Cancer Immunology Research: A Two-Year Anniversary

With this July issue, Cancer Immunology Research celebrates its second-year anniversary. It has been a remarkable year for the Journal and for cancer immunology as a discipline. Two blocking monoclonal antibodies against the programmed death 1 (PD-1) immune checkpoint—received FDA approval as therapy for advanced melanoma and non–small cell lung carcinoma, while CD19 chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) engineered T cells have become established as highly efficacious treatment for a variety of B-cell malignancies. Expectations for additional clinical successes of immunotherapy in a wider array of cancer types and a larger proportion of patients are running high. Basic and translational research in the field is also thriving, as evidenced in the prominent role that immunology played at the recent AACR Annual Meeting and the many exciting new findings reported there.

In accordance with the maturation of cancer immunology as a discipline, Cancer Immunology Research has emerged as a leading resource for didactic material and original contributions. Scientists and clinicians in the greater cancer research community are increasingly turning to the Journal to acquire both the fundamentals of the field and to access the most recent impactful discoveries. The Masters of Immunology series and the related Perspective from a Master of Immunology have drawn from more than two dozen luminaries, who have crafted eloquent and penetrating primers on a broad array of topics in immunology; collectively, these contributions present an extraordinary repository of wisdom and scientific clarity. Continuing medical education (CME) credits are offered for studying these primers, a feature of significant interest to clinicians. The Cancer Immunology at the Crossroads series has underscored the richness of cross-disciplinary work, highlighting the intersection of cancer immunology with a wide array of complementary clinical and basic science efforts. Meeting reports from major gatherings of cancer immunologists and descriptions of Milestones in Cancer Immunology round out the educational features. These sets of didactic materials, along with a useful glossary of immunologic terms, have been collected at a single website, Cancer Immunology Essentials (http://www.canimmessentials.aacrjournals.org), thereby providing a convenient portal for readers to access these valuable learning opportunities.

Accompanying these elements that provide the foundation of cancer immunology has been an impressive array of original research reports, which span the discipline from experimental tumor models through studies of clinical samples to innovative patient trials. More than 170 articles have been published to date, and these represent all of the available formats including Priority Briefs, Cancer Immunology Miniatures, and Research Articles. This flexibility in manuscript structure has accommodated the wealth of insights arising from both basic and translational investigations. The major impact of these discoveries is highlighted through the impressive statistics of reader online usage, which indicate more than 60,000 website visits per month, with many individual articles receiving more than 2,000 accesses in the first 6 months since publication. These numbers are expected to continue to grow, given the acceptance of Cancer Immunology Research for indexing by Medline/PUBMED and the Thomson Reuters Web of Science. The Cancer Research Institute (CRI) collaboration with the Journal further disseminates awareness and knowledge of cancer immunology, with links to the CRI website, the joint sponsorship of a bi-annual international conference (along with the Association for Cancer Immunotherapy and the European Academy of Tumor Immunology), and the upcoming publication of a detailed timeline of accomplishments in cancer immunology.

The success of Cancer Immunology Research derives from the contributions of many distinguished investigators who serve as Deputy and Senior Editors and members of the Editorial Board. Each endeavors to provide a rigorous and fair approach to manuscript review; their commitment to Cancer Immunology Research is further reflected in the selection of this Journal for reporting some of their own creative work. The accomplished AACR publications staff is also critical to advancing the Journal’s mission of illuminating the interplay of cancer and the immune system; a special thanks is owed to Dr. Connie Gee, Senior Associate Editor, who has been instrumental in the auspicious start of the Journal. As we look forward to the next phase of basic and clinical advances in cancer immunology and immunotherapy, Cancer Immunology Research is poised to both accelerate and report discoveries that will benefit cancer patients.

Glenn Dranoff, MD
Editor-in-Chief
Cancer Immunology Research

Published online July 2, 2015.
Cancer Immunology Research: A Two-Year Anniversary
Glenn Dranoff

Updated version
Access the most recent version of this article at:
http://cancerimmunolres.aacrjournals.org/content/3/7/703

E-mail alerts
Sign up to receive free email-alerts related to this article or journal.

Reprints and Subscriptions
To order reprints of this article or to subscribe to the journal, contact the AACR Publications Department at pubs@aacr.org.

Permissions
To request permission to re-use all or part of this article, contact the AACR Publications Department at permissions@aacr.org.