The Deutsches Krebsforschungszentrum (German Cancer Research Center) was founded in 1964 and celebrates its twenty-fifth anniversary this year. Cancer research has a long tradition in Heidelberg, starting from 1906 when Vinzenz Czerny (1842–1916), a surgeon, established the first cancer research institute within the university hospital which he headed. He was succeeded by another surgeon, Karl Heinrich Bauer (1890–1978), who occupied the first chair of experimental cancer research in the country, established in 1947. Bauer, who published a monograph on Die Mutationstheorie des Krebses (The Mutation Theory of Cancer) in 1928, decisively influenced the founding of the Deutsches Krebsforschungszentrum as a National Research Center.

The center houses more than 1300 staff members, including more than 400 scientists. They work in 38 divisions organized into eight departments. A new department of applied tumor virology is now being formed. Research focuses on mechanisms of carcinogenesis, cancer risk factors and cancer prevention, tumor biology, and specific aspects of early cancer detection and cancer therapy.

Shown on the cover are photographs of the center, V. Czerny, upper left, and K. H. Bauer, upper right. Current research leaders are pictured below.

Dietrich Schmahl (lower left) heads the Institute of Toxicology and Chemotherapy. His research covers the identification of chemical carcinogenic risk factors and studies on chemotherapy.

Erich Hecker, inner left, chairs the Institute of Biochemistry. He established the structure of tumor-promoting phorbol esters and investigates basic aspects of tumor promotion.

Werner W. Franke, inner right, heads the Institute of Tumor Biology. He established his scientific reputation through studies of the cytoskeleton and intracellular structure-function interrelationships.

Harald zur Hausen, lower right, is chairman of the Managing Board. His scientific contributions concern the role of viruses in human tumors and interactions of viruses with chemical and physical carcinogens in carcinogenesis.

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