



## From the Editor

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# In the Beginning of Our Journey

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Hepatobiliary disorders are a complex spectrum of diseases, usually requiring a multi-disciplinary approach that involves interventional radiologists, hepatologists, oncologists, hepatobiliary-transplant surgeons and translational researchers. The Journal of Inonu Liver Transplant Institute (JILTI) is internationally peer reviewed and provides a source for articles on the etiology, epidemiology, prevention, diagnosis, staging, sub-typing and cutting-edge therapies for hepatobiliary diseases and cancers which also includes liver transplantation, ablation and complex hepatobiliary surgical procedures, loco-regional chemotherapy and radiotherapy, external beam radiation techniques, systemic medical chemotherapies and molecularly targeted therapies and immune modulating therapies.

Approximately 800,000 new cases of hepatocellular carcinoma are expected annually with 70% deaths. The causes are mainly known, yet vaccination-based prevention of hepatitis B infection as a cause of HCC has been replaced by increasing obesity-associated HCC cases. Despite the great variety of available treatment types, only the minority of patients who present with early-stage disease benefit from the surgical therapies that extend survival most. Thus, prevention of the known causes and early detection of the tumor are the areas of activity with the largest expected survival benefit. Furthermore, the large recent efforts in increasing early diagnosis through screening with novel molecular and other biomarkers, including liquid biopsy, of patients with predisposing diseases (cirrhosis of any cause, metabolic syndrome, chronic virus hepatitis) is expected to improve early diagnosis as well as help in specific patient tumor stage sub-classifications to identify patients who might benefit from specific therapies (therapy selection and prognosis). We thus have the paradox of the minority of cases presenting at an early stage of their disease trajectory, when the best treatments can prolong their survival, while a huge body of work continues on the development and application of newer and expensive therapies to the majority of patients who present much later in their liver cancer natural history, when most current therapy is much less effective in enhancing patient lifespan.

In accordance with our aims, basic and translational research as applied to these diseases have great importance for our journal and relevant articles are welcome for submission and review, as are Original articles, reports on Clinical Trials, Reviews, Editorials, Highlights of the world literature, Case Series, Case Reports and Letters to the Editor.