THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
School of Health Professions

May 11, 2023

Dr. Elizabeth A. Platz (*Editor-in-Chief*)
Dr. Scarlett Lin Gomez (*Deputy Editor*)
Dr. Nicolas Wentzensen (*Deputy Editor*)
Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers, & Prevention,

Dear Dr. Platz, Dr. Gomez,
and Dr. Wentzensen:

We are pleased to submit an article entitled "*Dietary Patterns Associated with Food Insecurity Predict a Worse Prognosis for U.S. Cancer Survivors: NHANES 1999-2018*". All authors agree that this article is ready for submission, and we ask you to consider it for publication in *Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers, & Prevention*.

This analysis aimed to take a novel approach in dietary patterns analysis (penalized logistic regression) to characterize the dietary patterns of a nutritionally vulnerable population, the food-insecure cancer survivor population in the U.S., and evaluate their relationship to survival after a cancer diagnosis. In addition, we used principal components analysis as another approach for extracting dietary patterns to compare results. This study was a follow-up analysis to previous work that validated these techniques' utility for characterizing our target population's dietary patterns. The present analysis assessed whether the dietary patterns were associated with a clinically-meaningful outcome (i.e., survival). The food-insecure cancer survivor population is an underserved population shown to experience deleterious health outcomes after a cancer diagnosis. Thus, our study will significantly add to the current understanding of diet and cancer control literature, particularly concerning the food-insecure cancer survivor population. We believe that *Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers, & Prevention,* an esteemed and recognized journal known for its publication of work in cancer epidemiology, provides an excellent medium to circulate these findings to the larger public.

In brief, our analysis demonstrated that a constellation of unhealthful behaviors characterizes dietary intake in the food-insecure cancer population. The dietary patterns associated with being a food-insecure cancer survivor were also associated with a worse prognosis (i.e., higher risk of all-cause and cancer-specific mortality) after adjusting for several known and potential confounders. The implications of these findings are important to elevate. It is understood from previous work that dietary intake has the potential to play a role in prognosis after a cancer diagnosis in some cases, and our findings contribute to this body of evidence. Thus, the results of our analysis identified that dietary intake patterns in U.S. food-insecure cancer survivors may be a particular issue of concern in this population. In our discussion, we suggest areas for future research and implications for health policy.

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We thank you for considering this manuscript for publication. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

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