The distinct biology of haematological disorders as well as other age-related issues in adolescent and young adult (AYA) patients deserves unique psychological and medical attention. It emphasizes the necessity for a treatment approach taking into consideration their special needs. These include fertility considerations, survivorship issues, psychological support, adherence to treatment difficulties and other dilemmas and problems exclusive to this group of patients. AYA patients may usually better support intensive treatments and if possible should be referred to special centres and participate in clinical trials. In recent years the focus on AYA patients in oncology and hemato-oncology has increased. Still a distinct approach to these patients is an unmet need.

This special issue tries to increase awareness for this group of patients as well as to cover the wide spectrum of hematological disorders that is pertinent to AYA patients who face special therapeutic challenges. This publication is of interest for physicians dealing with AYA, especially in the field of hematology and oncology, as well as other age-related issues in adolescent and young adults: Patient Characteristics, Outcomes and Review of the Literature: Pemmaraju, N.; Cortes, J. 

Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia in Adolescents and Young Adults: Burke, P.W.; Douer, D. 

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- M1 and M2 Macrophages: The Chicken and the Egg of Immunity: Mills, C.D. (Marine on St. Croix, Minn.); Ley, K. (La Jolla, Calif.)
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Using and Understanding Medical Statistics
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The fifth revised edition of this highly successful book presents the most extensive enhancement since Using and Understanding Medical Statistics was first published 30 years ago. Without question, the single greatest change has been the inclusion of source code, together with selected output, for the award-winning open-source statistical package known as R. This innovation has enabled the authors to de-emphasize formulae and calculations, and let software do all of the ‘heavy lifting’.

This edition also introduces readers to several graphical statistical tools, such as Q-Q plots to check normality, residual plots for multiple regression models, funnel plots to detect publication bias in a meta-analysis and Bland-Altman plots for assessing agreement in clinical measurements. New examples that better serve the expository goals have been added to a half-dozen chapters. In addition, there are new sections describing exact confidence bands for the Kaplan-Meier estimator, as well as negative binomial and zero-inflated Poisson regression models for over-dispersed count data.

The end result is not only an excellent introduction to medical statistics, but also an invaluable reference for every discerning reader of medical research literature.

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