COVID-19 Affects *JNCCN*

As I write this, my husband and I are in our 16th week of “sheltering in place,” venturing out only for essential errands and necessities, wearing face coverings and clutching disinfectant wipes. Actually, it has not been that bad for us; we are fortunate to have space and lots of chores to occupy us. For some, it has been hard and frustrating on many levels. So, as America began to open up in early July, people became careless, perhaps thinking it was safe to resume normal activities. As a result, Texas hospitals at this very moment are scrambling for beds and ventilators, and other states are facing similar crises. This will be a long road to recovery.

Surprisingly, COVID-19 has affected *JNCCN* too. The first thing we noticed was a flood of submission inquiries about COVID-19–related articles. Physicians around the world clearly wanted to share experiences to help others. I’m proud that *JNCCN* was one of the first publications to discuss the effect of this pandemic on patients with cancer. The Seattle Cancer Care Alliance was one of the first epicenters of COVID-19 in America, and their experience has helped other centers across the country prepare and plan. Subsequently, NCCN’s Best Practices Committee provided an important guide to ensure provider and patient safety in the setting of cancer care. In this issue, you will find a commentary that provides guidance on managing clinical trials in the midst of disruption caused by a pandemic.

Another thing we noticed was a surge of submissions in general. This is so impressive that I am including a graph comparing the number of submissions in the first half of 2019 versus the same period this year (Figure 1). We had a whopping 2.25-fold increase! Now, it could be just that *JNCCN* has achieved such a reputation that everyone wants to see their work in the journal, but I have a feeling that busy academics—who weren’t traveling and who were perhaps seeing fewer patients—had extra time. What better time to crank out those manuscripts you’ve been wanting to get off your desk?

Finally, as we feverishly sorted through submissions, we learned of another change. *JNCCN*’s impact factor jumped from 7.570 to 9.316, pushing the journal even higher in the ranks of oncology journals and into the top quartile of all medical journals. But COVID-19 cannot be credited for that; it can only be attributed to *JNCCN*’s success in attracting better and more impactful manuscripts. Good for us!

So, in spite of COVID-19 and all the bad downstream consequences, *JNCCN* enjoyed some positive news. And goodness knows, we can all use positive news!

If you’d like to submit to *JNCCN*, go to www.editorialmanager.com/JNCCN.

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