Breaking new ground in a new year

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As 2011 begins, Current Oncology is pleased to announce a new initiative dubbed our “Cancer Knowledge Network.” This will be a new Web site at which a number of ongoing debates will be hosted.

Many issues are currently under discussion in the field of cancer medicine: new drugs and their uses ... treatment guidelines ... the value or otherwise of new tests and equipment. There are dozens more. Published manuscripts tend to fade in their topicality once in print. We hope that a site dedicated to focused debates will keep the relevant issues “topical” and will encourage ongoing contributions from interested parties be they clinicians, researchers, industry partners, or patients.

Each debate will commence with an invited introductory statement or summary designed to promote discussion. Some of these debates—on, for example, “the right to die” or “the value or otherwise of PSA as a screening tool”—will have both pro and con introductory summaries from experts in the field.

Ultimately, we will look to the readership to suggest or even to post debate topics of their own choosing. Some degree of moderation will inevitably be necessary, but will be kept to a minimum.

As full details of this new undertaking become available, they will be distributed in a press release and e-mailed to the 2000 or so registered users of the journal’s Web site at www.current-oncology.com. Links from that parent site to the new site will be available soon, probably sometime in early February. We encourage all readers to register as soon as possible at www.current-oncology.com. Your username and password will be needed to access (and hopefully to contribute to) the Cancer Knowledge Network. Readers already registered at www.current-oncology.com will be able to select a new username for the new Web site.

We look forward to releasing further details about this new initiative—indeed they will probably have reached you before this editorial appears in hard copy!