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Cover Legend

Kenneth DeOme was born in 1906 in Kalkaska, Michigan. After completing his early academic studies in Michigan and his graduate studies at the Berkeley campus of the University of California, he received his Ph.D. in 1938. He then joined the faculty of the Division of Veterinary Science at Berkeley as an instructor of comparative pathology. In 1950, DeOme was appointed Professor of Zoology, and the University established the Cancer Research Genetics Laboratory (since renamed the Cancer Research Laboratory) under his directorship. Dr. DeOme retired as director in 1973.

From the beginning, DeOme's intent was to gather scientists from varying disciplines to focus on the study of a single type of tumor: the mammary carcinoma of the mouse. He felt that scientific achievement would result from the collaboration of pathologists, endocrinologists, virologists, cytologists, immunologists, and biochemists, each bringing his own experimental approaches to the study of a single system. The group photograph (pictured) shows DeOme (far left) with three senior coworkers, all professors at the University (second from the left to right): Phyllis B. Blair, Satyabrata Nandi, and Howard A. Bern.

The Cancer Research Laboratory is housed adjacent to Warren Hall (pictured) on the Berkeley campus. The Laboratory is perhaps best known for the studies done there on the preneoplastic hyperplastic alveolar nodule of the mouse mammary gland. DeOme, with his colleagues and students, delineated many of the factors affecting the induction of the preneoplastic nodule, its maintenance, and its transformation to carcinoma. A basic advance was the development of a technique for the transplantation of nodules into gland-free mammary fat pads (Cancer Res., 19: 515-520, 1959). This technique permits growth and transformation in an accessible and easily manipulated site. A recent review on mammary neoplasia in mice by Nandi and McGrath (Adv. Cancer Res., 17: 353-414, 1973) includes the contributions of DeOme’s group. With the collaboration of his faculty associates, DeOme also developed a teaching program in tumor biology which not only provides comprehensive training for advanced students of tumor biology but also provides younger students with an introduction to the field.

Dr. DeOme has long been a participant and consultant in national and international cancer research organizations. Since 1954, he has served as Executive Secretary of the Cancer Research Coordinating Committee, which is responsible for the allocation of cancer research funds to investigators on the nine campuses of the University of California. In 1969, he received the Doctor of Medicine and Surgery degree (Honoris Causa) from the University of Perugia, Italy.

Although Dr. DeOme has relinquished his administrative duties as director of the Cancer Research Laboratory, his retirement will not reduce his involvement in teaching and research. We wish him many long and productive years.
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