Appreciation for Prof. Rolf Sauer on the occasion of the transferral of the editorship of “Strahlentherapie und Onkologie”

Rainer Fietkau · Frederik Wenz

Published online: 11 December 2014
© Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg 2014

On January 1st 2015 Prof. Dr. Rolf Sauer will hand over his responsibilities as editor-in-chief of the journal “Strahlentherapie und Onkologie” to us, Frederik Wenz and Rainer Fietkau. Since September 1st 1993, having taken over from his predecessor Prof. Eberhardt Scherer who had been in office for 18 years, Prof. Dr. Rolf Sauer has developed the journal in a most efficient and successful manner.

During his editorship of more than 20 years the journal “Strahlentherapie und Onkologie” has rapidly evolved into a publication organ of both national and international reputation as can easily be recognized considering the following facts:

- While in 1993 the majority of articles were still being published in German, almost all original articles at present will appear in English. This is supported by the establishment of the English “sub title” called “Journal of Radiation Oncology Biology Physics”.
- With the diligence and assiduity that have always marked his work he was able to achieve the inclusion of the journal in the listing of the “Institute for Scientific Information” (Thomson Scientific) for the allocation of an impact factors in 1998. The journal was assigned an

impact factor of 2.846 for the first time in the year 2000. At present a value of 2.733 provides an important incentive to younger scientists in particular to publish contributions in the journal also with a view to obtaining their doctorate or postdoctoral qualifications. For academic institutions this works as an important additional source of revenue to fund research and teaching in the context of performance-oriented allocation of resources.

- In addition, several new journal sections have been introduced. The German- language section entitled “Literatur kommentiert” (“short comments on literature”) offers to us radiation oncologists a balanced but also critical appraisal of important publications with special emphasis on its relevance to the field of radiation oncology. This highly popular section will continue under the direct supervision and editorship of Prof. Sauer himself. Also included are reports and contributions of the different scientific societies and professional organizations of radiation oncology.
- Since 1994 the journal “Strahlentherapie und Onkologie” has been the official journal of the DEGRO. Since 1997 all DEGRO members automatically have a subscription of the journal, the cost thereof is included in the DEGRO membership fee.
- Since 1996/1997 based on an initiative of Rolf Sauer in particular the journal also became the official publishing medium of the Austrian and Swiss Associations of Radiation Oncology (ÖGRO, SASRO).
- Additionally since 2012 the journal has been adopted as official publishing medium by seven additional European professional societies.
- In 2011 the “editorial manager” device was successfully introduced to facilitate online- based processing and assessment of manuscripts. This has been a great help to editors as well as reviewers which became necessary as a

Prof. Dr. R. Fietkau (✉)
Strahlenklinik, Universitätsklinikum Erlangen,
Universitätsstr. 27,
91054 Erlangen, Germany
e-mail: rainer.fietkau@uk-erlangen.de

Prof. Dr. F. Wenz
Klinik für Strahlentherapie und Radioonkologie,
Universitätsmedizin Mannheim,
Theodor-Kutzer-Ufer 1–3,
Mannheim, Germany

result of the increasing internationalization of the journal with English now being the language in which almost all original and review articles, case reports as well as letters to the editor are written.

The innovations and modifications to the journal introduced by Rolf Sauer have led to the current status as an internationally recognized journal with a growing international readership and with an increasing number of non- German speaking authors choosing it as their medium for publication. In this context we take particular pride in the fact that the journal “Strahlentherapie und Onkologie” which was founded in 1912 is the oldest scientific journal in the field of oncology in continuous existence.

On behalf of the readers, the Springer publishing house and the new editors we are deeply indebted to Prof. Sauer for his enormous professional dedication and unlimited personal commitment to successfully complete the rearrangement of the journal. In particular we would like to draw attention to the fact that Rolf Sauer following his retirement from professorship in Erlangen continued to fulfill his duties as editor-in-chief with unfailing dedication for another seven years until his 75th birthday. Amidst all this we need

to remind ourselves that he mastered this task alongside his many other national and international commitments as well as being the head of one of the largest departments of radiation oncology in Germany. In this context we would like to mention the fact that Rolf Sauer has had a decisive influence on the development of radiation oncology in Germany over the last three decades, as evidenced by the introduction of novel therapeutic concepts such as chemoradiotherapy, the organization of internationally renowned trials, his interdisciplinary team approach etc....

As editors together with Springer publishers we take the liberty to bestow on him the honorary title of “senior editor” and wish also for our own benefit that he will continue to support us in shaping the journal for many years to come.

In his characteristic manner Rolf Sauer had been planning the handover of the journal for more than a year and has now confided it to us. It will be our ambition to develop the journal in the same way originally shown by Prof. Sauer and adapting it to the scientific challenges of the future.

*Prof. Dr. Rainer Fietkau, Erlangen,
Prof. Dr. Frederik Wenz, Mannheim*