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1987, 373 pages, $65.00/ISBN: 0-12-006648-3
The year 1987 was marked by the deaths of two illustrious figures in viral oncology.

Charlotte Friend, a former President (1975–1976) and Director (1973–1976) of the American Association for Cancer Research and an Associate Editor (1973–1976; 1982–1985) of this journal, died from cancer at the age of 66. Her epoch-making discovery in 1956 of a virus causing leukemia in mice was made at a time when the role of viruses in cancer in mammals was hotly disputed, and it was by courage and perseverance against much skepticism that she established a viral etiology of a hemopoietic neoplasms in mice. A further landmark advance was her finding that these erythroleukemic cells could be induced to differentiate to display normal properties of erythroid cells by treatment with dimethyl sulfoxide. The Friend erythroleukemic cell has become an elegant model system for studies toward reversal of the malignant phenotype and mechanisms of differentiation.

A native New Yorker, Friend graduated from Hunter College in 1944 and received the Ph.D. degree in bacteriology from Yale in 1950. In 1966 she became Professor and Director of the Center for Experimental Cell Biology at Mt. Sinai School of Medicine. From 1949 to 1966 she was an Associate Member and from 1966 to 1982 Associate Scientist at the Sloan-Kettering Institute. Among her many honors and awards were the Alfred P. Sloan Award, 1954, 1957, 1962; the American Cancer Society Award, 1962; the NIH-Virus Cancer Award, 1974; the Prix Griffuel, 1979; the Papanicolaou Award, 1982; and the AMC Distinguished Achievement Award, 1984. She was elected to the National Academy of Sciences, USA, in 1976.

Werner Henle died of cancer recently at the age of 77. He was born in Dortmund in 1910 and after receiving his medical degree migrated to the United States in 1937. He and his wife Gertrude, who survives him, enjoyed a long-time close partnership in research, working together to amass a 40-year record of remarkable accomplishment at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, were both held emeritus professorships in virology.

Their identification, in the late 1960s, of the Epstein-Barr virus as the causative agent in infectious mononucleosis and Burkitt's lymphoma was a landmark of human viral oncology. However, their contributions extend deeper into the detailed mechanisms of viral pathogenesis, and in earlier years they applied their findings to diagnosis and vaccine development for influenza, mumps, and infectious hepatitis. This work was a forerunner of the discovery of interferons.

The unique productivity and significance of the research of this husband-wife team brought a multitude of honors and awards, including the Bristol-Myers Award for Distinguished Achievement in Cancer Research in 1979; the Virus Cancer Program Award from the National Cancer Institute, 1975; the Scientific Award of the Philadelphia Division of the American Cancer Society, 1977; the Robert de Villier Award of the Leukemia Society, 1975; and the Robert Koch-Medaille, one of West Germany's highest honors, 1971.

Henle served on the National Cancer Board 1974–1976 and was elected to membership in the National Academy of Sciences in 1975. Together, the Henles published over 325 papers. Acknowledgement is due to Klaus Hummeler and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia for the above information and for the photograph of Henle. We are indebted to Leila Diamond for her assistance in preparing the material on Friend.

Sidney Weinhouse
New Approaches To the Treatment of Hormone Dependent Tumors
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, USA. November 9–12th, 1988.

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