

Guest Editorial

THE European Association for Cancer Research (EACR) held its Eighth Meeting in May of this year in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia. The main topics of the meeting—"Genetic and epigenetic control of cell transformation" and "Applied aspects of tumour immunology"—were selected since they represent focal points of interest in contemporary cancer research. The topics were particularly appropriate since in Czechoslovakia there is a strong tradition of expertise in areas of tumour virology and immunogenetics, the principles of which have provided the foundations for the development of modern molecular biology.

Other areas of specialized interest were covered in a programme of seven seminars. The results and conclusions from these have been summarized by the Seminar Chairman as reports, which are included in this issue together with the abstracts of free communications presented at the meeting. The seminar programme is considered to be an important component of EACR Meetings. Not only do they afford the opportunity for detailed discussion of a specific topic, but their regular inclusion in EACR Meetings allows participants to assess progress and identify avenues for further research. Since the Sixth Meeting of the Association in Budapest in 1981 and then in Copenhagen in 1983,

several seminars have been repeated, and it is intended that this policy should provide an appropriate basis for establishing EACR Research Groups composed of scientists who have an interest and detailed knowledge in specific areas of research in cancer.

Finally, the EACR is not merely an organization which functions only to hold meetings in various cities in Europe every two years; the Association is composed of about 1000 cancer researchers, and one of its major aims is to offer to its members possibilities for the exchange and development of ideas and to promote areas of research which will advance our knowledge of cancer.

For progress to be made, it is essential that there exists in Europe a climate in which individuals are able to establish contacts, exchange experience and gain a deeper understanding of problems in cancer research today. It is therefore particularly important that the Association has, in the *European Journal of Cancer & Clinical Oncology*, a natural outlet for reporting its activities to the scientific community and creating a greater awareness of its objectives.

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