

## Foreword



### **Shaji K Kumar, MD**

*Shaji K Kumar, MD, is a consultant in the Division of Hematology at the Mayo Clinic, and Professor of Medicine in the College of Medicine, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, US. He is currently the chair of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) panel on multiple myeloma and is the co-chair of the National Cancer Institute multiple myeloma steering committee. He is a member of several professional societies, including the American Society of Hematology, American Society of Clinical Oncology, American Association for Clinical Research, American Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation, American Medical Association, Association of Physicians of India, and the European Hematology Association. His work has appeared in many peer-reviewed journals such as Lancet Oncology, Journal of Clinical Oncology, Blood Cancer Journal, Leukemia, American Journal of Hematology, Mayo Clinic Proceedings, Blood, and European Journal of Hematology. Dr Kumar's research efforts are directed toward studying novel treatment approaches in myeloma through well-designed clinical trials. He is principal investigator on multiple phase I, II, and III trials for plasma cell malignancies, which include a combination of Mayo Clinic investigator-initiated trials, industry-sponsored trials, and cooperative group trials. From a translational research standpoint, his laboratory has focused on development of new agents for plasma cell malignancies, with a particular focus on the tumor microenvironment. Dr Kumar receives ongoing support for research from the National Institutes of Health and the National Cancer Institute.*

**W**elcome to the fall edition of *Oncology and Hematology Review*, which features a wealth of topical and practical content for oncologists and hematologists, as well as being of interest to the wider medical community.

Our expert interviews continue to be popular, providing concise snapshots of hot topics in medicine. We are entering a transformative time in cancer care, thanks to advances in genetic profiling, novel molecular targeted therapies and the expanding field of immuno-oncology. Ian Flinn highlights the exciting recent developments that are improving outcomes in patients with B-cell malignancies. However, there is growing concern that clinical trials are becoming increasingly hard to conduct. John Marshall discusses the need to harmonize and not over-regulate clinical research.

Recent advances in precision medicine promise to revolutionize the treatment landscape of a number of common malignancies, but this approach relies on the identification of biomarkers. Wadie Bahou describes the role of platelets in cancer progression and metastasis, as well as their potential role as biomarkers. However, this approach has not yet proven applicable to all malignancies. Ulka Vaishampayan considers the challenges of personalized therapy in advanced renal cancer, as well as describing a promising new targeted therapeutic approach.

Worldwide, lung cancer continues to be the most common malignancy and the largest cause of cancer deaths. In the first of three interviews on this subject, Stephen Chun highlights the disparities in access to combined chemotherapy and radiotherapy for patients with small cell lung cancer across the US. Martin Edelman discusses the PACIFIC trial, the first study to demonstrate the efficacy of immunotherapy in stage III non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), and its impact on clinical practice. In addition, Khaled Tolba provides an insight into the challenges and opportunities presented by the use of immune biomarkers in therapeutic decision making in NSCLC.

We also feature a review article by Das and Gibson on recent advances in metastatic esophageal and gastroesophageal junction adenocarcinoma. The incidence of these devastating malignancies is rising in the US, and treatment is challenging, but new therapeutic options are improving outcomes. The incidence of hepatocellular carcinoma also continues to increase. In another review, Chen, Lopez, and Vaccaro describe the current approach to the diagnosis, staging, and management of this condition, with a focus on evolving approaches to systemic treatment.

*Oncology and Hematology Review* would like to thank all expert authors who contributed towards this edition. A special thanks goes to our Editorial Board for their continuing support and guidance. Thanks also go to all organizations and media partners for their ongoing support. We hope that all our readers will find plenty of interest among these timely and thought-provoking articles. □