

# Editorial

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Rapid advances in the molecular characterization of cancer have resulted in new approaches to treatment. For greatest impact, targeted agents, in combination with traditional therapies, will need to be tested in each age group and for each disease. Adolescents and young adults are being recognized as a distinct group of patients that unfortunately are under-represented in formal clinical trials and new treatment assessments. The reason for this are multiple and include the lack of insurance coverage for many as they transition to independence from their parents, the sense of invincibility that many young adults feel, the types of tumors observed in these patients, and the lack of coordinated clinical trial consortiums for this age group.

To address the needs of adolescents and young adults, this new international, open-access, peer-reviewed journal titled *Clinical Oncology in Adolescents and Young Adults* will provide an effective platform for sharing ideas for solutions and disseminating research and clinical findings globally. The articles in *Clinical Oncology in Adolescents and Young Adults* vary, from preclinical studies and associated biology, small patient series or case reports, to larger clinical trials. With the rapid development of targeted drugs and new biomarkers, the need to link the biology of tumors to treatment has never been greater. Equally important, the speed at which the characterization of tumors and patient information (through gene expression, proteomic, deep gene sequencing, polymorphism analysis, as examples) are advancing necessitates the need for a journal that will assist in the dissemination of this information. To be effective in achieving these goals, we are committed to the rapid review of manuscripts in weeks, not months. Our open format structure will ensure the widest distribution of information. Peer reviews are high quality, and the journal is open access, filling an important niche in academic medical publishing.

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