STATISTICAL STUDIES IN
THE AETIOLOGY OF
MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS

A Manual of Cancer Epidemiology

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May 1965, Vol. I  Review and Results, Appr. 525 pages,
206 Tables, 141 Diagrams.
Vol. II  Basic Tables, Denmark 1943-57
319 pages.
Bound. Dan. kr. 160,— (§24,— DM 92, 80 £ 8.16.0)

The introduction points to the complex nature of cancer aetiology necessitating the
evaluation of all evidence on a statistical basis. Logically, although not explicitly stated,
this book therefore amounts to a manual of cancer epidemiology, covering the development
from Stern's studies on data from Verona, 1760–1839, and Melzer's hospital data from
Ljubliana, 1787–1849, up to last year's analyses of leukaemia clusters in the United States.

After a general historical survey, Vol. I reviews statistical studies of cancer by site in the
internationally agreed sequence, quoting essential figures and tables for most relevant
studies based on delimited populations-at-risk from the last 200 years.

For each site its special conditions are considered with a view to the reliability of statistics
from various periods, and exhaustive reviews are given of the relation of cancer to heredity,
tobacco consumption of all kinds, alcohol, betel-chewing, syphilis, blood-groups, soil, bil-
harziasis, marital state, childbirth, early sex life, Jewish rite, promiscuity, socioeconomic
status, ionizing radiation, etc. Occupational factors are surveyed to less detail with references
to essential reviews.

Statistical data are quoted and commented without the use of formulas, but from the
viewpoint of a pathologist investigator exploiting personal experience from The Danish
Cancer Registry, from which the data are given in Vol. II to an unprecedented detail
making them accessible to investigators everywhere. The volume ends with tables adjusted
for a U. S. standard population. A third volume presenting Danish data for 1958–62 corres-
pondingly is promised within one year.

These volumes will prove indispensable to all workers in cancer epidemiology, and promise
to be extremely useful to all lecturers in surgery, clinical medicine, and pathology, as a handy
source of information on the occurrence of neoplastic diseases under many conditions of life.

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The facts, ideas, theories and discussions of 78 internationally known cancer researchers, converging upon the solution of the human cancer problem, make this book a relatively complete picture of all now known in the field. The viral concept of oncogenesis, applied to human cancer, is still only a working hypothesis. Many basic and unanswered questions block access to an ultimate solution. Reports of recent work are given here, and partial answers supplied to some of the problems cancer researchers are focusing on today.

Published for The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute. Edited by Russell W. Cumley, Ph.D., University of Texas Medical Center, Houston.

1963
704 pp., 288 fgs. $16.00

THE WILLIAMS & WILKINS COMPANY
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Organized and edited by Gunter F. Bahr and Elmar H. Zeitler, Biophysics Branch, Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Washington, D.C.

1965
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