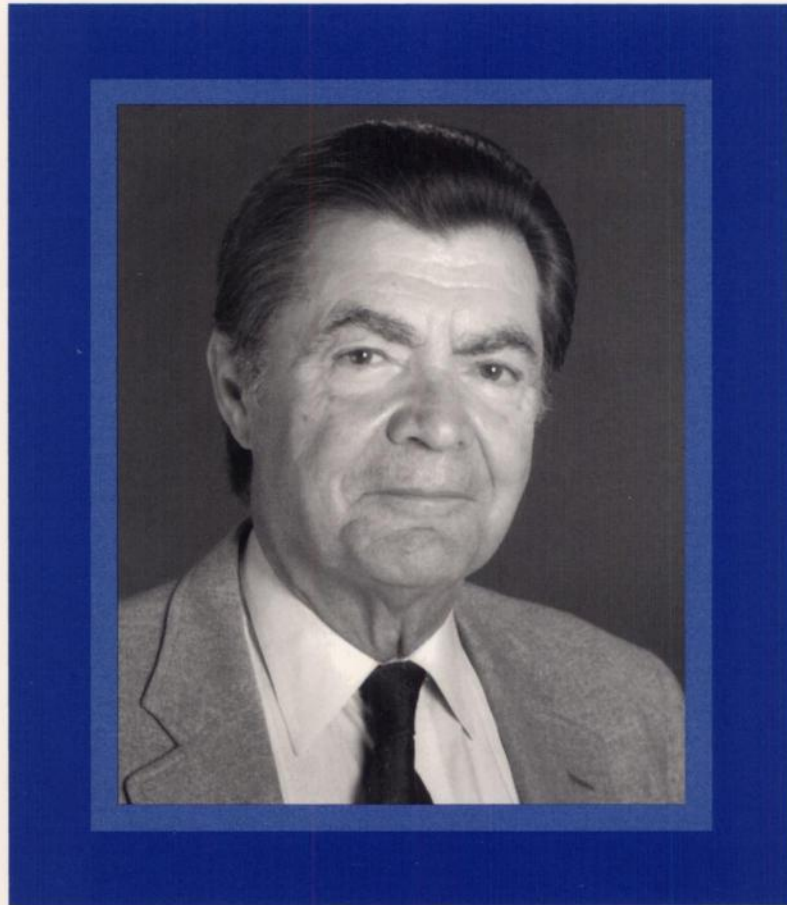




# Cancer Research

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AACR SPECIAL CONFERENCE IN CANCER RESEARCH  
**DNA Methylation, Imprinting, and the  
Epigenetics of Cancer**



December 12-16, 1997  
El Conquistador Resort and Country Club  
Las Croabas, Puerto Rico

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SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

**Keynote Address**

**Arthur D. Riggs** / Duarte, CA

**Tumor Suppressor Genes**

**Stephen B. Baylin** / Baltimore, MD  
**Curtis C. Harris** / Bethesda, MD  
**Webster K. Cavenee** / La Jolla, CA  
**Susan J. Clark** / Sydney, Australia

**Methylation Patterns**

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**Mouse Models**

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**Anthony E. Reeve** / Dunedin, New Zealand

**Chromatin Structures**

**Adrian P. Bird** / Edinburgh, Scotland  
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**Steven Henikoff** / Seattle, WA

**Mismatch Repair and Methylation**

**Donald Kohn** / Los Angeles, CA  
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**Methylation and Mutation**

**Joseph Jiricny** / Zurich, Switzerland  
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**Peter A. Jones** / Los Angeles, CA

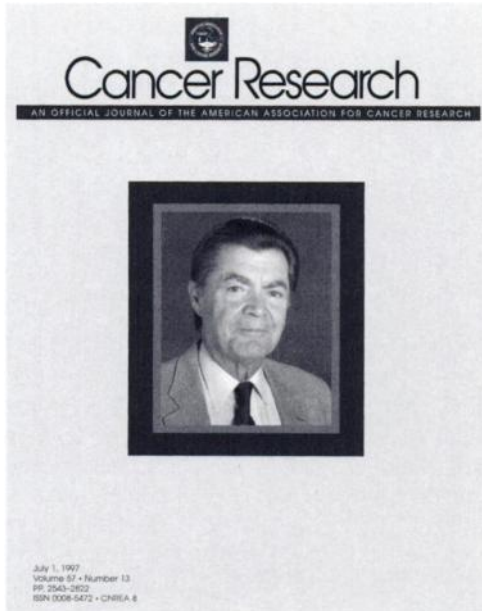
*Applicants are encouraged to submit abstracts  
for poster presentation.*

**Application deadline: September 30, 1997**

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*Information and Application Forms*

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How many times have you been in a lecture hall waiting for a famous speaker to be introduced, only to learn that the speaker “needs no introduction”? This regrettable practice is irritating to those who do not know the speaker, but it also deprives the rest of the audience the pleasure of hearing again, perhaps from a fresh perspective, what the speaker has actually done to merit such presumed universal recognition. The more famous the speaker, it seems, the greater the need for a proper introduction. Who is a better example of someone who “needs no introduction” than George E. Palade?

How many readers know that Palade helped make thin sectioning electron microscopy a practical reality by discovering, in 1952, that fixatives employing osmium tetroxide must be buffered (*J. Exp. Med.*, 95: 285, 1952)? Displaying an uncanny talent for recognizing what was important biologically, a gift that is still with him, Palade described the internal structure of the mitochondrion and the existence of ribosomes in 1953 (*J. Histochem. Cytochem.*, 1: 188, 1953), the same year he identified the presence of pinocytic vesicles in capillary endothelial cells, organelles whose function he has been studying for the last 44 years. And, this year, Palade and coworkers finally succeeded in isolating vesicles from endothelial cells (*Mol. Biol. Cell*, 8: 595, 1997). How many people keep track of a problem and contribute actively to it over a 50-year period?

Between the time that Palade first discovered endothelial vesicles and their isolation almost a half century later, he and an army of students, postdoctoral fellows, sabbaticants, and coworkers uncovered or contributed in major ways to just about every important problem in cell biology. Palade, along with a number of earlier collaborators, Phil Siekevitz among them, pioneered the coordination of ultrastructural studies with biochemical function. The now classic description of the course of protein synthesis in pancreatic acinar cells occupied Palade and numerous students for many years. These studies provided the first description of protein trafficking, a problem

that has since branched out in every conceivable direction. As a result of his many contributions to cell biology, Palade received the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine in 1974.

At that point, Palade was 62 years old and ready to begin a new career, and he did so by creating a new Cell Biology Program at the Yale University School of Medicine, patterned along the lines of his world-renowned Cell Biology Unit at Rockefeller University. Palade also began in earnest to study membrane biogenesis, a project he had begun earlier while still at Rockefeller. This work involved studies of chloroplasts, endoplasmic reticulum membranes, and even red blood cells. All during this period, the study of blood vessel permeability was also being pursued with a number of able collaborators, using every new technique available, displaying once again Palade’s relentless commitment to the solution of a problem that he himself defined decades earlier. The year 1990 saw Palade begin yet another new career, which is still in progress as of this writing. He organized his third program in Cell Biology, this time at the University of California at San Diego, and became Dean of Scientific Affairs.

George Palade the scientific legend is secure, but it is fair to ask: what is Palade the person like up close? My first meeting with him took place in his office at Rockefeller, sometime in 1964, during which he agreed to take me on as a postdoctoral fellow. I am reminded of Samuel Johnson’s description of the disappointment one often experiences when actually meeting, face to face, a famous author, because it describes in graphic terms exactly the opposite effect that George Palade has on those fortunate enough to have personal contact with him. Johnson complained: “A transition from an author’s books to his conversation, is too often like an entrance into a large city, after a distant prospect. Remotely, we see nothing but spires of temples, and turrets of palaces, and imagine it the residence of splendor, grandeur, and magnificence; but, when we have passed the gates, we find it perplexed with narrow passages, disgraced with despicable cottages, embarrassed with obstructions, and clouded with smoke (*The Yale Edition of the Works of Samuel Johnson*, Vol. III, *The Rambler*, p. 79. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1969).” A meeting with Palade for the first time, after viewing from a distance his enormous scientific and intellectual output, is indeed like entering a sequestered intellectual community. But the routes of inquiry are wide open. Every question and every issue are open to inspection and analysis. The rules of logic, like the rule of law, govern this village. Hypotheses built hastily or without foundation are readily dismantled in favor of better blueprints. Smoky ideas and dusty data are blown away. All done with calm, congenial, old world grace. Johnson would have loved talking with George Palade and, I suspect, vice versa.

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