief communications and state-of-the-art reviews of important topics. Preliminary trials may be published if they are judged to be valuable to other lines of investigation. Additional sections of general interest include Letters to the Editor, Book Reviews and an up-to-date list of relevant conferences. The Letters section will report new or important observations; and may also comment or provide criticism pertaining to developments in cancer therapy, or to papers previously published in this journal. Book reviews will be commissioned by the Editor. Each issue will carry an extensive list of forthcoming meetings and organizers of meetings are invited to contact the Editor with details for inclusion in this section.

This first issue gives an impression of the field we aim to cover, which is both clinical and preclinical. The article on mitomycin C by J Verweij and H M Pinedo is a comprehensive review of a class of antibiotics with a wide spectrum of antitumor activity. The article presents details about the mechanism of action, usefulness and limitations of these antibiotics.

Reports on colon carcinogenesis indicate gender differences in the incidence and location of tumors, suggesting that sex steroids may play a role. The paper by G Dornschneider *et al.* reviews the data, and discusses the significance of results obtained with experimental animal models.

The research articles in this first issue of *Anti-Cancer Drugs* present a plethora of subjects. Data are presented on the interaction of cisplatin and etoposide on tumor systems (R Soranzo *et al.*), cisplatin and quercetin in the treatment of ovarian cancer (G Scambia *et al.*), and the use of depot leuprolide in treatment of stage D2 prostatic cancer (R Sharifi *et al.*). F Lewin *et al.* describe the effects of cisplatin and 5-FU on a mouse ascites tumor, and present evidence for a lack of cell cycle specificity of cell death when these drugs are combined. P Dufour and colleagues describe the iron metabolism of erythroid progenitors in patients receiving cisplatinum chemotherapy for ovarian or breast cancer. They present provocative information concerning iron metabolism after cisplatinum therapy. S Baghdiguian and colleagues present a study on suramin, a polysulfonated naphthylurea currently investigated for the treatment of advanced malignancy. They find that a derivative of suramin is a more potent differentiation inducer of colon cancer cells than suramin itself.

Doxorubicin and ME2303, a new fluorine-containing anthracycline derivative, are compared for their tissue distribution in mice by M Iigo *et al.* The result may mean lower toxicity of ME2303, and enable administration of this drug at a higher dose than doxorubicin. A report by S Martin Algarra *et al.* presents two cases of severe delayed neurologic toxicity related to the administration of intrathecal combination chemotherapy including thiotepa (IT–TSPA). This indicates that toxicology studies on IT–TSPA urgently need to be carried out.

Molecular biological studies related to anti-cancer therapy are also presented. Gene amplification is closely associated with the problem of cancer, and is one aspect of the genetic instability associated with the transformed phenotype. Therefore the observation that high levels of gene amplification can confer hypersensitivity to cytotoxic stressors such as anticancer drugs by M A Wani and colleagues is important. T Sher *et al.* report on their finding that membranes of a *Spiroplasma* species induce tumor necrosis factor alpha. They have now partially characterized the membrane component which induces TNFα secretion, and present evidence that it is an acetylated protein. Finally, a provocative study is presented by V Zoumpourlis and colleagues, showing that cisplatin stimulates the expression from the long terminal repeat sequence

of human immunodeficiency virus. The authors therefore suggest caution against therapy of AIDS patients with cisplatin, a drug which is also used in treatment of cancer patients.

Researchers are invited to contribute now to *Anti-Cancer Drugs*. The Editors actively encourage submission from groups outside the established cancer research centers and also seek articles dealing with conditions other than those found predominantly in the Western World. Instructions to authors may be found at the back of this issue.

It is our aim that *Anti-Cancer Drugs* will rapidly become a leading-edge journal reporting breakthroughs in cancer treatment. With your support we are confident that this can be achieved.

Mels Sluyser