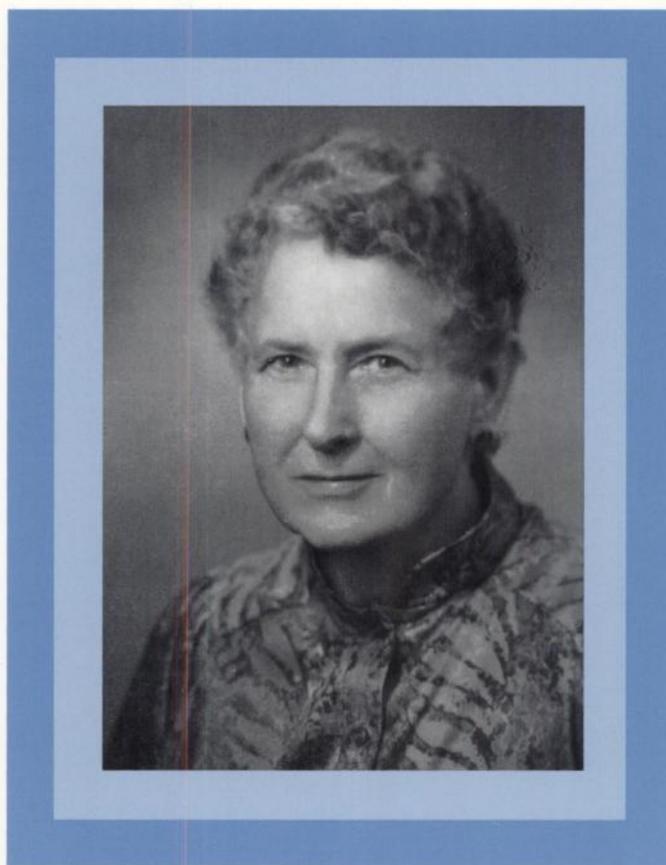




Cancer Research

AN OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR CANCER RESEARCH



September 15, 1996
Volume 56 • Number 18
PP. 4087-4296
ISSN 0008-5472 • CNREA 8

COVER LEGEND

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This issue's cover honors Teresa J. Vietti, a pioneer in pediatric oncology, for her many contributions to the field. Dr. Vietti is Professor of Pediatrics at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, MO, and a pediatrician at St. Louis Children's Hospital and Barnes Hospital. She is also the immediate Past Chairman of the Pediatric Oncology Group, a National Cancer Institute-sponsored clinical trials cooperative group.

Dr. Vietti was born and raised in Texas. She received her A.B. from Rice Institute and her M.D. from Baylor University College of Medicine. She completed her pediatric internship and residency training at St. Louis Children's Hospital and then pursued further subspecialty training in pediatric hematology at the Children's Hospital in Detroit, MI. Her first faculty and staff appointments were in 1958 as the Director of the Hematology Laboratories and attending pediatrician at the Texas Children's Hospital in Dallas, TX. She returned to St. Louis as a pediatrician in 1961 and has remained there ever since, attaining the faculty appointment of full Professor of Pediatrics at Washington University in 1972.

Although her first interests related to clinical topics in pediatric hematology, Dr. Vietti soon focused her energies on the then emerging fields of pediatric oncology and drug development. She became a member of the Southwest Oncology Group (SWOG) in 1961 and began clinical studies evaluating the role of cyclophosphamide, which was then a new agent in the treatment of children with acute leukemia and soft tissue sarcomas. She led or collaborated in pioneering trials of vincristine, vinblastine, daunomycin, mitomycin, actinomycin, 6-azauridine, uracil mustard, cytosine arabinoside, adriamycin, cisplatin, ifosfamide, mitoxantrone, and many other new agents used for the treatment of pediatric malignancies. In addition to her numerous clinical contributions to drug development, Dr. Vietti conducted many preclinical investigations of anticancer drugs in murine L1210 model systems, in collaboration with Frederick A. Valeriote.

Dr. Vietti's leadership in cooperative group studies was recognized by her colleagues in SWOG, who named her Chairman of

the Pediatric Acute Leukemia Committee (1974-77), Chairman of the Pharmacology and New Agents Committee (1977-78), and member of the Pediatric Executive Committee and then Vice-Chairman of the Pediatric Division of SWOG (1976-80). In 1980, the pediatric members of SWOG joined with former pediatric members of the Cancer and Leukemia Group B (CALGB) to form an independent pediatric clinical trials group, the Pediatric Oncology Group (POG), and Dr. Vietti became the first Chair, serving in this capacity from 1980 until 1993. Under her leadership, POG expanded and grew to its present size of more than 100 institutions and more than 1500 members. A decade of progress against childhood cancer by POG was recently documented in an analysis of sequential outcomes for more than 7000 pediatric patients with cancer diagnosed between 1976 and 1989 (Pediatrics, 89: 597-600, 1992). Significant improvements in outcome were demonstrated for all forms of acute lymphoblastic leukemia, non-Hodgkin's lymphomas, osteogenic sarcoma, and advanced neuroblastoma. Dr. Vietti's leadership must also be acknowledged in the development of pediatric intergroup studies and is exemplified by her contributions to the design and conduct of the Intergroup Ewing's Sarcoma Studies I and II (IESS). Improved results from large group studies, such as those of POG and IEES, rapidly become policy among the therapeutic community and lead directly to improved outcomes for children and adolescents with cancer.

Dr. Vietti is a member of many specialty societies, including the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Pediatric Society, the American Society of Clinical Oncology, the American Society of Hematology, and the International Society of Hematology. Her service to the AACR, of which she has been a member since 1972, includes a term on the Board of Directors (1981-84) as well as participation on the Public Issues Committee from 1977-80 and on the Program Committee and the Rosenthal Award Committee in 1984-85.

Dr. Vietti is the author or co-author of more than 200 peer-reviewed publications and nearly 30 book chapters. She could easily have doubled the number of publications were it not for her policy of actively involving junior investigators in projects and removing her own name from papers. Importantly, she is the co-author of a standard textbook, *Clinical Pediatric Oncology*, now in its fourth edition. Her editorial work is extensive. She has been a member of the Editorial Boards of *Cancer Research*, *Cancer*, *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, and *Investigational New Drugs*. In 1993, she was selected as the Editor of *The American Journal of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology*. In addition, she is the recipient of a number of honors, including the John Krey III Memorial Award of the American Cancer Society, and she is listed in *Who's Who of American Women* and *The Best Doctors in America*.

Dr. Vietti's influence on pediatric oncology is recognized by everyone in the field, as evidenced when she was honored by her peers with a lifetime achievement award from the American Society of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology in 1994.

We extend our appreciation to Sharon B. Murphy for her assistance in coordinating the material for this cover feature.

Sidney Weinhouse