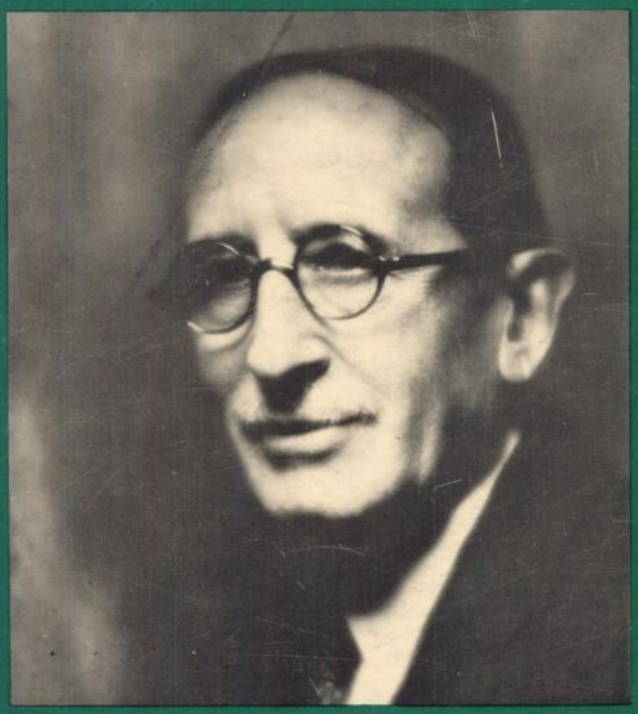
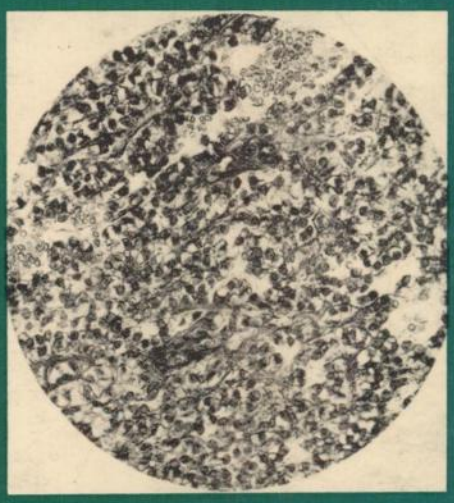
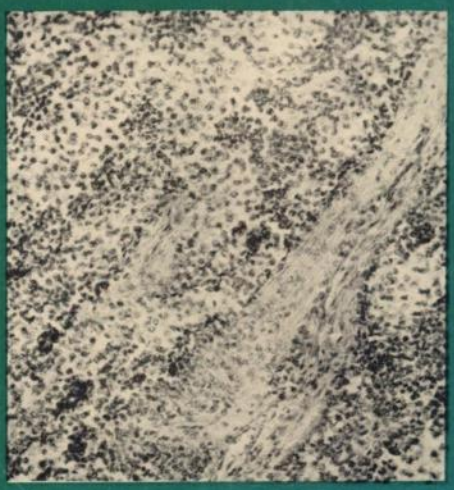
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR CANCER RESEARCH
Ut Cancrum Vincamus
1907

Cancer Research

VOLUME 36 • NO. 2 CNREA8 • PP 291-558
February 1976
PART 1 OF TWO PARTS







COVER LEGEND

James Ewing (1866–1943), American pathologist, was a commanding figure in oncology in the United States for 4 decades and is remembered as the director of research at the Memorial Hospital for Cancer and Allied Diseases in New York City, as the author of *Neoplastic Diseases*, and for the eponymic Ewing's sarcoma.

Ewing was born in Pittsburgh and received his medical degree from College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University in 1891. After training in pathology under Prudden, he was selected in 1899 to head the department of pathology at Cornell University Medical College. His association with the Memorial Hospital began in 1908, in connection with the Collis P. Huntington Fund that supported cancer research there, and continued until his retirement in 1940. *Neoplastic Diseases* first appeared in 1919 and continues to be an important scholarly treatise on the pathology of tumors.

Ewing was an effective teacher and an influential participant in national and international organizations in cancer. He was a member of the original National Advisory Cancer Council and the 1st president of the American Association for Cancer Research (1907–1909), a position he held again 30 years later (1937–1938). His life and the flavor of his times have been charmingly presented by his successor in pathology, Fred W. Stewart (Arch. Pathol., *36:* 325–330, 1943, and Bull. N. Y. Acad. Med., *47:* 1342–1349, 1971).

In 1921, Ewing described (Proc. N. Y. Pathol. Soc., *21:* 17–24, 1921) 7 nonosteogenic tumors of bone that occurred in young subjects, began with symptoms suggesting osteomyelitis, and affected the shafts of the small bones of the extremities. The tumors permeated through the periosteum, widened the shaft, and invaded the soft tissues without bone formation. The tumors "melt down under heavy radiation" but generally recurred.

In a later report (Proc. N. Y. Pathol. Soc., *24:* 93–101, 1924) on 30 cases, Ewing reiterated his previous suggestion of the endothelial nature of these tumors and called them endothelial myeloma of bone. "The histological picture is the most difficult problem. . . . They may possibly arise from perivascular lymphatic endothelium. . . . The cells occur in sheets without any intervening material. They are usually small. The nuclei are small and vesicular. The cells often enclose blood sinuses, small or large, in which intact and apparently circulating blood is found. When these features are present I am willing to make a diagnosis of endothelioma." This condition continues to bear the name of *Ewing's sarcoma.*

The illustrations are taken from Ewing's 1921 article presenting the 1st case. A 14-year-old girl had a spontaneous fracture of the ulna, and the X-ray shows diffuse absorption of the shaft and invasion of soft parts. She was treated with Coley's toxins without effect, but the tumor receded under radium-pack treatment and recurred with fatal termination in 30 months. The histological sections typify this and the other cases described by Ewing. At low magnification, the diffuse endothelioma of bone shows compact structure of large polyhedral cells, and the higher view shows blood sinuses lined by tumor cells.

The portrait of Ewing is from the National Library of Medicine.

M.B.S.