INTERACTIONS OF CANCER SUSCEPTIBILITY GENES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CARCINOGENS

Joint Meeting Organized by the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) and the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)

November 9-13, 1993
Lyon, France

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Opportunities for Prevention
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Applicants are encouraged to submit abstracts for poster presentation.

Information and Application Forms
American Association for Cancer Research
Public Ledger Building
620 Chestnut Street, Suite 816
Philadelphia, PA 19106-3483
(215) 440-9300 (215) 440-9313 (FAX)
AACR SPECIAL CONFERENCE IN CANCER RESEARCH

Cell Death in Cancer and Development

October 17-21, 1993
Chatham Bars Inn, Chatham (Cape Cod), Massachusetts

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SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

Keynote Address
Andrew H. Wyllie / Edinburgh, Scotland

Cell Death and Development
Martin C. Raff / London, England
H. Robert Horvitz / Boston, MA
Lawrence Schwartz / Amherst, MA
Hermann Steller / Cambridge, MA

Cell Death in the Pathogenesis of Cancer
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David P. Lane / Dundee, Scotland

Suppression of Cell Death
Stanley J. Korsmeyer / St. Louis, MO
Eileen White / Piscataway, NJ
William Sugden / Madison, WI
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Enzymology of Cell Death
John A. Oldewald / Chapel Hill, NC
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Peter J.A. Davies / Houston, TX

Cell Death in the Immune System
Peter H. Krammer / Heidelberg, Germany
Douglas R. Green / LaJolla, CA
Jonathan D. Ashwell / Bethesda, MD
Arnold H. Greenberg / Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

Genetic Events Associated with Cell Death
J. John Cohen / Denver, CO
Barbara Osborne / Amherst, MA
Ralph E. Buttyan / New York, NY
Robert Schlegel / Boston, MA

Cell Death in Cancer Chemotherapy
Nathan A. Berger / Cleveland, OH
Yves G. Pommier / Bethesda, MD
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Applicants are encouraged to submit abstracts for poster presentation.

Application Deadline: June 28, 1993

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Jacob Furth was one of the early pioneers in the uncovering of the effects of hormones on the growth and development of tumors in the intact organism, a subject now ripe for bridging the gap between the spectacular advances in the molecular and genetic factors involved in early stages of cancer initiation and promotion. In a career spanning 57 years, he contributed to major advances in immunology, leukemia, radiation, and viral carcinogenesis and is best known for his fundamental discoveries on the role of hormones in tumor proliferation.

Born in 1896 in Mescelez, then a part of the Austro-Hungarian empire, he chose medicine as a career, but after one year was caught up in the tumultuous period of World War I in Central Europe and spent three years in a Russian military prison camp. Continuing his medical studies at the German University in Prague, he conducted research under Edmund Weil in microbiology and immunology, directed toward microbial antigenic relationships. After Weil’s death from typhus, then raging throughout Eastern Europe, and after his own recovery from this disease, he emigrated to America to join Eugene Opie at the Phipps Institute of the University of Pennsylvania where he spent two productive years working on the immunology of tuberculosis and other acid-fast organisms. He then joined Karl Landsteiner at the Rockefeller Institute, where daily contacts with great scholars taught him the philosophy and strategies of research. He was introduced to the cancer problem by the brilliant work of Rous, Murphy, and Carell, from whom he learned techniques of cell culture. Two years later he returned to the Phipps Institute where, under a generous grant from E. Mallinckrodt, he undertook a long, wide-ranging study on leukemia. He succeeded in obtaining five viral-induced leukemia mouse strains, one of which, the AKR mouse, became widely used. Another virus caused neurolymphomatosis in fowl, the agent of Marek’s disease, an economic scourge of the poultry industry, until its conquest by a vaccine in 1970.

He followed Opie, who became Chairman of Pathology at Cornell Medical College, and under ideal conditions, he continued an extremely fruitful 15 years working on the inheritability of leukemia and the effects thereon of the thymus gland. In 1947, he left Cornell for a two-year post at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Dallas, TX. After that, he joined the Oak Ridge Radiation Laboratory, Oak Ridge, TN. There, in association with Arthur C. Upton and others, he began some of his most significant work, first on radiation effects and then on hormone studies, where he discovered the “thyroid-pituitary axis,” producing thereby at will tumors of either organ. This work continued at an accelerated pace after his move to the Children’s Cancer Research Foundation in 1954 as Associate Director under Sidney Farber in Boston. This period was notable for his association with a staff of unusually gifted students and colleagues, many of whom attained great stature later. It was here that his work on transplantable endocrine neoplasms flourished.

As his retirement from Harvard approached, he was invited to the Roswell Park Institute in Buffalo but two years later joined the newly formed Institute of Cancer Research of Columbia University, where he continued work on the induction and properties of endocrine neoplasms of the mammary, thyroid, and pituitary glands. During this period, he developed the concept of hormone dependence responsiveness and independence as stages of tumor development. He recognized that the tumor and its host comprise a dynamic duo in which the regulatory mechanisms of the host are pitted against the unremitting progression of tumors toward autonomy and invasiveness.

He gave generously of his time to a variety of professional activities and served on many study sessions, committees and organizations. He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1974 and was a member of its Advisory Committee to the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission. He served on the Surgeon General’s Committee on Smoking and Health, the Public Health Service Advisory Committee on Tumor Viruses, and the Committee on Radiation. He was President of the AACR and the American Society of Experimental Pathology; was a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; and held honorary memberships in the Endocrine Society of Chile, the Cancer Society of Peru, and the Pan American Medical Association.


We thank Jacob Furth’s son, John J. Furth, Professor of Pathology at the University of Pennsylvania, for his assistance in the compilation of this legend.

Sidney Weinhouse