Peter K. Vogt, featured on this issue's cover, is the 1989 winner of the Bristol-Myers Award for Distinguished Achievement in Cancer Research. He has been honored for a recent major advance, the discovery of the jun oncogene. This gene functions as the genetic switching mechanism that controls the expression and activity of other genes encoding growth regulating factors. He was also recognized for his early pioneering studies that led to the discovery of the first oncogene, src.

Phillip A. Sharp, Director of the Center for Cancer Research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and chairman of the selection committee, has called Vogt's discovery of the jun oncogene "one of the most significant discoveries in the last several years." In its normal state, the jun oncogene works in concert with the fos oncogene to maintain normal gene function. When altered biologically or chemically, or when incorporated in a retrovirus, it sends inappropriate instructions to the genes it regulates. Several other laboratories, including Vogt's, have since discovered other jun-related genes, all of which control gene activity.

Vogt has been one of the leaders in the basic biology of retroviruses. His initial discovery of the src oncogene stemmed from his work on mutations of retroviruses. Comparison between a nononcogenic and a conditional retrovirus mutant led to the discovery in the latter of the src oncogene, which was missing in the nononcogenic mutant.

He received the Ph.D. from the University of Tübingen, West Germany, in 1959 and was a postdoctoral fellow with Harry Rubin at the University of California, Berkeley. He is now the Hastings Distinguished Professor and Chairman, Department of Microbiology, University of Southern California School of Medicine. He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1980. He has authored over 210 scientific papers and has served on many committees and journal editorial boards.

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Sidney Weinhouse