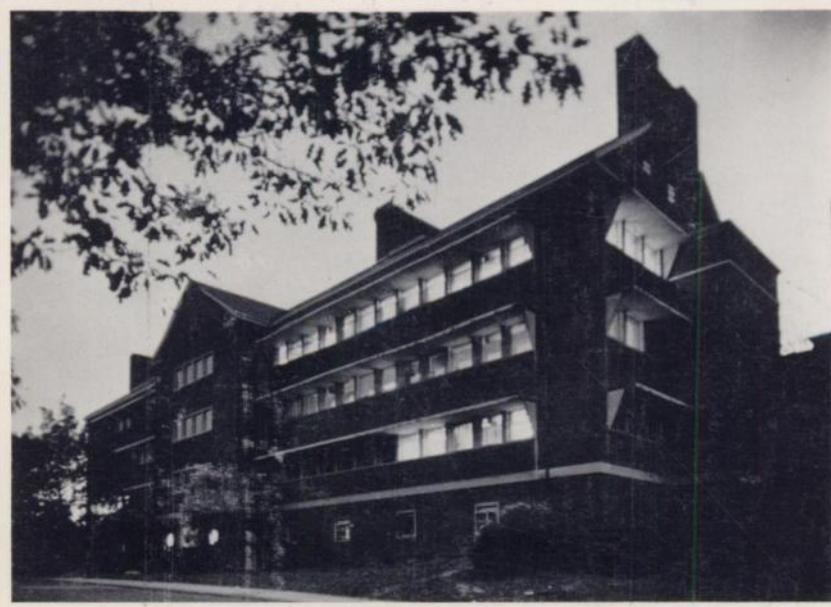
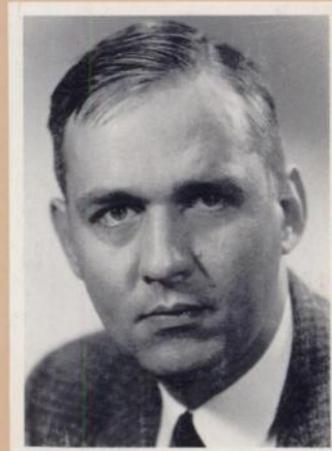


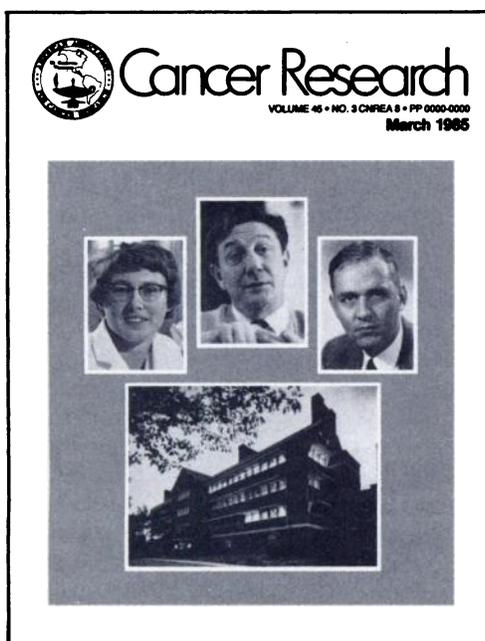
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COVER LEGEND



Building 7 of the National Institutes of Health campus in Bethesda, Maryland, is a memorial to the 271 men and women who contracted infections (24 of them died) in the course of research or control activities. The building was constructed with containment devices to reduce such occurrences.

The Laboratory of Virus Diseases, of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), is located on the right wing of the top floor. During the 1950s and 1960s, it was headed by Dr. Robert J. Huebner, and on its senior staff were Dr. Wallace P. Rowe and Dr. Janet W. Hartley. Huebner later became chief of the Viral Carcinogenesis Branch of the National Cancer Institute (NCI), and an important protagonist in the NCI viral oncology program.

The workers of the Laboratory of Virus Diseases made several significant contributions to viral oncology. These contributions are best expressed and summarized in their own papers. Huebner and Todaro discovered the T-antigen and conceptualized that RNA viral oncogenes may be the determinants of cancer (R. J. Huebner and G. J. Todaro. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 64: 1087-1094, 1969). Rowe's G. H. A. Clowes Memorial Lecture for 1973 summarized work on murine leukemia virus infection, leading to the conclusion that cancer could be due to either a genetic infection or an infectious gene (*Cancer Res.* 33: 3061-3068, 1973). These papers will remain among the classics of oncology.

In 1981, Rowe received one of the General Motors Cancer Research Foundation Awards and in his acceptance speech said, "The distinctions are becoming increasingly blurred between tumor viruses and nontumor viruses, between virus and cell genes, between virology and cancer research, and between virology and cell biology." As the molecular "lesions" of neoplasia are being identified and as the distinction between viral and somatic-mutation concepts of cancer are becoming melded, specific points of attack against the cancer cell may yield to control of its behavior.

Pictured are: Robert J. Huebner, born in 1914 in Ohio, who received his M.D. from St. Louis University in Missouri in 1942 (*center*); Wallace P. Rowe (1920-1983), born in Baltimore, who received his M.D. from Johns Hopkins University in 1948 (*right*); and Janet W. Hartley, born in 1928 in Washington, DC, who received her Ph.D. in virology from George Washington University in 1957 (*left*).

We are indebted to the late Dr. Rowe for the photographs. The photograph of Dr. Huebner is credited to Dennis Brack of *Medical World News*.

M. B. S.