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Editor's Page Announcing "Current Controversies in Cancer"

The *European Journal of Cancer* has benefited from many changes in the past 12 months, and this issue sees the introduction of a new and unprecedented section entitled "Current Controversies in Cancer". This section will prove to be provocative and stimulating, as currently there are many important controversial issues that need to be discussed, particularly in clinical oncology.

"Current Controversies in Cancer" will highlight a controversial issue in oncology and allow three respected oncologists of varied disciplines to express their scientifically based views about a contentious issue. The first will put forward the argument in favour of the topic under discussion, the second will argue against, and finally the opposing views will be brought together by an arbiter who will endeavour to "bridge the gap", or at least advise the readership on how to deal effectively with these controversies in daily practice.

We commence in this issue with the highly controversial topic—"Is routine axillary nodal dissection necessary in the

treatment of breast cancer?" Mr Ian Fentiman (London, U.K.) argues for this surgical procedure, Dr Richard Epstein (London, U.K.) argues against, and Mr Lester Barr (Manchester, U.K.) provides an interesting and thought-provoking article. Next month's issue will address the unresolved problem of "Isolated limb perfusion for malignant melanoma", and another 20 controversial triplets are already in the pipeline.

It is hoped that "Current Controversies in Cancer" will provoke extensive dialogue amongst the readership of the *EJC* and, more importantly, promote debate so that solutions might be attained. Our readers are encouraged to add to the debate by sending their own opinions to the Editor in the format of a concise Letter. We look forward to your reactions and suggestions!

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