Welcome to the 9th Volume of *Immunotherapy*

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Keywords: allergen immunotherapy • cancer immunotherapy • cancer vaccines • checkpoint inhibitors • immunotherapy

Introduction

I would like to introduce the 9th volume of *Immunotherapy* and take this opportunity to present some highlights from 2016 and provide some insight into what we have planned for the coming year.

Firstly, I would like to thank all of our valued Editorial Board members, readers and contributors for their continued support; we very much look forward to seeing the journal progress and develop as we move into 2017.

Increased Impact Factor and Issue Frequency

I am delighted to inform you that this year, the journal witnessed an increase in its impact factor from 2.070 to 2.083, which is a pleasing accomplishment. In addition, to accommodate the growing number of high-quality manuscripts received by the journal, *Immunotherapy*'s frequency will be increasing from 12 issues per year, to 16 issues for 2017 onwards.

Most Accessed Articles from Volume 8

I have compiled a list of the top 10 most accessed articles from 2016 (Table 1). As this only shows a small number of our most popular articles, I encourage readers to explore the full content from the past year. I would also be delighted to hear which papers have particularly caught your attention and why.

Readership demographic for 2016

As Figure 1 illustrates, the journal continues to attract a wide and varied readership,

with around a third of our readership being represented by Europe, closely followed by North America and Asia. Since 2014, our readership in North America has more than doubled. This may be attributed to the surge in interest in immunotherapy and the increase in investment by pharmaceutical companies in the USA [11], following major breakthroughs in the field such as four FDA-approved immunotherapies for melanoma treatment since 2011 [12]. Aside from North America and Europe, there has also been a noticeable increase in readers from other parts of the world, including East Asia and Mexico. *Immunotherapy* looks forward to broadening its global reach and appeal in the coming year.

Special focus issues

Volume 8 featured special issues covering emerging and increasingly established areas of cancer immunotherapy, in order to shed light on these important areas following recent major breakthroughs in this aspect of the field:

- June – Part I: Checkpoint Inhibitors in Cancer Therapy
- July – Part II: Checkpoint Inhibitors in Cancer Therapy
- November: Cancer Vaccine Clinical Trials

Due to the overwhelming interest, the Checkpoint Inhibitors in Cancer Therapy special issue ran over two insightful issues

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Rank	Title	Authors	Volume (Issue)	Ref.
1	CAR T-cell therapy: opportunities and challenges	Zhang W	Vol. 8, No. 3	[1]
2	Efficacy of PD-1 blockade in tumors with MMR deficiency	Lee V, Le DT	Vol. 8, No. 1	[2]
3	Interview with Robert Coffin, inventor of T-VEC: the first oncolytic immunotherapy approved for the treatment of cancer	Coffin R	Vol. 8, No. 2	[3]
4	Sarilumab for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis	Cooper S	Vol. 8, No. 3	[4]
5	Therapeutic anti-CD3 monoclonal antibodies: from bench to bedside	Kuhn C, Weiner HL	Vol. 8, No. 8	[5]
6	Part I: Checkpoint inhibitors in cancer therapy	Daud AI	Vol. 8, No. 6	[6]
7	Crisaborole and its potential role in treating atopic dermatitis: overview of early clinical studies	Zane LT, Chanda S, Jarnagin K, Nelson DB, Spelman L, Gold LFS	Vol. 8, No. 8	[7]
8	Tremelimumab-associated tumor regression following after initial progression: two case reports	Shimomura A, Fujiwara Y, Kond S <i>et al</i>	Vol. 8, No. 1	[8]
9	Part II: Checkpoint inhibitors in cancer therapy	Adil I Daud	Vol. 8, No. 7	[9]
10	Whole tumor cell vaccines for glioma immunotherapy	Field CS, Hermans IF, Hunn MK	Vol. 8, No. 4	[10]

and covered a range of checkpoint inhibitors that have either been approved, for indications such as renal cell cancer and melanoma, or that have potential therapeutic use (see *Immunotherapy* Volume 8, issues 6 and 7). The Cancer Vaccine Clinical Trials themed issue explored the latest advances in the field, the status of vaccines that are currently on the market and obstacles in achieving effective cancer vaccine therapy, with the aim of directing the improvement and optimization of future cancer vaccines (see *Immunotherapy* Volume 8, issues 11).

Spread the word

The journal has been active on social media through Twitter [13] and LinkedIn [14] so as to provide regular updates on newly published content and the latest news in immunotherapy. We welcome and appreciate all contributions and feedback we receive via these platforms.

Figure 1. Readership demographics in 2016 for immunotherapy.

Immunotherapy is continuing its partnership with Kudos and we encourage authors to share information about their publications and monitor the impact of their efforts [15].

Immunotherapy also offers accelerated publication and open access options to our authors to increase the speed and reach of their articles. Interested readers can find out more on our website [16].

Conclusion

We invite and appreciate all feedback from the immunotherapy community on the direction of the field and areas you would like the journal to cover. We also welcome unsolicited article proposals, and would be delighted to hear from you. Later in 2017, we will be including a special themed issue on allergen immunotherapy and would particularly welcome article proposals in this area.

Many thanks for your continuing interest and support for *Immunotherapy*, I look forward to working with many of you over the coming year.

Financial & competing interests disclosure

Sonia Mannan is an employee of Future Medicine Ltd. The author has no other relevant affiliations or financial involvement with any organization or entity with a financial interest in or financial conflict with the subject matter or materials discussed in the manuscript apart from those disclosed.

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