

Letter from the Editor-in-Chief

Dear audience,

With the aging of population worldwide, we are faced with an increasing burden of cancer in the elderly. GLOBOCAN 2012 reported that there are 14.07 million new cancer cases worldwide every year, with 8.45 million patients older than 60 years. Of 8.2 million cancer deaths each year, those of patients older than 60 years are 5.7 million. According to Chinese Cancer Registry Annual Report 2014, in 2012 those aged >60 years account for 57.93% of all cancer patients; and cancer deaths of this age group patients account for 70.7%.

In order to improve the survival and quality of life of geriatric cancer patients, oncologists should perform a thorough evaluation and make individualized treatment plans. In January 2015, the society of geriatric oncology in the Chinese Anti-Cancer Association was established. Chinese oncologists are making joint effort in promoting geriatric cancer research. But they are still challenged in assessing and treating elderly cancer patients.



The 2015 ASCO Annual Meeting highlighted the needs of geriatric cancer patients and corresponding critical issues in treatment, increasing attention of cancer researchers and clinicians to geriatric oncology. Cooperated with the International Society of Geriatric Oncology (SIOG), Cancer Biology & Medicine invited Dr. Riccardo Audisio, the past president of SIOG and a world famous expert in geriatric oncology, to organize this special issue. The contributing authors have outstanding expertise in geriatric oncology and the contents involve assessment of fitness for surgery, chemotherapy tolerance and clinical trials in the elderly cancer patient.

I sincerely expect these excellent articles will be helpful to your research and clinical practice. I am grateful to the hard work of Dr. Riccardo Audisio, Ms Laurence Verhagen (chief executive officer of SIOG) and all of the authors.

At last, on behalf of the editorial team of Cancer Biology & Medicine, I wish you a happy and fruitful new year of 2016.

With my warmest regards.



Xi-Shan Hao, M.D.

Editor-in-Chief, Cancer Biology & Medicine

President, Chinese Anti-Cancer Association

Board of Directors, Union for International Cancer Control