From the Editor-in-Chief's Desk

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Dear readers,

The festive season is upon us and it is with happiness in our hearts that the Editorial team presents this last issue of 2015. This latest issue carries the usual clinical as well as laboratory-based studies on benign and malignant hematological disorders that include a varied mix of interventional, observational and epidemiological designs.

One of the missives of the journal is to highlight themes that are relevant to India, and in this issue Mandal et al. [1] have analyzed E β -thalassemia patients before and after splenectomy. They concluded that although the surgery reduces transfusion requirements, it does not halt the relentless march of skeletal and endocrine abnormalities. Improved iron chelation and adequate transfusions, the authors suggest, might be a superior way to obviate the need for splenectomies altogether.

Another Indian study [2] deliberates on quality-versus-cost implications and compares apheresis versus buffy-coat derived platelets. While the apheresis platelets were significantly superior on most parameters, the less expensive whole blood-derived platelets too met the quality control criteria. On an international note, we have Tombak et al. from Turkey [3] who found significant differences in the expression profiles of certain microRNAs across myeloproliferative neoplasms as well as against normal controls. Such studies hold the promise of better diagnostic tests and targeted therapies in the future, although not all molecules studied will, obviously, make the transition to clinical relevance.

All of these above papers also highlight the need for an enhanced understanding of how to interpret study data and decide whether the results are significant, or if indeed the study had the power to estimate the effect it intended to study. For this, the readers will be happy to know that our Editorial Board now boasts of more than one member with expertise in statistics, and all papers with complicated or contentious statistical conclusions are specially checked by them. There are also some critical changes in the offing in the Instructions for Authors and Article Types, but these are currently under discussion and will be implemented shortly. So more on that later...

Wishing everyone season's greetings once again, and hoping to meet many of our Indian audience at the Haematocoon, Bangalore.

Prof. H.P. Pati.
Editor-in-Chief.

References

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