International comparisons of cancer mortality and incidence have been important sources of hypotheses regarding cancer causation since the turn of this century. Better diagnostic criteria, registration schemes, and designed studies on specific topics have increased the value of this type of research. Attention has been directed to the analysis of the effects of migration of human populations on the incidence of cancer and other diseases. This "experiment in nature" allows dissociation of environmental and genetic influences and pinpoints further inquiries of possible causative factors.

Harold F. Dorn (1906–1963) (left) was an outstanding practitioner of statistics, demography, and cancer research. Born in New York state, he received his education at Cornell and Wisconsin Universities, and earned a Ph.D. in sociology in 1933. He spent most of his career in government service at the National Institutes of Health. He conducted the 1937 and 1947 cancer incidence surveys in metropolitan areas of the United States, and extended his interests to international studies as Secretary-General of the International Union Against Cancer from 1953.

William M. Haenszel (right), born in 1910 in Rochester, New York, received his education at the University of Buffalo. He worked as a statistician for the New York and Connecticut Departments of Health from 1933 to 1952, when he joined the biometry group at the National Cancer Institute. His productive career has encompassed many statistical considerations of cancer in the United States and around the world.


M.B.S.