

Professor Michael Peckham Retires as Editor-in-Chief of the *European Journal of Cancer*



In December 1994, *The Lancet* asked "What is Michael Peckham doing?" alluding to his attempt to establish a coherent R&D infrastructure within the U.K. National Health Service. Whilst we do not know what the impact of Michael's programme (the first such programme in Europe) will be on the British medical system, we certainly know, and enormously appreciate, what he has done for European oncology and in particular for the *European Journal of Cancer*. I still perfectly remember the dinner with Robert Maxwell of Pergamon Press when it took me almost 1 hour, with the help of Louis Denis, to convince him to invest again in the *European Journal of Cancer* and to relaunch it. However, it took us only a few minutes to agree on the name of the Editor-in-Chief, Michael Peckham.

Michael has directed this Journal for 5 years with absolute rigour and in the same time with "nonchalance": the editorial board meetings in his office in London soon became famous for their efficacy. Always in a relaxed atmosphere of cooperation and even friendship, we never left without having completed the

agenda and having found the appropriate solution when different points of view were expressed.

With his truly European mentality, his vast humanistic culture and his sense of humour, Michael has always kept an eye on "the Continent" not only when transferring the Mediterranean colours to his paintings (did you know that we owe the cover design of the *European Journal of Cancer* and the FECS logo to Michael Peckham?), but also in combining all our different cultural backgrounds to great, common effect.

I am delighted to have this opportunity to thank Michael, from all of us, for his contribution in the last 5 years and to wish him the best in his future commitments (although I believe that the one who most deserves good wishes is our friend Hans-Jörg Senn who will have to take over from an Editor-in-Chief like Peckham!)

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