

May 26, 2021

Fred D. Ashbury PhD, MA
Editor-in-Chief, *Supportive Care in Cancer*
Professor, Illawarra Medical Health Research Institute
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Professor Ashbury,

Please find attached our manuscript, *Financial distress and its associated burden in couples coping with an advanced cancer* (authors: Kroll, Kim, Cho, Weathers, Chen, Smith, Bruera, and Milbury) for your consideration as an original research article in *Supportive Care in Cancer*.

The novel findings presented here, highlight that in the advanced cancer setting financial distress is present in a majority of patients and their spousal caregiver. Further, subjective psychological experience of financial distress impacts each member of the couple uniquely which has, to the best of our knowledge, not been reported yet in the literature. The findings further suggest that illness communication may help to mitigate the deleterious impact of financial distress in the spouse of an advanced cancer patient. Overall, the findings presented here will be essential to inform interventions that may target financial distress, in that optimal interventions will likely need to include the spousal caregiver.

This work is original and is currently not under review elsewhere. The results of this manuscript have not been previously reported and all authors have approved this final manuscript. The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center's Institutional Review Board provided approval for this study.

Please let me know if I can provide any additional information or materials.

Sincerely,



Juliet Kroll
On behalf of the co-authors

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