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The Institute for Cancer Research, Philadelphia, has its origins in the Lankenau Hospital Research Institute founded by Dr. Stanley P. Reimann, Chief Pathologist of the Lankenau Hospital. Funds donated by Mr. Rodman Wanamaker permitted the construction of a laboratory building on the hospital grounds (1925) and, in 1927, Dr. Frederick S. Hammett, a physiological chemist, was appointed Scientific Director. A supporting staff of chemists and biologists was gradually acquired. For 16 years, the Institute also maintained a summer laboratory at North Truro, Massachusetts, where marine invertebrates were utilized in the study of growth processes.

The Lankenau Hospital Research Institute soon attained world-wide recognition and outgrew its physical plant. Funds for enlargement became available through endowments and gifts and led to the creation of a new laboratory, adjacent to the Jeanees Hospital, was constructed on land donated by the trustees of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. In 1949, the Lankenau Hospital Research Institute and The Institute for Cancer Research, both under the direction of Dr. Reimann, took possession of the enlarged facility. At the time of Dr. Reimann's retirement in 1957, the two institutes were amalgamated into The Institute for Cancer Research, under the direction of Dr. Timothy R. Talbot, Jr. In 1961, an affiliation was established with the Jeanees Hospital, and two years later with The American Oncologic Hospital which, in 1967, entered a new building adjacent to both the Jeanees Hospital and The Institute for Cancer Research. These units now comprise The Fox Chase Center for Cancer and Medical Sciences. The Institute has maintained an affiliation with the University of Pennsylvania since 1962.

A clinical division, added to the Institute in 1964, operates an eight-bed unit at Jeanees Hospital for the study of inherited variability in selected groups of patients and its bearing on susceptibility to disease, particularly to neoplasia. In 1966, The Institute for Cancer Research became successor trustee of The Biochemical Research Foundation of Newark, Delaware, which had been established by Mr. Irenée du Pont for the conduct of basic scientific research into growth processes. Research programs in progress at the Foundation were transferred to the Institute and a major portion of the assets were used to provide facilities for their continuation. A new laboratory wing and animal colony building were completed recently, and the original Institute building is being renovated.

The Institute has grown in a half-century from a staff of three investigators, housed in a small building, to the present 12 million dollar laboratory staffed by some 300 persons, including 150 research scientists and technicians. The unifying theme remains unaltered: to arrive at an understanding of the nature, cause, and treatment of cancer through basic studies of growth and differentiation and the underlying hereditary mechanisms.

The cover illustrations show the original building of the Lankenau Hospital Research Institute of 1925 (upper right) and an aerial view of the present facilities, obtained through the courtesy of Mr. Bob Freisheim of Aerial Perspectives, Philadelphia.
Cancer Research


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