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CANCER RESEARCH HAS A NEW ADDRESS

Please note that the Cancer Research Editorial Office, along with the American Association for Cancer Research Headquarters Office, has moved its location. Effective September 12, 1988, our new address and phone number are:

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Send all future correspondence, including new submissions, revised manuscripts, page proofs of articles, and letters, to us at the above address.
The tenth annual awards of the General Motors Cancer Research Foundation were presented on June 15, 1988. The three awards, of $130,000 each, are the largest in the field of cancer research.

The Charles F. Kettering Prize for advances in diagnosis and treatment was shared by Sam Shapiro, B.S. (bottom left), Professor Emeritus of Health Policy and Management and former Director of the Health Services Research and Development Center, Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health, and Philip Strax, M.D. (bottom right), Clinical Professor of Oncology and Radiology, University of Miami School of Medicine. They conducted the first definitive study demonstrating that breast cancer screening with mammography and clinical breast examination results in decreased mortality from breast cancer. The study was a rigorously executed, randomized controlled trial at the Health Insurance Plan (HIP) of Greater New York, involving 60,000 women, ages 40–64 years. Based on many years of follow-up, the study showed that deaths from breast cancer can be reduced through periodic screening by about 30% over a 10-year period and 25% over 18 years. Early findings set off many confirmatory studies among large populations worldwide. The prospects for reducing breast cancer mortality from its present high level through screening with mammography, in addition to clinical examinations, have led to major screening programs in the United States and other countries. Collaborators in the HIP study were Wanda Venet, R.N., and Louis Venet, M.D. Strax, now 79, is still researching risk factors in breast cancer at the Guttman Institute in New York City and the Strax Institute in Fort Lauderdale, FL, both of which he founded. Shapiro is an advisor on the National Breast Screening Study in Canada and is conducting research on the effectiveness of prevention in other diseases. Current results of their work are recorded in Day and Miller (eds.), Screening for Breast Cancer. Toronto, Canada: Hans Huber, 1988.

Alfred G. Knudson, Jr. (top right), Senior Member of the Institute for Cancer Research of the Fox Chase Cancer Center and Adjunct Professor of Pediatrics and Human Genetics, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, is the winner of the Charles S. Mott Award for contributions to cancer causation and prevention. Focusing on such rare childhood cancers as retinoblastoma and Wilms tumor and studying their hereditary occurrence among human populations, he formulated several hypotheses about the genetics of human cancer. Among the major contributions arising from his studies on human cancer predisposition are the concept that a double allelic mutation is required for cancer development and the proposal that many common human tumors may have their origin in the loss of expression of genes that have a regulatory function in maintaining the normal phenotype (A. G. Knudson, Jr., Cancer Res., 45: 1437–1443, 1985). The requirement of homozygosity in gene expression or deletion raises hope for potential cancer prevention through rapidly developing techniques of “gene therapy.”

These theories have stimulated much study in cancer genetics, resulting in brilliant confirmation of the existence of cancer suppressor genes, which Knudson termed antioncogenes.

The winner of the Alfred P. Sloan Prize for achievements in basic cancer science is Yasutomi Nishizuka (top left), Professor and Chairman, Department of Biochemistry, Kobe University School of Medicine, Japan. His discovery of protein kinase C has gone far in unifying an incredible variety of cell functions and is generally regarded as one of the most important advances in the knowledge of cell growth, metabolism, and proliferation in recent decades. The activation of protein kinase C by hormones and growth factors through mediation of cyclic breakdown and resynthesis of inositol phospholipids has shed new light on the many hitherto obscure functions of cell membranes.

Since some growth factors and their receptors are products of oncogenes and since protein kinase C is also directly activated by tumor promoters such as the phorbol esters, this enzyme has now emerged as a basic key to causative mechanisms in neoplasia [Y. Nishizuka, Nature (Lond.), 308: 693–698, 1984; Science (Wash., DC), 233: 305–312, 1986]. As a result of Professor Nishizuka’s findings, protein kinase C is the subject of tremendous current research activity.

Sidney Weinhouse