

half-dozen reports bearing on viral oncology and tumor antigens. These include contributions from Belgium (L. Thiry et al.), Italy (V. Marinozzi et al.), and United States laboratories from New York to California.

Inclusions and Viruses

Reports of intracellular "virus-like" particles continue to appear, with the implication that such inclusions are indeed viruses of etiologic significance. Marinozzi and co-workers (University of Rome, Italy) examined four cases of adenocarcinoma of the gastrointestinal tract and found large electron-dense mitochondrial inclusions of two types. One consisted of calcium-containing granules linked to a glycoprotein substrate; the second type was phospholipid with osmium-dependent electron density. Neither should be confused with viruses.

June

Preclinical Chemotherapy: Quo Sumus?

The development of clinical cancer chemotherapeutic agents depends upon animal pharmacology as predictors of toxicity and effect. The methods have been standardized, promulgated and accepted by regulatory agencies during the past 20 years, under the national cancer program.

In the June issue, Philip S. Schein

(Georgetown University School of Medicine, Washington, D.C.), critically reviews the topic of preclinical toxicology of anticancer agents, as it appears now. He points out what has been learned from studies on mice, dogs and monkeys; recommends changes that seem indicated on the basis of experience; and suggests approaches for further progress. One conclusion reached was that studies in monkeys offered no advantages over studies in dogs. This should help to reduce the already inordinate costs of drug development. It is hoped that regulatory bodies will take note of this finding.

Schein's thoughtful editorial should be widely read as a basis for further discussion and research in this important field.

To emphasize the importance and relevance of the subject, the June issue contains papers on the pharmacology of three recent chemicals: esters of arabinofuranosylcytosine (D.H.W. Ho and G.L. Neil), chartreusin (J.P. McGovern et al.) and 5-aza-2'-deoxycytidine (R.L. Momparler and J. Goodman). The indications and uses of antimetabolite methotrexate (MTX) are extended by the clinical demonstration of W.D. Ensminger and E. Frei III (Sidney Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, Mass.) that thymidine offers significant protection against MTX toxicity. ©

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