Making sense of the melanoma information tsunami

John F Thompson^{*1} & Kevin B. Kim^{*2}

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It is a great pleasure to welcome you to the inaugural issue of our new journal *Melanoma Management*. As knowledge in the field of oncology has rapidly accumulated over the past decade, we have been flooded with information, frequently too much to absorb and digest. In particular, in the field of melanoma, we have witnessed in a relatively short time tremendous advances in understanding of molecular biology and genetics, as well as cancer immunology, leading to the development of life-extending drugs including BRAF and MEK inhibitors, and anti-CTLA4 and anti-PD-1. However, only a minority of patients with metastatic melanoma are likely to be cured with any of these agents alone. Therefore, selecting a suitable drug or combination of drugs at an appropriate time and planning an optimal sequence of treatments is proving to be a difficult challenge for healthcare providers. Furthermore, the rapid influx of preclinical and clinical data regarding potential predictive biomarkers and different mechanisms of resistance to these agents can be overwhelming. Therefore, we feel that this is the right time to launch the journal *Melanoma Management* to update clinicians, other healthcare providers and researchers on the latest clinically relevant information, and to provide the opinions of experts on important topics in this field.

The aim of this new journal is to deliver an accessible overview of current and future melanoma management options in a concise format that is useful for busy clinicians and researchers. *Melanoma Management* will publish high-quality peer reviewed articles on all aspects of melanoma, including risk factors, prevention and sun safety education; diagnosis, staging and prognosis; melanoma surgery including sentinel lymph node biopsy; biological therapies, including immunotherapy and vaccines; novel chemotherapy options; treatment of metastatic disease; adjuvant therapies; and patient care and quality of life. In addition to the latest findings in melanoma research and treatment, state-of-the art reviews and editorials by experts will be presented.

This inaugural issue of *Melanoma Management* encompasses a broad range of topics. These include the latest developments in the molecular pathology of melanoma and the use of sentinel lymph node biopsy, current clinical approaches to advanced melanoma, the results of skin cancer awareness campaigns in Australia, and an update on melanoma immunotherapy, including anti-PD-1 antibody treatment. The editorials in this issue focus on the clinical use of molecular profiling of melanoma; follow-up of patients with high-risk primaries and stage III melanoma; the future of systemic therapy; and, potential blood biomarkers to identify metastasis.

¹Melanoma Institute Australia and the University of Sydney, Sydney, NSW, Australia

²California Pacific Medical Center Research Institute, San Francisco, CA, USA

*Authors for correspondence: john.thompson@melanoma.org.au; kimkb@sutterhealth.org

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Despite the recent advances in therapy, we still have a long way to go to eliminate and cure melanoma, especially in its advanced stages. However, the future of melanoma therapy is bright. The development of anti-PD-1 and anti-PD-L1 antibodies is the latest breakthrough, with very exciting results in early-phase clinical trials. It is likely that these checkpoint therapies will completely change the landscape of melanoma management in the near future. In addition, the combination of selective BRAF inhibitors and MEK inhibitors could soon be a new backbone for novel combination regimens for treatment of advanced BRAF-mutant melanoma. Furthermore, we hope that rational combinations of checkpoint immunotherapies and targeted therapies, with appropriate sequencing, will lead to a significant improvement in the cure rate in the coming years. At the same time, we still need to work diligently on treatments targeting other genetic and epigenetic aberrations and develop more effective

strategies for preventing melanoma in high-risk individuals.

We hope that *Melanoma Management* will provide physicians, researchers and other health-care providers with valuable, up-to-date clinical and investigational information and experts' opinions, and we invite readers to support the journal by contributing their own expertise and experiences.

Financial & competing interests disclosure

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