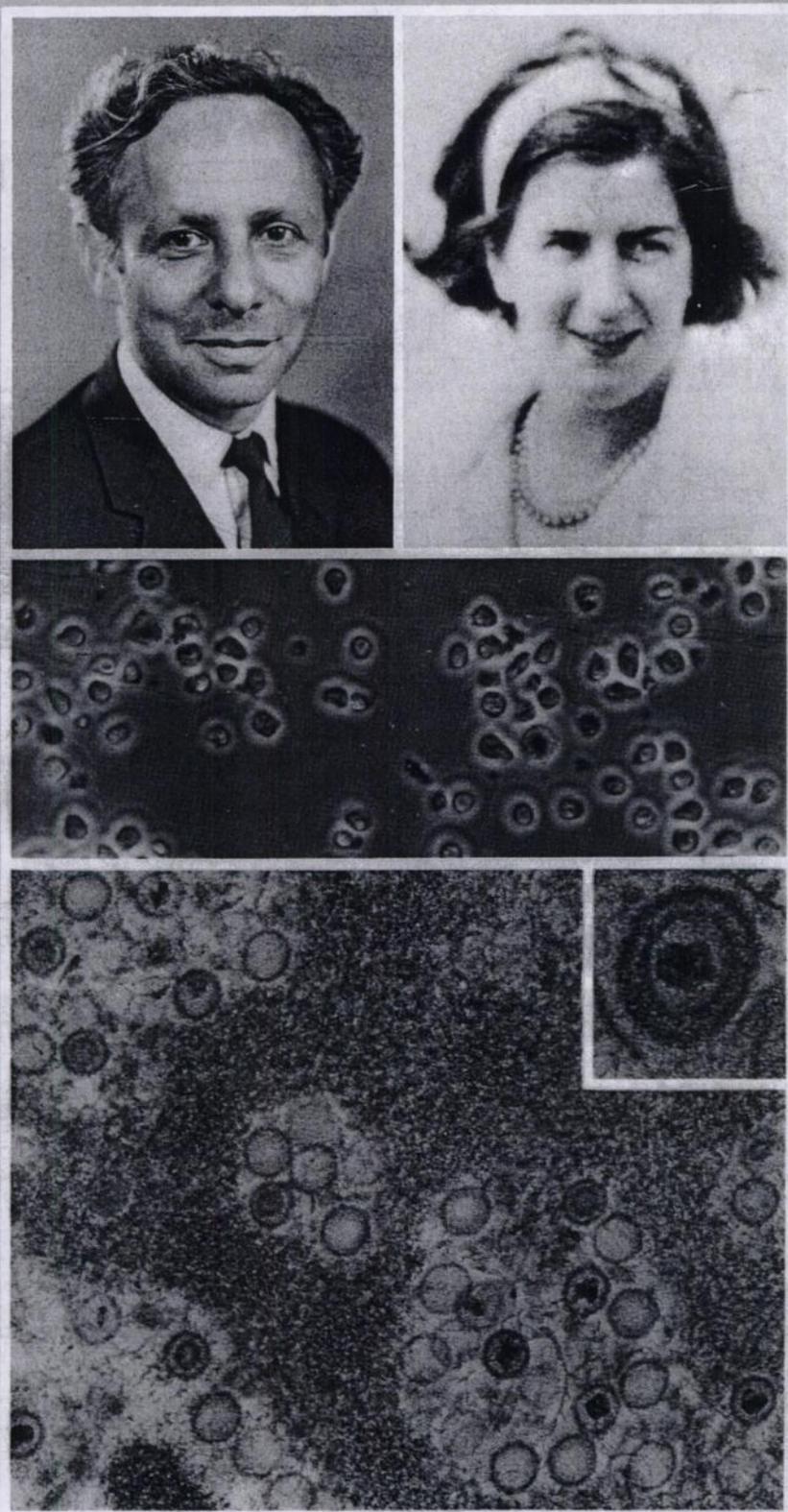


# Cancer Research

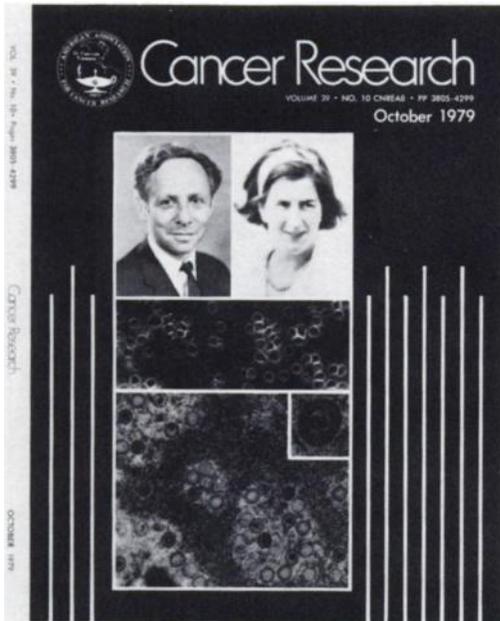
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# COVER LEGEND

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In March 1961 Dennis Burkitt presented his epidemiological studies at the Middlesex Hospital, London. This led Professor M. A. Epstein to investigate Burkitt's lymphoma for causative viruses. For two years standard virological isolation techniques gave negative results. At this point, with the help of a National Cancer Institute grant, Drs. Yvonne Barr and Bert Achong joined Epstein. Although the prospects of growing lymphoid tumor cells in culture appeared unpromising, the first Burkitt's lymphoma-derived cell line (EBI) was indeed established and when examined in the electron microscope contained particles of her-

pesvirus morphology (Epstein, M. A., Achong, B. G. and Barr, Y. M., Virus particles in cultured lymphoblasts from Burkitt's lymphoma. *Lancet* i: 702-703, 1964).

Biological tests demonstrated that this was a new human herpesvirus (*J. Exptl. Med.*, 121: 761-770, 1965), which became known as Epstein-Barr virus after the cell line in which it was discovered. Extensive studies in many laboratories (e.g., *Ann. Rev. Microbiol.* 31: 421-445, 1977) have established that the virus produces widespread inapparent infections, is the cause of infectious mononucleosis, and is associated with nasopharyngeal carcinoma as well as Burkitt's lymphoma. Epstein-Barr virus has become the leading candidate for a human cancer virus.

Michael Anthony Epstein was born in London in 1921, and was educated at Cambridge University and the Middlesex Hospital Medical School. He is now Professor of Pathology and head of the department at the University of Bristol.

Yvonne Barr was born in 1932, and received her Ph.D. from the University of London in 1966. She married an Australian and left Epstein's laboratories. Dr. Bert G. Achong continues to work there.

*Field below portraits* shows living lymphoblasts from the first continuous EBI cell line (*Lancet* i: 252-253, 1964); phase contrast,  $\times 330$ . *Bottom field*: thin section through nucleus of a cell producing EB virus, showing hexagonal immature virus particles with nucleoids in various stages of formation (electron micrograph,  $\times 75,000$ ). *Inset*: mature EB virus particle,  $\times 164,000$ .

We are indebted to Professor Epstein for the information and illustrations.

M.B.S.