1999 AACR-Pezzoller International Award for Cancer Research

AACR-Pezzoller International Award Committee
Peter K. Vogt, Ph.D., Chairperson, Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, USA
Franco Cavalli, M.D., Ospedale San Giovanni, Bellinzona, Switzerland
Gertrude B. Elion, D.Sc., Glaxo Wellcome, Inc., Research Triangle Park, USA
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Masaaki Terada, M.D., D.M.Sc., National Cancer Center Research Institute, Tokyo, Japan
Bengt Westermark, Ph.D., University of Uppsala, Uppsala, Sweden

Ex officio
David M. Livingston, M.D., Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, USA
Enrico Mihich, M.D., Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Buffalo, USA

The AACR-Pezzoller International Award for Cancer Research is given annually to a scientist who has made a major scientific discovery in the field of cancer, who continues to be active in the field, and whose ongoing work holds promise for future contributions to cancer research. The Pezzoller Foundation was established in 1982 by Professor Alessio Pezzoller, a dedicated Italian surgeon who has made important contributions to medicine during his career and who, through his foresight, vision, and generous gift in support of the formation of the Foundation, stimulated others to make significant advances in cancer research. Over the past decade the Pezzoller Foundation has given a major award for outstanding contributions to cancer and cancer-related biomedical science.

The American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) was founded in 1907 by eleven physicians and scientists dedicated to the conquest of cancer and now has nearly 14,000 members in more than 60 countries who are experts in basic, clinical, and translational cancer research. The mission of the AACR is to foster cancer research; this is accomplished in part through outstanding scientific publications, meetings, and training and educational programs. Because of the commitment of the Foundation and the AACR to scientific excellence in cancer research, these two organizations are collaborating annually on the presentation of the AACR-Pezzoller Award. This jointly sponsored award will strengthen international collaborations and will be a catalyst for advancements in cancer research internationally. The awardee will be selected by an international committee of AACR members appointed by the AACR President along with the agreement of the Council of the Pezzoller Foundation. While normally the Award will be presented to a single investigator, in exceptional cases two individuals may be selected to share the award when their investigations have resulted in related prizeworthy work. The committee will make its selection solely on the basis of the awardee's scientific accomplishments without regard to race, gender, nationality, or religious or political views. The candidate will give an award lecture during the AACR Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, USA (April 10-14, 1999) and will receive the award in an official ceremony at the Foundation's headquarters in Trento, Italy, after the annual meeting. The award consists of an honorarium of US$75,000 and a commemorative plaque.

The Pezzoller Foundation and the AACR are now soliciting nominations for the 1999 Award. Nominations can be made by any scientist who is now or has been affiliated with an institution engaged in cancer research. Institutions or organizations are not eligible for this award, and candidates may not nominate themselves.

There is no official application form for this award. The nomination package should consist of the following:

- the candidate's curriculum vitae and full list of published works
- an indication of the candidates's most important publications
- a letter of recommendation in English (500 words, maximum) explaining why the candidate is deserving of this prestigious Award. This letter should summarize the candidate's major scientific achievements, indicate which of the candidate's publications best describe these achievements, and explain the impact of these achievements on progress in cancer research.

Nominators are asked to maintain the confidentiality of the nomination process and to refrain from informing the candidate about the nomination.

The deadline for receipt of nominations for the 1999 Award is October 1, 1998. Questions about the nomination process should be directed to the AACR via FAX at (215) 440-9322 or E-mail at aacr@aacr.org. Nominations should be submitted to the AACR. Please forward the original nomination letter plus 15 copies of the letter and any accompanying materials to:

Peter K. Vogt, Ph.D., Chairperson, Selection Committee
AACR-Pezzoller International Award for Cancer Research
c/o American Association for Cancer Research
Public Ledger Building, Suite 826
150 S. Independence Mall West
Philadelphia, PA 19106-3483
USA
AACR SPECIAL CONFERENCE IN CANCER RESEARCH

Gene Regulation and Cancer
10th Anniversary of the AACR Special Conferences

October 14-18, 1998
The Homestead
Hot Springs, VA

Supported by a Major Educational Grant from Janssen Pharmaceutica and Janssen Research Foundation

CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRPERSONS
Phillip A. Sharp / Cambridge, MA
Jacqueline A. Lees / Cambridge, MA
Steven L. McKnight / Dallas, TX

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Keynote Address
Leland H. Hartwell / Seattle, WA

Control of Cell Division and Gene Expression
Jacqueline A. Lees / Cambridge, MA
Scott W. Lowe / Cold Spring Harbor, NY
Nikola P. Pavletich / New York, NY

Mechanisms of Transcriptional Regulation
Jerry L. Workman / University Park, PA
Marian Carlson / New York, NY
David H. Price / Iowa City, IA

Growth Control and Chromatin Acetylation
C. David Allis / Rochester, NY
Kevin Struhl / Boston, MA
Robert N. Eisenman / Seattle, WA
Michael Grunstein / Los Angeles, CA

Regulation of Cell Death
Albert S. Baldwin / Chapel Hill, NC
Craig B. Thompson / Chicago, IL

Developmental Biology and Gene Regulation
Beverly M. Emerson / La Jolla, CA
Katia Georgopoulos / Cambridge, MA
Frank G. Grosveld / Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Signal to Transcription
Steven L. McKnight / Dallas, TX
David J. Mangelsdorf / Dallas, TX
Gregg L. Semenza / Baltimore, MD

Gene Expression Technology
Stephen H. Friend / Seattle, WA

Additional Speakers to be Announced

Application Deadline: July 31, 1998

Information and Application Forms:
American Association for Cancer Research
Public Ledger Building, Suite 826
150 South Independence Mall West
Philadelphia, PA 19106-3483
215-440-9300 215-440-9313 (FAX)
E-mail: meetings@aacr.org
Website: http://www.aacr.org
AACR SPECIAL CONFERENCE IN CANCER RESEARCH

Cellular Targets of Viral Carcinogenesis

September 24-28, 1998
Marriott’s Laguna Cliffs Resort
Dana Point, California

CONFERENCE CHAIRPERSONS
Thea D. Tlsty / San Francisco, CA
Eileen P. White / Piscataway, NJ
Don Ganem / San Francisco, CA
Carol Prives / New York, NY

TENTATIVE SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

Cell Cycle
Jean Y. J. Wang / La Jolla, CA
William Kaelin / Boston, MA
Karen H. Vousden / Frederick, MD
Thomas E. Shenk / Princeton, NJ

Signal Transduction
Daniel C. DiMaio / New Haven, CT
Elliott Kieff / Boston, MA

Apoptosis
Eileen P. White / Piscataway, NJ
Anne E. Griep / Madison, WI
Philip E. Branton / Montreal, Canada

Genomic Instability
Carol Prives / New York, NY
Thea D. Tlsty / San Francisco, CA
Michael R. Botchan / Berkeley, CA

Evasion of Host Cell Defenses
Grant McFadden / London, Canada
Marshall S. Horwitz / Bronx, NY
Robert H. Silverman / Cleveland, OH

Cell Proliferation
Karl Munger / Boston, MA
Elizabeth Moran / Philadelphia, PA
Don Ganem / San Francisco, CA

Animal Models
Francis V. Chisari / La Jolla, CA
Lisa M. Coussens / San Francisco, CA
Douglas Hanahan / San Francisco, CA

Therapeutic Opportunities
Pramod K. Srivastava / Farmington, CT
David H. Kirn / Richmond, CA

Additional Speakers to be Announced
Applicants are encouraged to submit abstracts for poster presentation. Selected proffered papers will also be scheduled for oral presentations.

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AACR Website: http://www.aacr.org
From an initial serendipitous observation, in which a group of forgotten hamsters all developed kidney tumors when exposed too long to estrogen, Hadley Kirkman (cover) (1901–97) became a pioneer in hormonal carcinogenesis. With this observation, he joined a line of distinguished investigators in the field, including M. A. Lacassagne, R. L. Noble, W. F. Dunning, W. U. Gardner, and W. O. Nelson, and went on to develop new models in hormonal carcinogenesis in the hamster, which were a marked departure from those of his predecessors. He labored resolutely in a field that was not especially fashionable in cancer research at the time, i.e., the induction of cancer solely by the use of hormones. He summarized the initial results of one of his models in the first Monograph of the Journal of the National Cancer Institute, entitled Estrogen-induced Tumors of the Kidney (1: 1–140, 1959).

Dr. Kirkman was particularly interested in sex hormones as possible etiologic agents in hormone target tissues, and these are now considered to be critically involved in some of the most prevalent cancers that afflict both women and men, i.e., breast, endometrial, and prostate cancers. His findings were not greatly appreciated in an era when viruses and chemical carcinogens were considered to be the primary causative agents of these cancers. However, his estrogen-induced hamster kidney tumor model has survived the test of time and, in recent years, it has emerged as the most intensively studied animal model in estrogen carcinogenesis. Dr. Kirkman went on to discover other hormonal carcinogenic models in the hamster, including estrogen/androgen-induced skin tumors; androgen/estrogen-induced and -dependent leiomyosarcomas of the ductus deferens; androgen/estrogen-induced uterine smooth muscle tumors; estrogen-induced liver tumors; and a transplantable islet cell tumor in the pancreas. He was the first to study systematically the relative carcinogenic activities of different estrogens within a single model and the first to make the important observation that different potent estrogens have markedly different carcinogenic activities in a given target tissue. Before the discovery of antiestrogens, he also showed that different estrogen antagonists, such as progesterone, androgen, and deoxycorticosterone acetate (DOCA), were able to block estrogen carcinogenesis.

Dr. Kirkman’s roots resided in the Midwest, having been born in Richmond, IN, in 1901. He graduated from the University of Iowa, majoring in English, and received an M.S. in Biological Sciences from the University of Chicago in 1929. He was accepted as a medical student at Columbia University’s College of Physicians & Surgeons. His medical education, however, was disrupted by an incident concerning freedom of association during the McCarthy era which changed the course of his life. At the intercession of Aura E. Severinghaus, then Anatomy Department Chairman at Columbia, Dr. Kirkman went on to receive a Ph.D. in Anatomy in 1937, under Phillip E. Smith, while holding the position of Instructor. Later, his academic career took root at Stanford University School of Medicine, where he became a Professor of Anatomy in 1949. He spent 30 years on the Stanford medical faculty and continued for more than 30 years as Professor Emeritus. Throughout his academic career, he was a committed and highly regarded teacher to generations of medical and graduate students, receiving the outstanding teacher award two years in a row from the Stanford medical students. He also spent a number of years at the renowned Chester Beatty Research Institute, Royal Cancer Hospital, London, where he initiated many collaborative studies on the role of hormones in cancer etiology.

During a lengthy and influential career, Dr. Kirkman published over 100 research papers, reviews, and abstracts with many co-authors, and he received numerous honors and awards. He was a recipient of the Henry J. Kaiser Award, and he was a Senior Fellow at the National Science Foundation and a Fellow at the Royal Society of Medicine (U.K.). He was a member of the National Research Council Committee on Growth, and he was a longtime member of the American Association for Cancer Research, having joined in 1949.

Throughout his life, Dr. Kirkman was an avid reader and traveled extensively with his beloved wife, Gladys, and daughter, Tracy. He had strong liberal convictions and antiwar sentiments. He was even briefly detained for his anti-Vietnam War beliefs in a demonstration in Oakland, CA. Dr. Kirkman was a Stanford landmark, much like the majestic 700-year-old Douglas white oak that stood in front of his home on the Stanford campus. Shortly before Dr. Kirkman died in September 1997, the great tree succumbed to age and disease. Like the venerable old oak, Dr. Kirkman will be greatly missed as investigators continue his work of unraveling the mysteries of hormonal carcinogenesis.

We are indebted to Jonathan J. and Sara Antonia Li, of the University of Kansas Cancer Center, for providing material for this cover feature.

Sidney Weinhouse