Gurgo and co-workers (St. Louis University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Missouri) show that 25 rifamycin derivatives inhibit the RNA→DNA polymerase of murine sarcoma viruses. The authors conclude that these derivatives potentially provide the basis for a rational approach to virus and cancer chemotherapy.

In the uterine cervix of mice treated neonatally with estrogen, Forsberg and Breistein (University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway) find that the incidence of invasive lesions induced by 3-methylcholanthrene is higher than in the controls, but ovarian estrogen in the treated animals seems to retard growth of established carcinomas.

Studying patients with Hodgkin’s disease, Pinkard and associates (Cancer Institute, Melbourne, Australia) report a positive correlation between elevated purine and pyrimidine excretion in the urine, the development of constitutional symptoms and predominance of Reed-Sternberg cells in tumor tissue.

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In an editorial, Dalton (National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, Maryland) succinctly details the ultrastructure of virions and virion replication of RNA
tumor viruses. He describes A, B and C type virus particles and clarifies the confusion concerning their terminology.

Peterson and Lee (University of Washington, Seattle, Washington) review the changing trend in mortality and incidence of testicular tumors in whites in the United States, England, Wales and Scandinavia. The current distribution is bimodal, with high death rates in young adults and the elderly. The incidence and mortality rates are similar in the United States, England, Wales and Sweden, but are much higher in Denmark and Norway. The tumor distribution by age and pathologic type is similar in all the countries, despite the variation in incidence. The data suggest that the germinal cell tumors of the testis are derived at all ages from tissue predisposed early in life.

Assaying neutral subfractions of cigarette smoke condensate in mice to detect tumor promoters, Bock and associates (Roswell Park Memorial Institute, Buffalo, New York) find the methanol-insoluble fractions more active than the methanol-soluble fractions.

Wellings and Jentoft (University of California School of Medicine, Davis, California) maintain explants of 52 human breast biopsy specimens in organ culture in chemically defined media, both with and without added hormones. In cultures without hormones there is good survival of normal ducts and lobules, mammary dysplasia, ductal carcinoma in situ, fibroadenoma, intraductal papilloma, gynecomastia and colloid carcinoma. Scirrrous carcinoma cultures do not survive well.

With statistical methodology, Hoel and Walburg (National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina) estimate incidence of disease in animal survival experiments, compare groups of animals with multiple diseases and assert that competing causes of death are often independently affected by treatment.

Transforming an epithelial-like cell line, derived from rat liver, by the Harvey strain of murine sarcoma virus, Bomford and Weinstein (Imperial Cancer Research Laboratories, London, England) show that the transformed cells become fibroblastic.

Dunkel and associates (National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, Maryland) find that sera of old-world monkeys react positively in immunofluorescence tests for antibodies to Epstein-Barr virus, but differences in reactivity are found when the same sera are tested with either anti-monkey γ-globulin or antihuman IgG conjugates.

In a comparison of the responsiveness of preneoplastic and neoplastic mouse mammary tissues to hormones, Hohmann and co-workers (University of California, Berkeley, California) conclude that the ability of the hormones to influence the metabolism of lysin-rich histones is directly related to their capacity to induce casein synthesis.

Bartlett (Institute for Cancer Research, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) demonstrates that sarcomas induced in mice by 3-methylcholanthrene (MCA) decline in antigenic strength with increased latent periods. In tumors induced by MCA in diffusion chambers, there is no relationship between antigenic strength and latent period.

Studying the effects of cycasin in preweanling rats, Matsumoto and associates (University of Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii) hypothesize that the incidence of tumor induction is related to the modulated β-glucosidase activity of the small intestine: the greater the β-glucosidase activity, the higher the tumor incidence.

Saal and co-workers (Academia Nacional de Medicina, Buenos Aires, Argentina) describe lymphoma induced in
mice by allogeneic tumor cells in Lucite chambers that are embedded in the subcutaneous tissue and suggest that autoenhancement may be operative.

Comparing mare, stallion and gelding horse serums, Evans et al. (National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, Maryland) find that mare serum, like fetal bovine serum, inhibits neoplastic transformation in mouse embryo cells.

Rabin and associates (Bionetic Research Laboratories, Kensington, Maryland) report induction, and subsequent regression, of sarcomas in squirrel monkeys inoculated with feline sarcoma virus.

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Treasure Seeker

. . . the man of skill, the kind and friendly physician—strove to go deep into his patient's bosom, delving among his principles, prying into his recollections, and probing everything with a cautious touch, like a treasure seeker in a dark cavern. Few secrets can escape an investigator, who has opportunity and license to understand such a quest, and skill to follow it up.—Nathaniel Hawthorne, The Scarlet Letter. The Modern Library, New York, 1950. Pp. 140-141.