Contents

2613 A Comparison between Granulomatosis and Lymphoreticular Neoplasia in Diemictylus viridescens and Xenopus laevis.
Laurens N. Ruben and Jean M. Stevens.

2620 A Comparison of Some Ultrastructural and Biochemical Properties of Mitochondria from Morris Hepatomas 9618A, 7800, and 3924A.
Peter L. Pederson, John W. Greenawalt, T. L. Chan, and Harold P. Morris.

2627 The Effect of 1-β-D-Arabinofuranosylcytosine on Growth, Viability, and DNA Synthesis of Mouse L-cells.
F. L. Graham and G. F. Whitmore.

2636 Studies in Mouse L-cells on the Incorporation of 1-β-D-Arabinofuranosylcytosine into DNA and on Inhibition of DNA Polymerase by 1-β-D-Arabinofuranosylcytosine 5′-Triphosphate.
F. L. Graham and G. F. Whitmore.

2645 Enhancement of Murine Sarcoma Virus (Mo-loney) Infection in Mice by Guarova Virus.
W. Turner, W. Gibson, and M. A. Chirigos.

2652 Inhibition of Thymidine Phosphorylation and DNA and Histone Synthesis in Ehrlich Ascites Carcinoma.
Chi-Bom Chae, Ann Williams, Harvey Krasny, J. Logan Irvin, and Claude Piantadosi.

2661 Prevention of Gross Virus-induced Leukemia in Progeny of Immunized Female Rats.
Harry L. Ioachim.

Giovanni Brambilla, Silvio Parodi, Marco Cavanna, Carlo E. Caraceni, and Luciano Baldini.

A. M. Pamukcu, Ş. Yalçın, J. M. Price, and George T. Bryan.

2675 Responsiveness of Glutamine-metabolizing Enzymes in Morris Hepatomas to Metabolic Modulations.
Chung Wu and Harold P. Morris.

2685 Liver Regeneration and Induction of Heptomas in B6AF1 Mice by Urethan.
I. N. Chernozemski and G. P. Warwick.

2691 A Nephroblastoma in a Fire-bellied Newt, Cynops pyrrhogaster.
P. Zwart.

David Kessel and H. Bruce Bosmann.

2702 Electron Microscopic Study of the Guinea Pig Leukemia Virus.
Dorothy G. Feldman and Ludwik Gross.

2712 The Neoplastic Cell Type in Lymphoreticular Neoplasms of the Northern Pike, Esox lucius L. Maire F. Mulcahy, Gösta Winquist, and Clyde J. Dawe.

2718 The Effects of Isoproterenol and Cyclic Adenosine 3′,5′-Phosphate on Phytohemagglutinin-stimulated DNA Synthesis in Lymphocytes Obtained from Patients with Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia.

2724 Effects of Caffeine on L-Cells Exposed to Mitomycin C.

2730 Are There Renal Adenocarcinoma-free Populations of Leopard Frogs?
Robert Gilmore McKinnell and Dennis Paul Dunlaprier.

2736 The Preparation of Insoluble, Matrix-supported Derivatives of Asparaginase for Use in Cancer Therapy.

2739 Induction of Cancer by 20-Methylcholanthrene in Different Regions of the Rat Stomach.
G. N. Arkhipov.

2744 The Leukemogenic Action of Phorbol.
I. Berenblum and Vlasta Lonai.

2749 A Comparison of 32P Distribution in Oligonucleotides of Ribosomal 28 S RNA from Normal Liver and Novikoff Hepatoma Ascites Cells.
Joan Wikman, Giancarlo Quagliarotti, Eugene Howard, Yong C. Choi, and Harris Busch.
Cytotoxicity and Mode of Action of 5-Aza-cytidine on L1210 Leukemia.

Phase Specificity of 5-Azacytidine against Mammalian Cells in Tissue Culture.

Fractionation and Purification of the Polysaccharides with Marked Antitumor Activity, Especially Lentinan, from Lentinus edodes (Berk.) Sing. (an Edible Mushroom).
Goro Chihiara, Junji Hamuro, Yukiko Y. Maeda, Yoshiko Arai, and Fumiko Fukuoka.

Ultrastructural Comparison of Two Human Malignant Melanoma Cell Lines.
Gerd G. Maul and M. M. Romsdahl.

The Ultrastructure of Bowen’s Disease: Nuclear and Nucleolar Lesions.

Cellular Analysis of Renal Neoplasia: Induction of Renal Tumors in Dietary-conditioned Rats by Dimethylnitrosamine, with a Reappraisal of Morphological Characteristics.


Working Conference on Anorexia and Cachexia of Neoplastic Disease.
William DeWys.

Announcements.

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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