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Announcement

Paediatric Update Series

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MOST TEXTBOOKS suffer from instant obsolescence, and paediatric oncology texts are no exception. Editors know, from bitter experience, that it is almost impossible to achieve 100% delivery of invited contributions to an ideal deadline—just one missing manuscript may delay publication for months or even years. Other problems of the hardback tome are (a) their non-portability; and (b) the fact that only a single viewpoint, rather than contrasting opinions, are provided. The era of electronic publication has not yet changed this general state of affairs. Journals are a more flexible instrument, and we at the *European Journal of Cancer* are taking the initiative to produce a “running textbook” for this fast moving speciality.

With the help of our Paediatric Oncology Editorial Consultants, we have identified international experts to write on each form of childhood cancer. Each author has been asked to include sections on aetiology/pathogenesis, investigation and staging, treatment (including recent trials), and “what the future holds”. In this January issue, Professor John Lilleyman (London, U.K.) has provided just what we wanted to start the Series—a lively and informative but succinct review of the commonest form of childhood cancer—Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia. So that one person’s opinion does not go unchallenged, we have also asked a second expert—representing a different co-operative study group—to provide a “commentary” on each article. As you will read, Professor Günter Henze from the BFM group, fulfils this role admirably. The second article in the Series, by Dr Dan Green (Roswell Park, U.S.A.), will be published in March and will be on Wilms’ Tumours. Further Updates will appear regularly throughout 1997.

By December 1997 we hope to have dealt with all the “common” childhood tumours and will then move on to a series of articles and commentaries concerning management issues, for example “oncological emergencies”, “minimal residual disease”, or “palliative care” which cover several cancer types. What we hope to achieve, in effect, is a “bang up-to-date” series of articles that are of value to trainees and will provide an aide-memoire for experienced paediatric oncologists. If the initiative is successful—and we need your feedback, please!—we will (a) consider producing a bound version of the “Update Series” to keep in your briefcase or office for reference; and (b) repeat the entire Series in a 2 or 3 year “cycle”.

We thank the authors who have agreed to contribute to the series, and for sticking to tight deadlines, and our Paediatric Oncology Editorial Consultants for their invaluable advice.

Paediatric Oncology Editorial Consultants

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Jean-Louis Habrand (France)
Günter Henze (Germany)
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