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COVER LEGEND

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) of the United States was established by an Act of Congress on August 5, 1937. In October 1939, a research facility at the National Institutes of Health was opened at Bethesda, Maryland, a suburb of Washington, D. C. The Cancer Institute was staffed by investigators from two pre-existing Public Health Service Research units: these were a group from the Pharmacology Laboratory of the National Institutes of Health, located in Washington, D. C., and a group associated with the U. S. Public Health Service’s office of Cancer Investigations in Boston, Massachusetts. From 1938 to 1943, Dr. Carl Voegtlin served as Chief and first Director of the NCI. Dr. Roscoe R. Spencer acted as Director from 1943 to 1947; Dr. Leonard A. Scheele from 1947 to 1948; Dr. John R. Heller from 1948 to 1960. The first twenty years of the National Cancer Institute were reviewed in a special issue of the J. Natl. Cancer Inst., 19: 133–190, 1957.

In recent years, the NCI, under the auspices of the Public Health Service, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, has grown among a complex of other national health institutes. It currently employs nearly 1300 persons quartered on the Bethesda “campus” and in adjacent township facilities. Recent innovations include a new laboratory building (Building 37), incorporating a modular design.

The year 1970 also marks a transition in administration at the National Cancer Institute. Dr. Carl G. Baker (b. 1920, Louisville, Kentucky) was installed on July 1 as NCI Director. He succeeded Dr. Kenneth M. Endicott (b. 1916, Canon City, Colorado), who had served as Director since 1960.

The cover illustrates recent photographs of former NCI Director Endicott, top left, and present Director Baker, top right. Center left, Building 6, the original cancer research facility of 1939; lower right, Building 37, the newest cancer laboratory at Bethesda.

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