Gifts from the Past

Maria C. Bishop¹

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It is a true honor to accept the position of Editor in Chief of the Journal of Cancer Education (JCE). I am very excited about my new role, though I am also very humbled to be following in the footsteps of our past editors in chief. Dr. Richard Bakemeier, Dr. Joe O'Donnell, and Dr. Art Michalek have made remarkable contributions to the journal.

A few months ago, Dr. Michalek sent me a box containing past JCE journals. The first journal I randomly picked to read was published in 1987. I found myself spending much of the afternoon reading several more. Reviewing the history of our journal has deepened my appreciation for our origins and inspired thoughts of new possibilities for our future.

The JCE is the official journal of the American Association for Cancer Education (AACE) and the European Association for Cancer Education (EACE). The AACE was founded in 1947 as the Cancer Coordinators, an association of cancer educators from the US medical and dental schools that met annually. In 1967, they renamed their group, the American Association for Cancer Education [1]. The EACE was founded in 1984. They have members from eleven different countries, mainly European countries. Our partnership has a long history. Dr. Milly Haagedoorn was a member of the foundation group of the EACE and also an AACE and JCE editorial board member. A lecture in the honor of her contributions to cancer education is given at the annual EACE conference [2].

Recognizing a need for a journal dedicated to cancer education, the first published edition of the journal was in 1986 under the leadership of Dr. Bakemeier [3]. Through his tireless perseverance and commitment, Dr. Bakemeier brought the journal from a concept to our first published edition. His early goals for the journal still guide us today. Dr. O'Donnell followed Dr. Bakemeier as editor in chief. The journal under the care of Dr. O'Donnell continued to promote and enhance

scholarship. With his deep knowledge of both education and oncology, he serves as a role model to many. For the past 6 years, Dr. Michalek consistently worked to increase the reach of the journal. Under his skilled leadership, the journal has become more international with an increasing impact factor that reflects the important role of the journal in advancing cancer education worldwide.

I know the future of our journal will be well supported by the contributions of our dedicated Editorial Board and Deputy Editors Dr. John Vetto, Dr. Amr Soliman, and longtime Editorial Board member Dr. Bob Chamberlain. Dr. Vetto has already shared his wise advice with me that reflected his knowledge of the history of the JCE, caring for patients with cancer, and the benefit of promoting excellence in cancer education through new innovations. Shortly, after we met, Dr. Soliman and I realized that we had attended the same university. Over the years, Dr. Soliman has taught me much about cancer epidemiology, prevention and control. He has been instrumental in engaging our colleagues in Africa and the Middle East. Dr. Chamberlain has been a committed member of the AACE and Editorial Board for many years. His sustained and valued contributions to both the JCE and the AACE have had an enduring impact on our development.

I believe in the mission of the journal which is “dedicated to the publication of original contributions related to cancer education for health professionals, patients, and the general public” [1]. This rich history and recommendations from readers, authors, reviewers, and editors has led to a strong foundation and provided the inspiration to develop the journal with new features that promote mentoring and enhance oncology, palliative care, and ethics knowledge.

Over the years, I have worked with past editors in chief and members of the cancer education community and have benefited from their guidance and support. This is where I learned the value of mentoring. Mentoring is a topic that I would like to continue to include and develop in the journal. We have many authors with good ideas and good data that have the potential to add the literature in a meaningful way. With the structured guidance of experienced authors and

✉ Maria C. Bishop
mbishop@email.arizona.edu

¹ University of Arizona Cancer Center, Tucson, AZ, USA

reviewers both remotely and in face to face sessions at conferences, we can promote successful submissions and nurture the professional development of our cancer educators globally.

We have received recommendations to include more oncology review articles. I would like to increase the number of review articles to enhance our knowledge about the rapidly evolving field of hematology and oncology. Articles may incorporate cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment including palliative and supportive care. I suggest an emphasis on the implications for interdisciplinary cancer education, community involvement, and engagement, and attention to the needs of low and middle-income populations.

I believe medical ethics is an essential component of quality health care. A comprehensive view of ethics in health care addresses many issues including clinical patient care and research design. An enhanced understanding can contribute to promoting an ethical environment and culture. Readers have expressed an interest in bringing back an ethics column. I would like to suggest that the format of the column is case-based with a discussion that incorporates peer-reviewed literature and addresses cultural considerations.

Our next editorial will be written by Sabine Fromm-Haidenberger. Dr. Fromm-Haidenberger is the current president of the EACE and a radiation oncologist. The EACE holds an annual scientific meeting each spring, and I have had the pleasure of attending several. They hosted their 2018 annual conference in Haifa, Israel. The conference featured work from a true interdisciplinary perspective. I was impressed by the professional development of the students and early career

health professionals. The benefits of nurturing mentorship were beautifully portrayed. Dr. Fromm-Haidenberger will share highlights from the meeting and the ongoing cancer education efforts of the EACE. I have had the privilege of working with Dr. Fromm-Haidenberger over the years, and I am looking forward to her editorial. I encourage you to look at the EACE website for details regarding their future meeting in Porto, Portugal.

I would like to extend a special thanks to Dr. Michalek for his dedication, commitment, and insightful guidance in preparing me for this transition. During our last Editorial Board meeting, Dr. Michalek reminded us that this is our journal. His comment stayed with me, and keeping that in mind, I welcome your suggestions, comments, and advice. With the gift of a rich past, and your contributions as readers, authors, reviewers, and editors, we will continue to realize our vision: Achieving excellence in education to reduce the burden of cancer worldwide [1].

Thank you for having me as your Editor in Chief.

References

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