

Editorial

# Do We Really Need Another Oncology Journal?

Fred Saad 

Centre Hospitalier de Université de Montréal, Montreal, QC H2X 3E4, Canada; fredsaad@videotron.ca

As the inaugural editor in chief of the journal *Onco* I am very proud to take on the challenge of bringing to life a new journal dedicated to promoting the new developments and management of this challenging disease. The field of oncology has become more and more complex, but with wider and easier access to ongoing research through high quality publications, progress has surpassed all expectations. One may ask, with all the journals dedicated to oncology, do we really need another journal. I reflected on this myself before accepting the role of editor in chief and came to the conclusion that the answer is yes. The pace of research has increased exponentially, with countries and institutions that were considered as “developing” having caught up to, and in some cases even surpassed, many of the historical pillars of science. This increase in scientific output is only good for the field. Through collaboration, and a little competition, discoveries that truly advance our understanding and treatment of cancer are inevitable. The same is true about publishing high quality papers. Journals are essential for allowing research to progress rapidly by making innovative discoveries accessible in a timely fashion. By limiting the number of journals, one actually impedes progress rather than helps to move it along. As Sir Isaac Newton said; “If I have seen further than others, it is by standing upon the shoulders of giants”. These “shoulders” needed journals in order to be seen. With excellent research ongoing around the world, results need a vehicle to provide a foundation for other researchers to build upon. This in no way means that publication standards should be lowered. The standards must remain high, however, given the limited number of journals, even high-quality research struggles to be published in a timely fashion, thus hindering the progress of the field. This is one important reason why the journal *Onco* is being brought forward. A high-quality journal for high quality research. So, what do we plan for this new journal? *Onco* will obviously have a wide range of interests in cancer research and treatment but will put an emphasis on novel therapeutic approaches in oncology. I will be joined by an extraordinary international editorial board that will make every effort to solicit high quality papers; from the discovery process, moving from the bench to the bedside, all the way to the implementation of these novel strategies. Such publications will improve both outcomes and the search for ways to reduce the burden of disease and its treatment. We look forward to receiving and reviewing your work in this field and hope that it will help disseminate excellence and further improve research and collaboration.



**Citation:** Saad, F. Do We Really Need Another Oncology Journal? *Onco* **2021**, *1*, 23–24. <https://doi.org/10.3390/onco1010003>

Received: 30 March 2021

Accepted: 6 April 2021

Published: 8 April 2021

**Publisher’s Note:** MDPI stays neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.



**Copyright:** © 2021 by the author. Licensee MDPI, Basel, Switzerland. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

**Funding:** This research received no external funding.

**Conflicts of Interest:** The author declares no conflict of interest.

**Onco:** <https://www.mdpi.com/journal/onco>.

## Short Biography of Authors



**Fred Saad**, MD, FRCS, is Professor and Chairman of Urology and Director of Genitourinary Oncology at the University of Montreal Hospital Center (CHUM), in Montreal, QC, Canada. He holds the Raymond Garneau Chair in Prostate Cancer Research and is Director of Clinical Research and the Molecular Oncology Research Laboratory in Prostate Cancer.

Prof. Saad's research interests include novel therapeutics in prostate cancer, molecular prognostic markers, and mechanisms of progression. He has over 40 clinical and basic research projects ongoing and has received over CAD 40 million in research grants. Prof. Saad currently sits on twelve steering committees of ongoing international clinical trials and serves on several guideline committees.

He is an active member of the Canadian Urological Association (CUA), the American Urological Association (AUA), the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO), and the American Association of Genitourinary Surgeons (AAGUS), and has held several leadership positions including President of the CUA and Chair of the National Cancer Institute of Canada genitourinary group (NCIC G-U) and the Canadian Uro-Oncology Group (CUOG). Prof. Saad is the recipient of numerous awards and honors including Lifetime Achievement Awards from the CHUM Research Center and the Quebec Urological Association (QUA), The Distinguished Contribution Award from the American Urologic Association (AUA) and was named a Knight of The National Order of Quebec, the highest honor given by the Government of Quebec.

Prof. Saad has played a leadership role and been co-author of many of the practice-changing clinical trials and publications in advanced prostate cancer over the last 20 years. He is a member of several editorial boards, including *Lancet Oncology*, *JAMA Oncology*, and *Nature Urology*. Prof. Saad has published over 700 peer-reviewed articles, and with an *h*-index of 128 and over 80,000 citations he is listed as one of the world's most-cited clinician-scientists.