

## CORRESPONDENCE

## **Phase II Study of 5-Fluorouracil and Folinic Acid in the Treatment of Patients with Advanced Gastric Cancer**

### **A Southwest Oncology Group Study**

In the article published in *Cancer* entitled "Phase II study of 5-fluorouracil and folinic acid in the treatment of patients with advanced gastric cancer. A Southwest Oncology Group Study,"<sup>1</sup> the authors erroneously quoted the results of our study and we request a correction.

In the results of our preliminary study, published as an abstract in *Annals of Oncology*,<sup>2</sup> our response rate (CR + PR) for advanced gastric cancer patients treated with folinic acid-5-fluorouracil (PA-FU) was 41%, not the 59% response rate published in *Cancer*. It is obvious that stable disease was also considered as a response in our study, however the authors of the *Cancer* article did not consider stable disease in their own response rate. At any rate, 59% is a completely unrealistic response to this treatment and should be corrected. In the final results of this study published in *American Journal of Clinical Oncology*,<sup>3</sup> in fact, the objective response rate was 29% for the FA-FU arm versus 42% for the folinic acid-5-fluorouracil-4-epidoxorubicin (FA-FU-EPI) arm. We await a published correction of this error.

#### **REFERENCES**

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2. Colucci G, Maiello E, Lacatena M, Giuliani F, Pezzella G, Giotta F, et al. Folinic acid (FA) + FU alone or with 4-epidoxorubicin in advanced gastric carcinoma. *Ann Oncol* 1990;1(suppl):45 (abstr).
3. Colucci G, Giotta F, Maiello E, Cifarelli RA, Leo S, Giuliani F, et al. Efficacy of the Association of Folinic Acid and 5-Fluorouracil Plus 4-Epidoxorubicin in the Treatment of Advanced Gastric Carcinoma. *Am J Clin Oncol* 1995;18:519-24.

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### **Author Reply**

**W**e gratefully acknowledge the correction Dr. Colucci noted in his letter.

It is of interest that the response rate of 29% (95% confidence interval, 13% to 45%), and median survival of 7 months on their bolus folinic acid/