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 Letter From the Editors
 

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# Are You Ready For Some Ethics, Some Success, Some Cytoprotectants, and Some New Board Members?

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By Daniel D. Von Hoff, MD, FACP, and J. Lyle Bootman, PhD

With the approach of fall, our Arizona Wildcat football team is on the practice field with our new Coach John Mackovic at the helm—and some people see a championship on the horizon. Football seems to be in the air! It brings to mind Monday Night Football and the calling siren of “Are you ready for some football?” You might wonder what the phrase has to do with an *Oncology Spectrums* editorial. We don’t know about you, but Monday Night Football for us provides some escape from the administrative headaches, politics, and the day-to-day grind of being responsible for something. In *Oncology Spectrums*, we are providing some escape from the usual format by starting a new column, publishing some invigorating new therapeutic successes, and adding to our editorial board.

This month, *Oncology Spectrums* begins a new column which we are calling the “Oncology Ethics Forum.” The contributors who have agreed to write the ethics column are excellent, experienced individuals, some of whom have seen oncology ethics from both sides of the bed. The first column is presented by Terri Maxwell of Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia. We believe that the unique perspectives of our contributors to this column will provide important insights into everyday ethical issues that confront our readership colleagues.

In oncology, we can always use some good news, and this particular *Oncology Spectrums* contains good news. As most readers already know, there is a recent, solid, indeed some would say spectacular advance in the targeting of new therapeutic agents against molecular targets in tumor cells. The article by Mauro, O’Dwyer and Druker chronicles the development of STI571 (now known as Gleevec) for treatment of chronic myelogenous leukemia and other malignancies, such as gastrointestinal stromal sarcomas.

To continue on the targeting theme, Dr. Giese and colleagues give a superb analysis of the development of antagonists of the platelet derived growth factor receptor family. In a more general analysis, Drs. Dickson and Reeder provide a unique insight into the impact of target selection on the economics of drug development.

As a final treat, we have an outstanding contribution on cytoprotectants from a very distinguished colleague, Dr. Robert Ignoffo. There are many who feel that cytoprotectants are a major reason for more success in cancer treatment. Our patients are able to better tolerate the treatment regimens and hence are able to stay on them for a longer period of time, giving them a better chance of working. Dr. Ignoffo’s review provides current understandings of the pharmacology and clinical utility of cytoprotectants in oncology.

Finally, we are extremely pleased to announce that we have two outstanding individuals who have agreed to join the editorial board of *Oncology Spectrums*. Dr. Leonard Saltz is widely known and appreciated as an expert in developing new therapies for patients with gastrointestinal cancer. James Koeller is widely known and appreciated for his expertise in the practice and economic aspects of oncology. We very much look forward to their wisdom in guiding *Oncology Spectrums*.

So please sit back and enjoy this terrific issue of *Oncology Spectrums* (with its new features). Oh—and let’s not forget the recreational aspects of life either—are you ready for some football? Go Arizona Wildcats! **OS**

Daniel D. Von Hoff, MD, FACP  
J. Lyle Bootman, PhD

## *Oncology Spectrums* welcomes our new editorial board members—



Leonard Saltz, MD  
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center



James Koeller, MS  
University of Texas

*Daniel D. Von Hoff, MD, FACP, is director of the Arizona Cancer Center at the University of Arizona in Tucson, and the co-editor of Oncology Spectrums.*

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