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Evidence, Not Politics, Should Guide Cancer Care

I would like to thank the editor for her thoughtful editorial “Mammography and the Media” (vol. 14, p. 125). As oncology nurses, we are committed to advocating for all patients with cancer. As the author noted, we are supposed to be using evidence-based practice to drive the care we deliver. The updated guidelines were scientifically based and critiqued. Isn't that what we want for all cancer screening and treatment recommendations?

The editorial points out the need for oncology nurses to pay attention to the news because our patients will rely on us for information. In reality, they will likely listen to the oncology nurses administering their chemotherapy rather than a scientific or governmental report. Therefore, it is not only important that we pay attention, but that we don't allow politically unpopular scientific decisions in cancer sway our emotional opinions.

I commend Dr. Mayer's opinion. She has taken a brave stance on a politically sensitive issue with a politically vocal

group. I also commend the editors of the journal for taking a stand instead of ignoring the politically sensitive issue. It is this type of insight and journalism that keeps the Oncology Nursing Society and its membership informed and educated.

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