

Editorial

Welcoming a New Journal: *Breast Cancer Research and Care*

Kay-Uwe Wagner 

Department of Oncology and Center for Molecular Medicine and Genetics, Wayne State University,
Detroit, MI 48202, USA; kuwagner@wayne.edu

It gives me great pleasure to launch the new journal *Breast Cancer Research and Care* (ISSN 3043-100X) [1], for which I serve as the founding Editor-in-Chief.

I was initially reluctant to accept this role, given the demands of my professional schedule. Yet I also recognized that this position offers a unique opportunity to promote awareness, advance research, and facilitate the dissemination of new scientific findings to a broad and diverse audience. I support the mission of the journal, which will amalgamate fundamental discoveries with clinical applications ranging from epidemiology and cancer prevention, basic scientific discoveries, advances in therapeutic approaches, to survivorship and palliative care.

The broad scope of the journal reflects a central fact that breast cancer is not a single disease. Progress in prevention, early detection, and treatment will depend on new research findings and paradigm-shifting approaches across multiple disciplines. For those of us who have dedicated our careers to research and clinical care, it is essential to highlight the profound impact scientific discovery has had on human health. Life expectancy has more than doubled over the past century after remaining nearly unchanged for millennia [2]. At the same time, increased longevity inevitably brings a rise in cancer diagnoses, as the incidence for most malignancies, including the most frequent breast cancer subtypes, rises significantly with age.

Appropriately, the focus on cancer research has intensified. PubMed lists more than 51,000 articles on “breast cancer” published between 1980 and 2000. This number has risen to 35,600 between 2001 and 2026, with more than 28,000 articles published in 2025 alone [3]. This means that there are now more articles published in a year on breast cancer than over an entire decade since the turn of the century. This rapid expansion of the literature underscores the need for a dedicated journal that can curate, evaluate, and elevate high-quality research in breast cancer biology and care.

Over the course of my career, I have witnessed significant changes in how manuscripts are reviewed, processed, and disseminated. Despite these shifts, the formalized peer review has remained a cornerstone of scientific publishing—a shared standard of rigor that calibrates scientific norms and supports the legitimacy of journals. This is especially important today, given the increasing use of artificial intelligence and expansion of platforms that disseminate manuscripts without expert evaluation. I am not opposed to online archives that allow researchers to share findings early and receive broad feedback; such platforms can enhance rigor and accelerate subsequent expert review. However, they should complement—not replace—peer review, and they should not rely on “views” or “likes” as proxies for the assessment of scientific merit.

To ensure rigor and reproducibility of the research published in *Breast Cancer Research and Care*, I am fortunate to rely on an international editorial board composed of experts across the journal’s full scope. We will be supported by a highly effective team in the editorial office to ensure timely communication and review of submitted manuscripts.



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While advocating for authors, we will also guide reviewers in providing constructive, high-quality evaluations. For those seeking insight into the reviewer's role, I highly recommend reading an excellent editorial by David Drubin [4], summarizing the ten cardinal rules for assessing the merits of manuscripts; it also offers valuable guidance for handling editors and authors responding to critiques.

Please allow me to make a few final comments about the journal's format. *Breast Cancer Research and Care* is an open access journal that welcomes manuscripts as original research articles, comprehensive reviews, case reports, and short communications. Although there are no restrictions on manuscript length, the authors should be selective in the presentation of data that supports the study's conclusion, and reviewers should be judicious in requesting additional work beyond the primary scope of the study. As Editor-in-Chief, I will promote a civil and constructive peer review process and encourage all participants to serve as role models and champions for the field of breast cancer research and care.

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Short Biography of Author



Prof. Dr. Kay-Uwe Wagner, Ph.D., is a professor in the Department of Oncology and Center for Molecular Medicine and Genetics at Wayne State University. He served as the leader of the Tumor Biology and Microenvironment Program at the Karmanos Comprehensive Cancer Center and directs the Pancreatic Tumor Organ Donation Program at this institution. His major research interests focus on mammary gland development, breast and pancreatic cancer, with particular emphasis on mouse models, tumor susceptibility genes, and STAT transcription factors. His academic career began in Germany, followed by postdoctoral training at the National Institutes of Health, and since 2000 has included faculty positions at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) and currently Wayne State University. This diverse experience has shaped his integrative approach to cancer biology, combining molecular genetics with translational applications. Currently, he mentors graduate students and a postdoctoral fellow in his laboratory. With research reagents used worldwide, Prof. Wagner has made substantial contributions to understanding the genetic causes of breast cancer, a disease that affects 1.7 million women annually. Beyond his research endeavors, Prof. Wagner has received multiple honors, including the UNMC Research Leadership Award, the Outstanding Mentor of Graduate Students Award, and the WSU/KCI Innovative Science Award. He is deeply committed to mentorship and fostering a team-based scientific culture.

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