Following the publication of the history of the American Association for Cancer Research from 1907 to 1940 (Cancer Research, 21:137, 1961), the authors received a number of comments from interested readers. Several corrections and other pertinent comments relevant to this history are summarized below:

The following Directors of the American Association for Cancer Research were omitted from Table 4 through a printing error:

Paul C. Zamecnik, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Mass., 1954–57.

The numbers of the Annual Meetings as given in Table 3 of the history do not correspond to the numbers printed on the Programs of the Annual Meetings. For the table, the scientific meetings were numbered consecutively regardless of program number, since the early meetings had no official number. Inasmuch as the program numbers are widely recorded on recent printed programs, in announcements, and in the minutes of the meetings, these numbers constitute the basis on which future Association meetings will be numbered. For readers interested in converting the numbers given in Table 3 to the official program numbers, the following correction factor may be applied:

From 1912 to 1942, the number in Table 3 minus 2 = program number.
From 1943 to 1960, the number in Table 3 minus 1 = program number.

The following items should have been included in Table 6 and were kindly supplied to us from various sources:

1. Gann, the Japanese journal of cancer research, was founded in 1907 as a private undertaking by Katsusaburo Yamagiwa; in 1914 it was taken over by the Japanese Society of Cancer Research as its official organ.

2. The Japanese Society of Cancer Research, a precursor of the present Japanese Foundation for Cancer Research and the Japanese Cancer Association, was organized in 1908 through a call from the Zentral-Komitee für Krebsforschung for Japanese cooperation in cancer research.

3. In 1908 the International Association for Cancer Investigation (IACI) issued the Internationale Monatsschrift (Berlin), the first international journal of cancer research, which published six volumes from 1908 to 1914. Publication of this journal was suspended upon dissolution of the IACI in 1914.

4. The first inbred strain of mice (DBA) was established by C. C. Little in 1909.

5. The Jackson Memorial Laboratory, where much of the work on mouse genetics was done, was founded in 1929.

Several more detailed comments concerning items reported in Table 6 were received which are of sufficient general interest to merit inclusion here. The contributor of the information on which the following material is based is given in parentheses at the end of each section.

Fujinami and Inamoto reported a transplantable (graft) chicken tumor in 1910 (Verhdl. d. Jap. Path. Ges., Jg. 114; 1911) without any reference to filtration experiments. Their third report (Gann, 6:1, 1912) cites Rous' paper (J. Exp. Med., 12: 696, 1910) and contains a bare statement that their results with filtrates were "somewhat different" from those of Rous. In a fourth report (Gann, 7:100, 1913) we find positive transmission by means of cell-free filtrates first communicated by these investigators. These circumstances were clearly recognized by the contemporary Japanese workers, as evidenced by the statement of Ogata and Ishibashi: "Fujinami and Inamoto attempted transplantation with cell-free filtrates of their myxosarcoma with negative results, but encouraged by Rous' report they repeated experiments and found that their tumor also often yielded positive results" (translated from the Japanese, Gann, 9(2):21, 1915).

Fujinami and Inamoto were the first to report a transplantable chicken sarcoma, but filterability, and consequently the filterable causative agent (the Rous virus) of this group of avian tumors, was first demonstrated by Peyton Rous.

(Waro Nakahara, Japanese Foundation for Cancer Research, Tokyo).

A recent review by Shimkin (Cancer, 8:653, 1955) shows that priority for the first successful
transplantation of tumors belongs to Mstislav
Aleksandrovich Novinsky, who published his re-
results in an 1877 dissertation. Novinsky’s first series
of experiments, started on December 19, 1875, re-
sulted in passage through inoculation of a venereal
sarcoma or an anaplastic epithelial tumor of dogs
through two generations. A second series of ex-
periments begun on September 20, 1876, by No-
vinsky led to successful transplantation of what is
probably a canine venereal sarcoma through two
generations.

In another communication (Cancer, 13:221, 1960) Shimkin establishes that Arthur Nathan
Hanau, frequently credited with reporting the
first successful tumor transplantation in 1889,
acknowledged the previous claims of Novinsky
and the German investigator, Wehr, who had suc-
cessfully transplanted tumors in dogs in 1888.

"Recognition of the importance of Hanau’s con-
tribution and the submergence of the observations
of Novinsky may be attributed to several factors.
Perhaps the most important is that the rat tumor
used by Hanau closely resembles carcinoma of
man, whereas the venereal sarcoma of the dog has
no human counterpart. Also, Hanau’s material
was available for review, whereas the full account
of Novinsky’s work was hidden in an obscure Rus-

(Michael B. Shimkin, National Cancer Insti-
tute, Bethesda.)

Following a communication by the staff of the
Jackson Memorial Laboratory on the extrachro-
mosomal influence in the etiology of breast tumors
in mice (Science, 78:465, 1933) foster nursing
studies were undertaken by Bittner in 1934 and
published in a preliminary report in August, 1936
(Science, 84:162, 1936). Between 1936 and 1939
Bittner issued seven other papers on the influence
of nursing.

Korteweg in a 1936 paper (Genetica, 18:350,
1936) reported that a “disposition to cancer of the
mammary gland with the mouse is transmitted
from mother to daughter along extrachromosomal
ways.” This author suggested three possible modes
of transmission: ovular plasm, during intrauterine
life, and by means of the mother’s milk. On p. 359
of his article Korteweg writes, “For the present
the influence of the ovular plasm seems here most
probable,” and in the summary he says, “Probably
this extrachromosomal factor will work through
the ovular plasm.” A publication issued by Van
Gulik and Korteweg in 1940 (Proc. Nederl. Akad-
emie v. Wetenschappen, 43:891, 1940) adds the
following comment: “In 1936 Bittner demon-
strated that the extrachromosomal factor might
be identical with the influence emanating from the
milk on the young ones. . . . Similar experiments
on a larger scale were made by Bittner, Andervont,
and Korteweg. This paper relates to these experi-
ments. . . .” This appears to be the first experi-
mental conclusion by Korteweg on the influence
of nursing.

(John J. Bittner, University of Minnesota Medi-
cal School, Minneapolis.)

Dr. Robert Schrek of the Veterans Administra-
tion, Hines Hospital, Hines, Illinois, has pointed
out that only two of the 40 items in Table 6 repre-
sent work done with human cancer. In his view,
this table might be misleading to some individuals
in that some men have the idea that research in
human cancer is not basic but merely applied re-
search and development. Several items for a sup-
plementary table were suggested by Dr. Schrek
to fill this gap.

It was not the intention of the authors to mini-
mize the importance of research on human cancer.
We recognized, when we prepared the material for
Table 6, that it would not be complete and would
at best represent a reasonable selection of the
available material. Moreover, in a more or less
arbitrary manner, after consulting various in-
vestigators in the field, we decided to limit the
coverage to certain years—1889 to 1940—and all
items prior or subsequent to this period were
eliminated.

It would undoubtedly be of value to publish a
comprehensive list of developments in research on
human cancer. It is, however, difficult to find
someone to prepare such a list, since many refer-
ences would have to be consulted to make it repre-
sentative of this phase of research. In the absence
of such a compilation, the authors have decided
against attempting to expand Table 6 to include
additional references to investigations on human
cancer.

Victor A. Triolo and Ilse L. Riegel
McArdle Memorial Laboratory
University of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin
Postscripts to the History of the A.A.C.R.


Updated version  Access the most recent version of this article at: http://cancerres.aacrjournals.org/content/21/11/1595.citation

E-mail alerts  Sign up to receive free email-alerts related to this article or journal.

Reprints and Subscriptions  To order reprints of this article or to subscribe to the journal, contact the AACR Publications Department at pubs@aacr.org.

Permissions  To request permission to re-use all or part of this article, use this link http://cancerres.aacrjournals.org/content/21/11/1595.citation. Click on "Request Permissions" which will take you to the Copyright Clearance Center’s (CCC) Rightslink site.