PREFACE TO THE SPECIAL ISSUE

Cancer is one of the leading causes of mortality worldwide. It ranks second only to cardiovascular disease as a cause of death. Therefore, it is a major public health concern. Oncology is a growing field that is rapidly evolving, and has experienced vast advancement in both the laboratory and clinical sciences. The increased understanding of the molecular mechanisms underlying cancer has lead to improvements in cancer diagnosis, treatment, monitoring of minimal residual disease and prevention. The accumulative effect of these advances is a sustained reduction in age-adjusted death rate from cancer in the United States. This issue of North American Journal of Medicine and Science (NAJMS) incorporates some of these exciting changes. It is our privilege and pleasure to invite a panel of expert clinicians and researchers to present their views and share their experiences regarding these complicated clinical issues.

This issue consists of 3 original articles, 4 review papers and 4 case reports that cover a broad range of topics related to cancer. It starts with an original article by Dr. Ma et al., which presents a population-based cross-sectional study of the potential barriers affecting colorectal cancer screening and compliance in four Asian ethnic groups residing in the United States. The finding of this paper suggests that increased culturally-targeted public awareness and education programs are needed to improve colorectal cancer screening and compliance among high risk Asian American ethnic subgroups. The paper by Dr. Hoehn et al. summarizes the clinicopathologic features and differential diagnoses of hypocellular collagenized spindle cell squamous carcinoma of the head and neck, a rare entity that often is diagnostically challenging to pathologists. This paper is invaluable in helping to arrive at the appropriate diagnosis and management of this tumor. The original article by Dr. Khoury et al. compares the accuracy of touch preparation versus frozen section for the intraoperative diagnosis of sentinel lymph node metastases in breast cancer, particularly micrometastases. This is followed by Dr. Shaikh’s review paper which compares the morphological variants of ameloblastoma and their mimickers. The paper by Drs. Svenssen and Hu provides a comprehensive review on the role of several molecular markers in the diagnosis of acute myeloid leukemia. This issue also contains another paper by Drs. Huang and Chen that reviews myofibroblastoma of the breast and its most common mimickers. Dr. Liu et al. summarize recent advances in Xp11.2 translocation renal cell carcinoma, providing an update on the current state of our knowledge, including both diagnostic criteria and the genetic basis of this tumor. This issue also includes several case reports. Dr. Bai describes the first case of an acute myeloid leukemia with two novel chromosomal translocations as evidence of clonal evolution. Dr. Li describes the magnetic resonance spectroscopy findings of a case of adult thalamic glioblastoma multiforme. Dr. Huang reports a case of pulmonary benign metastasizing leiomyoma with an unusual long interval after resection of a uterine leiomyoma. Dr. Azzouni reports a case of primary adrenal leiomyosarcoma with a review of the literature.

We greatly appreciate the work that the authors and peer reviewers have put into these papers. I would like to thank all the contributing authors for sharing their expertise. I also thank all the peer reviewers, including reviewers of NAJMS Western New York Branch and many invited reviewers, for their valuable critiques, comments and precious time.

It has been a wonderful experience to co-edit this special Oncology Issue of North American Journal and Medicine and Science. We sincerely hope that you will find it enhances your knowledge of cancer.

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