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Introduction

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Some years ago Professor R. Montesano, then President of the European Association for Cancer Research (EACR), one of the full members of the Federation of European Cancer Societies (FECS) asked the Board and the Council of FECS to support the publication of an *EJC* supplement devoted to a broad variety of cancer-related problems such as epidemiology, genetics, virology, chemotherapy, palliative care and prevention. As a society which represents the manifold faces of oncology, FECS naturally agreed to support this ambitious project. Thanks to the energetic efforts of Professor

Montesano, I am glad and satisfied that this special *EJC* issue entitled 'Cancer on the Threshold of a New Millennium' is now completed and will be available when the 11th European Cancer Conference is held in Lisbon, Portugal in October. I believe that Professor Montesano and the authors of the various chapters, all of them internationally respected experts, have succeeded in precisely describing what has been achieved and what needs to be done in order to further improve the fate of our cancer patients.

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