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Publisher's note

December 2010 will mark the end of an era for the European Journal of Cancer. After 10 years at the helm, Professor John Smyth will retire as Editor-in-Chief.

Under Professor Smyth's leadership, the EJC has emerged as one of the leading, comprehensive oncology journals. Manuscript submissions have increased to more than 2000 per year, whilst editorial times have remained rapid; online readership has grown steadily and by the end of 2010 we anticipate that more than 1 million articles will have been downloaded from the journal on ScienceDirect by readers from across the world; the Impact Factor increased five years in a row and now stands at more than 4. This progress is a testament to Professor Smyth's dedication to the EJC and to the hard work and commitment of his team of Editors.

Professor Jaap Verweij, Professor Maurizio D'Incalci, Dr. Giovanna Damia, Professor John Kurtz and Professor Mike Stevens will also retire at the end of 2010. They have all served the EJC with distinction, showing commitment to the journal's authors and readers alike and the Publisher would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their dedication and hard work.

Professor Alexander (Lex) Eggermont has been appointed as Editor-in-Chief of the EJC, commencing his tenure as of January 2011. Professor Eggermont is the former Head of Surgery at Erasmus University in Rotterdam, The Netherlands. In October 2010 he became the Director of the Institut Gustave Roussy, Villejuif, France. Professor Eggermont has a long association with the EORTC having served as President (2003–2006), Secretary General (1997–2000), and Chairman of the EORTC Clinical Research Report Division and the EORTC Melanoma Group (1994–2000). In addition, Professor Eggermont served as President of ECCO, the European Cancer Organisation, from 2007 to 2009, and is the current President of the European Academy of Cancer Sciences. He will be supported by a full team of Editors who will provide their expertise on experimental oncology, specific tumour-types, paediatric oncology, and epidemiology and prevention.

We would like to thank Professor Smyth and his team of Editors for their service and welcome Professor Eggermont as the Editor-in-Chief Elect for the EJC.

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