International Workshop on
NOVEL APPROACHES TO CANCER PREVENTION
ISREC (Swiss Institute for Experimental Cancer Research), Epalinges sur Lausanne, Switzerland, July 11-13, 1996

Scientific Organizers:

R. Weil
University of Geneva, Geneva (CH)
I. B. Weinstein
Columbia-Presbyterian Cancer Center
New York (USA)
T. Sugimura
National Cancer Center, Tokyo (J)

B. Hirt
Swiss Institute for Experimental Cancer Research, Epalinges (CH)
P. Marks
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
New York (USA)

Scientific Secretary:
H. Türler
University of Geneva, Geneva (CH)

Aim of the Workshop:

Despite some encouraging advances in cancer treatment, overall cancer incidence and mortality continue to increase at a worldwide level. Indeed by the year 2000 cancer will become the leading cause of death in the United States and the European Community. In addition to the enormity of human suffering caused by this disease, it imposes a major economic burden on society. Treatment of cancers once they have become malignant is complicated by the multitude of accumulated cellular and genetic abnormalities, and the apparent genomic instability of cancer cells, thus giving rise to tumor heterogeneity and resistance to therapy. In view of these considerations it is imperative to markedly increase research approaches that have as their goal Cancer Prevention. Therefore, this international workshop is devoted to this challenging topic. Specific areas to be discussed will include: cancer epidemiology, familial (single gene) cancers, inherited susceptibility factors, specific causative factors (environmental, lifestyle and dietary), developmental and genetic abnormalities associated with tumor progression, genomic instability, transgenic mice and other novel experimental models, molecular diagnostic approaches to enhance the detection of precancerous lesions, and various intervention approaches including chemoprevention. Thus, this workshop will foster interdisciplinary discussion of this challenging problem.

Tentative Sessions:

- Keynote Lecture - Overview
- Epidemiology and Molecular Epidemiology of Cancer
- Hereditary Factors that Influence Cancer Susceptibility
- Developmental and Genetic Abnormalities in Cancer Cells - Including Genomic Instability
- Specific Environmental and Nutritional Factors
- Precancerous Lesions and Molecular Diagnostic Methods
- Intervention and Chemoprevention - Experimental Models and Clinical Trials

For further information (program, registration and hotel reservation forms), please contact:
The Ares-Serono Foundation, c/o Via Casilina 125 - 00176 Rome, Italy.
Tel.: +39-6-70384.694 / 506 / 721 - Fax: +39-6-70384.577
THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR CANCER RESEARCH PRESENTS

An Important Educational Opportunity Primarily for Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Fellows Contemplating Careers in Basic Cancer Research

HISTOPATHOBIOLOGY OF NEOPLASIA

The Edward A. Smuckler Memorial Workshop
Supported by a Generous Grant from the National Cancer Institute

Keystone Conference Center
Keystone, Colorado
July 21 - July 28, 1996

• Intensive training in the histopathology and biology of neoplasia.

• Twenty-eight hours of hands-on laboratory exercises directed by distinguished pathologists.

• An outstanding series of lectures on rapidly developing areas of cancer research by laboratory directors and other prominent investigators.

• Extensive written course materials that will serve as valuable references in the future.

• Waiver of registration fee and partial support for students’ and fellows’ lodging and subsistence expenses during the workshop.

LABORATORY AND LECTURING FACULTY

Helen D. Feiner*, New York University School of Medicine, New York, NY Course Director
Stephen Baird, Veterans Administration Medical Center, San Diego, CA
Edward Bresnick, University of Massachusetts Medical Center, Worcester, MA
Arthur R. Brothman, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT
Betty DeMasters, University of Colorado School of Medicine, Denver, CO
Isaiah J. Fidler, UT M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX
Michael B. Kastan, Johns Hopkins University Hospital, Baltimore, MD
Mary-Claire King, University of Washington, Seattle, WA
John H. Lehman, Albany College of Medicine, Albany, NY
Michael W. Lieberman, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX
Reuben Lotan, UT M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX
Robert Low*, University of Colorado School of Medicine, Denver, CO
Gary J. Miller*, University of Colorado School of Medicine, Denver, CO
Harold L. Moses, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Nashville, TN
Karl Munger, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA
Stewart Sell, University of Texas Medical School, Houston, TX
Patricia A. Thomas, University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics, Iowa City, IA
Ann D. Thor, Northwestern University, Chicago, IL
Frederic M. Waldman*, University of California, San Francisco, CA

Additional Faculty to be Announced

*Member of the Workshop Executive Committee

APPLICATION DEADLINE: APRIL 30, 1996

Further Information: American Association for Cancer Research • Public Ledger Building 150 S. Independence Mall West • Suite 816 • Philadelphia, PA 19106-3483 Telephone: (215) 440-9300 • FAX: (215) 440-9313 • E-mail: AACR@aol.com
SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM DIRECTOR

The American Cancer Society is seeking applicants for the position of Scientific Program Director in the Research Grants Department at the National Home Office in Atlanta, Georgia. The start date is August 1, 1996.

The overall responsibility of this position is to ensure unbiased, rigorous peer review of grant applications by the Society's Scientific Advisory Committees. The successful candidate will be responsible for managing the peer review of applications for clinical research and training awards. In addition, Scientific Program Directors serve as expert sources of information on advances in cancer research, advise about future areas of investigation in their specific areas of expertise, and participate in collaborative projects throughout the Society.

Applicants must have an MD or equivalent degree plus five years of recent experience as an established investigator on peer reviewed clinical or related oncology research projects. The position is largely administrative and reports to the Vice President for Research Grants. Salary is commensurate with the candidate's qualifications and experience.

The American Cancer Society's National Research Program (Extramural Grants, Intramural Epidemiology and Surveillance Research, and the Behavioral Research Unit) is housed in the National Home Office, in close proximity to Emory University and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. For confidential consideration, please send letter of interest, curriculum vitae and the names of three references by May 1, 1996 to: John J. Stevens, MD, Vice President for Research Grants, American Cancer Society, 1599 Clifton Rd, N.E., Atlanta, GA 30329-4251

FACULTY POSITION IN PROSTATE CANCER RESEARCH

The University of Iowa, Department of Urology is seeking to fill an endowed Professorship to participate in a research program on prostate cancer. The individual will join the University of Iowa's Prostate Cancer Research Program. The applicant must hold the Ph.D. or M.D. degree or both with a demonstrated expertise in molecular biology and the use of molecular biological and/or genetic techniques that can be applied to problems in prostate cancer research. The applicant will be an established investigator with current peer-reviewed support and a record of publications in quality journals. To be considered, the applicant must be willing to extend his or her research to prostate cancer.

The investigator will be expected to develop and maintain a high quality research program in prostate cancer, to collaborate with other faculty in the area, and to participate in teaching of students, fellows, and residents.

Interested individuals should forward a letter, Curriculum Vitae, a statement of research interests, and the names of three references to: Andersen-Hebbeln Prostate Cancer Research Professorship Search Committee, c/o David M. Lubaroff, Ph.D., 423 MRC or c/o Gary Koretsky, M.D., Ph.D., 540 EMRB, 200 Hawkins Drive, Iowa City, IA 52242-1089.

The University of Iowa is an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action employer. Women and minorities are strongly encouraged to apply.

THE CHILDREN’S BRAIN TUMOR FOUNDATION

announces the availability of

GRANT FUNDS

of up to $50,000 per year for up to 2-years in the New York metro area, defined as a 100 mile radius from New York City.

Grants will be awarded in two areas: Clinical Medical Research related to pediatric brain tumors and Psycho-Social Intervention, to develop counseling/therapy models for child/adolescent oncology patients.

A Letter of Intent must be submitted by March 29, 1996; Application deadline is June 1, 1996 with notification in October 1996.

The goal of the grant program is to support research that will improve the quality of life and longevity of children with brain and spinal cord tumors. For further information contact:

The Children’s Brain Tumor Foundation
35 Alpine Lane, Chappaqua, NY 10514.
TEL: 914-238-1656; FAX: 914-238-6024.
Carcinogenesis from Environmental Pollution: Assessment of Human Risk and Strategies for Prevention

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

With the Collaboration of the Hungarian Cancer Society

October 6-9, 1996
Hotel Gellért
Budapest, Hungary

Conference Chairpersons
Frederica Perera / New York, USA
Paul Kleihues / Lyon, France

Program Committee
Hans-Olov Adami / Uppsala, Sweden
J. Carl Barrett / Research Triangle Park, USA
Paolo Boffetta / Lyon, France
Edward Bresnick / Worcester, USA
Mieczyslaw R. Chorąży / Gliwice, Poland
Joseph F. Fraumeni, Jr. / Bethesda, USA
Waun Ki Hong / Houston, USA
Margaret L. Kripke / Houston, USA
Kenneth Olden / Research Triangle Park, USA
Alán Pintér / Budapest, Hungary
Manfred F. Rajewsky / Essen, Germany
David Zardetz / Moscow, Russia

Scientific Program

Keynote Address
Curtis C. Harris / Bethesda, USA

Cancer Incidence and Etiology
Witold A. Zatorski / Warsaw, Poland
Frederica Perera / New York, USA
J. Carl Barrett / Research Triangle Park, USA
Helmut Bartsch / Heidelberg, Germany

Air, Water, Food, and Soil Contamination
Radim J. Šrám / Prague, Czech Republic
Joellen Lewtas / Research Triangle Park, USA
Wiesław Jedychnowski / Cracow, Poland
Olav Axelson / Linköping, Sweden

Ambient, Environmental, and Occupation Exposure and Cancer Risk
Mieczyslaw R. Chorąży / Gliwice, Poland
Alán Pintér / Budapest, Hungary
Kimmo Pettonen / Helsinki, Finland
Monica C. Hollstein / Heidelberg, Germany
Karl Hemminki / Stockholm, Sweden

Tobacco
Ivan Plesko / Bratislava, Slovakia
Barbara S. Hulka / Chapel Hill, USA
Paolo L. Vineis / Turin, Italy
Stephen S. Hecht / Valhalla, USA
Krystyna Frenkel / New York, USA
Bernadette Schoket / Budapest, Hungary

Strategies for Prevention
Waun Ki Hong / Houston, USA
I. Bernard Weinstein / New York, USA
Anna Tompa / Budapest, Hungary

Roundtable Discussion
Paul Kleihues / Lyon, France
Hans-Olov Adami / Uppsala, Sweden
Paolo Boffetta / Lyon, France
Edward Bresnick / Worcester, USA
Andrew E. Czeizel / Budapest, Hungary
Terri Damstra / Research Triangle Park, USA
Edith Olah / Budapest, Hungary
Kenneth Olden / Research Triangle Park, USA
Manfred F. Rajewsky / Essen, Germany
William A. Suk / Research Triangle Park, USA
David Zardetz / Moscow, Russia

Applicants are encouraged to submit abstracts for poster presentation.

Information and Application Forms

American Association for Cancer Research
Public Ledger Building, Suite 816
150 S. Independence Mall West
Philadelphia, PA 19106-3483
(215) 440-9300 (215) 440-9313 (FAX)
Email: aacr@aol.com
BASIC SCIENCE DIRECTOR OF CUTANEOUS ONCOLOGY
University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center and
Department of Dermatology

The University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Department of Dermatology wish to establish a joint program in the basic science of neoplasia. Applications are invited for a faculty position as director of this program. Candidates must possess a Ph.D., M.D., or M.D. Ph.D. degrees. Start up funds and laboratory space to establish and operate the research program will be available. The successful candidate will direct a multidisciplinary program investigating areas relevant to skin biology, including regulation of growth, differentiation and carcinogenesis. This program will interact with other basic and clinical investigators in the Cancer Center. A curriculum vitae, three letters of reference and a one page (maximum) summary of relevant experience should be sent to:

John J. Voorhees, M.D.
Professor and Chairman
Department of Dermatology
The University of Michigan Medical Center
1910 Taubman Health Care Center
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-0314

The University of Michigan is an affirmative action and equal opportunity educator and employer.

THE SURGERY BRANCH, NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE, NIH, IS SEEKING PATIENTS FOR ONGOING CLINICAL TREATMENT PROGRAMS.

PATIENTS WITH THE FOLLOWING MALIGNANCIES ARE BEING TREATED UNDER COMBINED MODALITY OR INNOVATIVE IMMUNOTHERAPY PROGRAMS:

• METASTATIC MELANOMA AND KIDNEY CANCER •
• STAGE II OR LOCALLY ADVANCED BREAST CANCER •
• METASTATIC COLORECTAL CANCER TO THE LIVER •
• LOCOREGIONAL GASTRIC OR PANCREATIC CANCER •
• MESOTHELIOMA, PULMONARY METASTASES, STAGE IIIA, B LUNG CANCER OR ESOPHAGEAL CANCER •
• LOCALIZED SOFT TISSUE SARCOMAS •
• PERITONEAL CARCINOMATOSIS •

CARE FOR ALL PATIENTS IS PROVIDED AT THE CLINICAL CENTER, NIH, BETHESDA, MARYLAND.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CANCER PROGRAMS, PLEASE CALL (301) 496-1533

A PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT COURTESY OF THIS PUBLICATION
We are pleased to feature Joseph R. Bertino, President of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) for 1995–96, on the cover of this issue. Over the past three decades, Dr. Bertino has made many important contributions to our understanding of folate metabolism, drug action, and mechanisms of antimetabolite resistance, and he has designed novel treatments based on this information. His laboratory investigations of the determinants of antifolate cytotoxicity have included purification and characterization of the target enzyme dihydrofolate reductase, its translational regulation, and studies of variant forms of this enzyme.

A concomitant major effort of his laboratory has been directed toward understanding the molecular basis of resistance to antifolates and fluoropyrimidines in experimental systems and in fresh human tumors. While on sabbatical with Robert Schimke at Stanford, he participated in the benchmark studies that showed that the overexpression of the dihydrofolate reductase enzyme in methotrexate-resistant cells was due to amplification of the gene. Recently, he has been able to demonstrate that dihydrofolate reductase gene amplification is an important cause of methotrexate resistance in the clinic as well; blasts from 30% of patients with acute lymphoblastic leukemia clinically resistant to methotrexate were shown to have low-level amplification of the dihydrofolate reductase gene. By developing a sensitive displacement assay to measure methotrexate uptake, his laboratory has also shown, for the first time, that impaired transport of methotrexate is a common mechanism of acquired resistance to this drug.

Based on these studies, new analogues and new approaches to treatment have been brought to the clinic. Trimetrexate, a folate analogue not using the reduced folate (and methotrexate) transport system, was developed in his laboratory and introduced into the clinic (J. Clin. Oncol., 11: 5, 1993).

Also, using information and concepts derived from the laboratory, Dr. Bertino has introduced novel treatment programs into the clinic. He was one of the pioneers in the use of leucovorin rescue following high doses of methotrexate, and his laboratory developed methods and studied the pharmacology of this rescue agent. In addition, he introduced the concept of biochemically modulating fluorouracil with methotrexate, a combination that he and his colleagues showed to result in an improved response rate in patients with colon cancer. In more recent studies, he introduced the combination of sequential trimetrexate followed by high-dose leucovorin and fluorouracil into the clinic based on his laboratory studies. In a Phase II trial completed recently, this combination has shown encouraging results. Other treatment protocols that he and his colleagues have pioneered included the COMLA regimen for large cell lymphoma, one of the first curative regimens for this disease, high-dose cytosine arabinoside for the treatment of acute leukemia, and the isolation and the use of carboxypeptidase G as a rescuing agent.

A seminal paper provided evidence that fluorouracil had different mechanisms of action depending on its schedule. Importantly, cells resistant to “pulse” fluorouracil were found to still be sensitive to continuous exposure to this drug. Furthermore, it was found that “pulse” fluorouracil was best modulated by pretreatment with methotrexate (to enhance RNA incorporation), whereas continuous exposure to fluorouracil was best modulated by leucovorin (to enhance prolonged inhibition of thymidylate synthase) (Cancer Res., 52: 1855, 1992). Again, these observations have been translated into a clinical study, alternating both schedules of fluorouracil, selectively modulated by methotrexate and leucovorin, respectively, with encouraging clinical results.

Dr. Bertino’s recent laboratory efforts have focused on two new but related extensions of his work. By using variant dihydrofolate reductase genes and viral vectors, he has shown that methotrexate resistance can be imparted to hematopoietic progenitor cells from mice and humans (Blood, 83; 3403, 1994). These studies provide the experimental basis for clinical studies that will be initiated soon, with the purpose of generating increased tolerance of bone marrow to antifolate drugs, thus allowing safe administration of high doses. The other major effort of his laboratory is now directed toward understanding the role of genes to mutant tumor suppressor drug resistance in tumors. This work has already led to an understanding of the role of the retinoblastoma gene in antimetabolite resistance (Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA. 92: 10436, 1995).

Dr. Bertino received his M.D. from the Downstate Medical Center, Brooklyn, NY, in 1954. He served his residency at the Graduate Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and the Veterans Administration Hospital in Philadelphia, PA, and was an NIH postdoctoral fellow at the University of Washington, Seattle, WA, in the Hematology and Biochemistry Division. He went on to hold several positions at the Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, CT, from 1961–1986, including the directorship of the Yale Comprehensive Cancer Center (1973–75). He moved on to the Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research in New York in 1986, where he currently serves as Chairman of the Molecular Pharmacology and Therapeutics Program.

In addition to his research activities and his authorship on over 400 original articles and reviews, Dr. Bertino has served on many national and international committees and study sections. He was the founding editor of the Journal of Clinical Oncology, and he has served in editorial capacities for the AACR as well, serving as an Associate Editor for Cancer Research, first in 1972–76 and more recently since 1993. He has also been an Associate Editor of the AACR’s newest journal, Clinical Cancer Research, since its inception in January 1995.

Dr. Bertino held numerous other posts for the AACR since joining the organization in 1962. He has been a member of the Board of Directors (1976–79) and of the Program Committee (1974, 1994), and he has chaired several other major committees: Public Issues (1979); Richard and Hinda Rosenthal Foundation Award (1984); Gertrude Elion Cancer Research Award (1992–94); and the Committee on Clinical Cancer Research (1993–95). He was the recipient of the Rosenthal Award in 1978.

As AACR President, he has played a leadership role in the Association’s public education efforts and in implementing a long-range financial plan for the AACR that will ensure its fiscal viability. He has also been active in seeking industry support for a research fellowships program for young investigators. Finally, he has strengthened clinical and translational research programs in the AACR and has been active in developing a collaborative relationship with the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), culminating in the co-sponsorship of an annual clinical methods workshop and an annual special conference.

We thank Dr. Bertino for supplying the cover photograph and some of the information for this feature.

Sidney Weinhouse