This year marks a milestone for Clinical Cancer Research (CCR)—we are celebrating our 20th anniversary. CCR was launched in January 1995 by the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), and at the time it was the third journal to join AACR’s family of publications (following Cancer Research and Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention). The journal was launched to report on research bridging the laboratory and the clinic, with the aim of providing a forum for high-impact translational research in which molecular and cellular insights from the laboratory could be transformed into clinical interventions to manage and treat patients; it was part of AACR’s overall plan to strengthen its commitment to clinical research.

CCR was initially published once a month, and during its first year, 202 articles were published in the journal. Now CCR is published semimonthly, and in 2014 we published an impressive 696 articles. As the success of CCR grew over the years, so has the journal’s Impact Factor. Most recently, our Impact Factor in 2013 was 8.193, the highest in the journal’s history. We are very proud of what CCR has accomplished over the years. We would like to thank all of the editors and staff who have devoted their time and energy to the journal and, in particular, John Mendelsohn, who was the founding Editor-in-Chief (serving from 1995–2004), William N. Hait, who served as Editor-in-Chief from 2005–2007, and Eric H. Rubin, who served as interim Editor-in-Chief during 2007.

Over the past 20 years, a tremendous amount of progress has been made in our efforts to understand, diagnose, and treat cancer, and CCR has played an important role in helping to communicate important advances in clinical and translational oncology to the broader research community. To commemorate the 20th anniversary of CCR, we have special content planned for 2015 to highlight some of the paradigm-shifting studies that have been published in CCR over the years. The editors of CCR have selected what we feel were some of the most significant studies that appeared in the journal since its inception, and we have asked the authors of those articles (or other leaders in the field) to write commentaries describing the impact of the research and how the field has continued to evolve since the publication of the studies.

Given the long span of time covered by the journal and the many remarkable articles that have appeared in CCR since it was launched, it was not easy to choose just a handful of them. However, the editors have chosen what we feel are outstanding examples of the type of research CCR publishes. These articles will highlight the broad scope of CCR, including the molecular characterization of tumor subtypes, preclinical evaluation of new targeted therapies, early-phase clinical trials, and determinants of treatment response. This special content will appear in issues of CCR throughout calendar year 2015, and we plan to feature over 20 studies. As they are published, these commentaries will also be accessible through an interactive timeline, available through the CCR homepage (http://clincancerres.aacrjournals.org/).

We hope that you enjoy the retrospective look at the history of CCR that this series of commentaries will provide. As we celebrate our 20th anniversary, we also look to the future and wish for the continued success of CCR in coming years. We will work to make sure that CCR continues to serve as an integral resource for the broad oncology community and remains a vital forum for the publication of cutting-edge translational and clinical research.

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