The Cancer Immunotherapy Armamentarium: Assessing Applications, Ambitions, and Amplitude

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Cancer is the second leading cause of death worldwide with a 70% increase in cases is expected over the next 20 years. Immunotherapy was recognized as advancement of the year in both 2016 and 2017. Positive initial findings and clinical results of recent immunotherapies has precipitated a wave of attention and interest into the field, both in the general public and within the biomedical community. Some experts have speculated that this influx of attention and focus on immunotherapies has gone too far. Others within the field think all the attention and support focused on immunotherapy can only be a good thing, and cultivates a landscape in which inquisition and competition leads to the best advances. The aspect agreed upon by both sides: more funding and support of cancer research is needed. The importance of allocating funds and support sensibly is then critical.

To achieve this, it is imperative that research areas and therapeutic modalities are assessed for current and prospective functionality, applicability, and amplitude.