Cancer Prevention
A Message from the New Editors-in-Chief
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The tremendous progress that has been made in the diagnosis and treatment of many forms of cancer should be celebrated. However, the scourge of cancer remains a major health care challenge worldwide. Cancer is a difficult and expensive disease to treat, oftentimes bankrupting families and traumatizing everyone it touches. Even patients who have achieved remission fear recurrence and metastasis. We believe it is unrealistic to address the challenges of global cancer control simply by improving treatments for advanced disease; prevention of cancer must play a major role.

Lung cancer provides an instructive example. Until recently, a diagnosis of metastatic lung cancer was a virtual death sentence. Thanks to the recent development of immunotherapies, certain patients now have improved outcomes, although even with these new treatments, only a low percentage will experience long-term survival. It must not be forgotten that effective tobacco control has the potential to save more lives by preventing lung cancer than advanced therapies do by treating it. Unfortunately, measures to limit tobacco use are imperfect and fraught with political obstructions. Furthermore, there remain major gaps in knowledge regarding lung cancer etiology among never-smokers. Thus, the challenge of lung cancer requires concerted research regarding treatment, screening, effective application of existing knowledge concerning prevention, and further advances in the basic science concerning mechanisms of carcinogenesis.

In other words, lowering the burden of lung and other cancers requires risk reduction measures, which may involve lifestyle changes and/or pharmaceutical interventions. We are also cognizant of the possibility of “cancer interception,” which refers to interventions that block the progression of early-stage cancer to aggressive disease. Since its beginnings in 2008, Cancer Prevention Research has focused on all these areas.

As we take over editorship of the journal from Scott Lippman, its founding editor, our vision is to advance the field by providing an authoritative forum for peer-reviewed publication of high-quality research. As is the case with all AACR journals, we intend that the caliber of the content will make it an essential resource for workers in the field, and we also hope that it will demonstrate to academics in other areas and policymakers in government and the private sector (particularly the insurance and pharmaceutical industries) the important contribution cancer prevention must play in the challenge of global cancer control.

With the burden of cancer increasing worldwide, it is imperative to maximize cancer prevention and interception efforts. Particularly in developing countries, only by advancing prevention can we avoid overburdening

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