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## EDITORIAL

# Novel therapeutics and emerging technologies in head and neck cancer



Head and neck cancer remains the fifth most common cancer worldwide. With the emergence of the human papillomavirus (HPV) epidemic, the incidence of this malignancy is increasing at an alarming rate and the public health implications are far-reaching. Fortunately, the scientific community has been accelerating its rate of discovery as well. This special issue of the "World Journal of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery" contains cutting edge reports, written by some of the world's foremost authorities in genomics, theranostics, cell signaling, drug development and surgical innovation. Specifically, the reader of this edition will discover the utility of applied genomics through the use of "MATH" (mutant allele tumor heterogeneity) as described by Drs. James Rocco and Edmund Mroz. Similarly, the genetics of highly aggressive cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) is introduced. Drs. Quintin Pan, John Lee and their colleagues discuss cell signaling pathways and novel targeted therapies for HPV positive SCC. Theranostic approaches to tumor detection/treatment as well as novel approaches to the detection of circulating tumor cells are also outlined. Finally, cutting

edge surgical approaches to successful treatment of head and neck cancer in the form of robotic surgery, sentinel lymph node detection and photodynamic therapy are included in this issue.

Putting together this issue involved the help and talents of many esteemed colleagues. I am grateful to them and to the entire WJOHNS team. I sincerely hope you enjoy reading this issue as much as I enjoyed serving as editor.

Theodoros N. Teknos, M.D.  
*Professor and Chair, Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery, The David E. Schuller, MD and Carole Schuller Chair in Otolaryngology, Medical Director of Development, The James Campaign, The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – James Cancer Hospital & Solove Research Institute, USA*

E-mail address: [ted.teknos@osumc.edu](mailto:ted.teknos@osumc.edu)

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