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Contemporary with these studies, a group at the Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia developed similar, yet quite independent approaches in the area of endocrine influences in carcinogenesis. Abraham Cantarow (b. 1901) and Karl E. Paschkis (1896–1961) were also concerned with the mechanisms of endocrine influences in cancer induced by 2-acetylaminofluorene. They likewise utilized goitrogenic chemicals to study pituitary-thyroid relationships (Cancer Res., 8: 257, 1948). Later, they delved into the gamut of endocrine factors controlling the growth of tumors at various sites (Cancer Res., 18: 981–1060, 1958). They formulated the principle that normally functioning hyperplastic tissue does not cancerize as readily as nonfunctioning or abnormally functioning hyperplastic tissue (Acta Unio Intern. Contra Cancrum, 13: 740, 1957). Also from their laboratory came the fundamental biochemical observation on differences between hepatoma and normal liver in incorporation of uracil (Cancer Res., 14: 119, 1954; J. Natl. Cancer Inst., 15: 1615, 1955), which stimulated interest in the metabolism of pyrimidine nucleotides in cancer and led Dr. C. Heidelberger to the development of 5-fluorouracil as a useful agent in cancer chemotherapy.

Dr. A. Cantarow, a former President of the American Association for Cancer Research (1969–1970), and emeritus professor of biochemistry, Jefferson Medical College, is currently with the National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, Maryland.

The photographs of Cantarow (left) and Paschkis (right) were taken ca. 1960. We are indebted to Dr. John H. Weisburger for the photographs and information.

M.B.S.