

Certain DNA-containing viruses have been shown to be themselves party to, and in some cases the etiologic basis for, initiation of the neoplastic process. In addition, studies of the molecular mechanisms by which DNA tumor viruses such as SV40, adenovirus, and papilloma viruses transform cells have uncovered evidence for their interactions with *Rb* and p53 gene products. Well-written chapters on papovaviruses, adenoviruses, and the herpesviruses are both timely and useful. On the subject of tumor suppressor genes, Eric Stanbridge and Webster Cavenee have collaborated to provide historical perspective and important information concerning the link between heritable cancer and these genes. These authors have managed to perform the difficult task of presenting the essentials of a rapidly emerging field in which new discoveries are frequent.

Multiple-author works often contain unnecessary overlap. In this book, several authors do cover very similar aspects of research on certain groups of oncogenes, in particular, those related to growth factor receptors and their signaling pathways. It is somewhat disappointing that chapters fo-

cused on such clinically relevant and important tumor viruses as the HTLVs and human papilloma viruses are not included. Nonetheless, this book is likely to accomplish more than its stated aim of attracting the interest of those outside the field. The scholarship and the first-hand knowledge of its assembled authors will make it likely to appeal to those actively engaged in the field as well.

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