



# Cancer Medicine

JAMES F. HOLLAND, M.D.

*Professor and Chairman  
Department of Neoplastic Diseases  
Mt. Sinai School of Medicine  
of the  
City University of New York  
Formerly Chief of Medicine A  
Roswell Park Memorial Institute  
Buffalo, New York*

EMIL FREI, III, M.D.

*Professor of Medicine  
Harvard Medical School  
Physician-in-Chief  
Children's Cancer Research Foundation, Inc.  
Boston, Massachusetts  
Formerly Associate Director, Clinical Research, and  
Professor of Medicine, University of Texas  
M.D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute  
Houston, Texas*

In Collaboration with 158 Contributors



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This volume contains much information about cancer therapy, particularly by drugs. The authors, editors, and publisher have taken meticulous care to insure the accuracy of the drugs, dosages, and schedules recommended. Since the law requires that information about changes in accepted indications and methods of drug use be printed in the package insert, however, the reader is advised to consult this document before using a drug. He then can be certain that new data have not led to altered instructions.

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# Preface

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Although enormous scientific and public attention has been devoted to cancer research and to clinical cancer in the past twenty-five years, it is hard to comprehend the topic. In part this is because the field is still expanding and changing rapidly. This change has provided many signs that continuing progress will come. Rapid advances in clinical disciplines in the areas of detection, diagnosis, treatment, prevention, and rehabilitation have been abetted by the increasing juxtaposition and contributions of sciences such as pharmacology, immunology, and cell biology.

Several types of human cancer that were hitherto fatal diseases have been cured by drug treatment. In many other instances, temporary improvement has been produced by chemotherapy; the tides of current research augur well for sustained progress. Decades of broadly based virologic research, together with specific attacks on model tumor systems, have culminated in the current status, wherein no one would be surprised if a proof of viral etiology for some human cancers were soon to come forth. Years of immunologic research on inbred mice and other animals have provided techniques that recently revealed unambiguous evidence that immunologic phenomena are involved in human cancer.

These examples illustrate the body of knowledge that the expert, teacher, practitioner, and student of cancer medicine must command in order to have an integrated view of the field. The first portion of the

book has been designed to allow clinicians just such an overview of the foundations in research on which good medicine must stand. The next portion of the volume deals with the diagnosis and management of neoplastic disease by the several disciplines that impinge on the area. The last 17 chapters deal with cancer in the several organ systems. Presentations are made of the natural history of the neoplasms, their diagnosis, their management, and the therapeutic choices available. Emphasis is laid on medical approaches (as distinct from surgical or radiotherapeutic approaches) to disease, since this rapidly expanding field has much to offer that has not been set down in one place before.

The emergence of medical oncology as an area of specialization has been recognized by the American Board of Internal Medicine, which has created a subspecialty examination for certification. The editors believe that greater emphasis on neoplastic disease will be incumbent on all physicians, and that *each* physician must know the indications and limitations of the principal methods of diagnosis and treatment.

The book has also been organized so that cancer research scientists who are not themselves physicians can read authoritative presentations on cancer in man to gain perspective for their studies.

For their tolerance of, and gracious compliance with, our editorial activities, we wish to express appreciation to the authors. The complexities of compilation, correspondence



with our authors, and indeed of keeping organized, was efficiently performed by our two secretaries Mrs. Patricia Stronka and Mrs. Bobbye Wright, to whom we are deeply indebted for their devotion.

The editors are grateful to Lea & Febiger for their cooperation at all stages of preparation. They are particularly grateful to

Miss Mary Mansor, whose participation in every step of the editorial process made the book better than it otherwise might have been.

We are, of course, fundamentally indebted to the authors for their having agreed to participate and to contribute their expertise to this undertaking.

New York, New York  
Boston, Massachusetts

JAMES F. HOLLAND  
EMIL FREI III

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# Contributors

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**JAMES E. ALLEN, M.D.**

Associate Professor of Surgery (Pediatric), State University of New York at Buffalo; Associate Chief of Pediatric Surgery, The Children's Hospital, Buffalo, New York.

**JOHN H. BALL, M.D.**

Instructor in Medicine, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Nashville, Tennessee.

**DANIEL E. BERGSAGEL, M.D., Ph.D.**

Professor of Medicine, University of Toronto; Chief of Medicine, Princess Margaret Hospital, Toronto, Canada.

**JEAN BERNARD**

Professeur à l'Université de Paris, Directeur de l'Institut de Recherches sur les Leucémies et les Maladies du Sang de l'Université de Paris; Hôpital Saint-Louis, Paris, France.

**JOSEPH R. BERTINO, M.D.**

Professor of Medicine and Pharmacology, Yale University School of Medicine; Chief, Section of Oncology and Chemotherapy, Yale-New Haven Hospital, New Haven, Connecticut.

**GERALD P. BODEY, M.D.**

Assistant Professor of Medicine, The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute at Houston; Adjunct Assistant Professor of Microbiology, Department of Microbiology; Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine, Department of Medicine, Baylor University College of Medicine; Assistant Professor of Medicine, The University of Texas Graduate School of the Biomedical Sciences at Houston; Chief, Clinical Microbiology, Department of Developmental Therapeutics, The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute at Houston, Houston, Texas.

**ROBERT S. BOURKE, M.D.**

Chief of Neurosurgery, Roswell Park Memorial Institute, Buffalo, New York.

**DAVID G. BRAGG, M.D.**

Professor and Chairman, Department of Radiology, University of Utah College of Medicine; Chairman, Department of Radiology, University Hospitals, Salt Lake City, Utah.

**MICHAEL J. BRENNAN, M.D.**

Professor of Medicine, Wayne State University Medical School; Medical and Scientific Director, Michigan Cancer Foundation, Detroit, Michigan.

**RALPH I. BROOKE, B.Ch.D., M.R.C.S., F.D.S.**

Professor and Chairman, Department of Oral Medicine, The University of Western Ontario; Chief, Dental Department, University Hospital, London, Canada.

**SHELLEY M. BROWN, M.D.**

Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine, The Mt. Sinai School of Medicine; Assistant Attending Physician, Mt. Sinai Hospital; Director, Blood Bank and Clinical Microscopy, Mt. Sinai Hospital Services, City Hospital Center at Elmhurst; Assistant Adjunct Physician, Lenox Hill Hospital, New York, New York.

**W. RAY BRYAN, Ph.D.**

Scientific Coordinator for Viral Oncology and Etiology, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland.

**R. D. BULBROOK, Ph.D.**

Head, Department of Clinical Endocrinology, Imperial Cancer Research Fund, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, England.

**JOSEPH H. BURCHENAL, M.D.**

Professor of Medicine, Cornell University Medical College; Attending Physician and Director of Clinical Investigation, Memorial Hospital for Cancer and Allied Diseases; Member, Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research, New York, New York.

**GORDON H. BURGESS, M.D.**

Clinical Assistant in Medicine (Dermatology), School of Medicine, State University of New York at Buffalo; Cancer Research Dermatologist I, Department of Dermatology, Roswell Park Memorial Institute, Buffalo, New York.

**ROBERT L. CAPIZZI, M.D.**

Assistant Professor of Medicine and Pharmacology, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, Connecticut.

**PAUL P. CARBONE, M.D.**

Chief, Medicine Branch, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland.

**STEPHEN K. CARTER, M.D.**

Chief, Cancer Therapy Evaluation Branch, Chemotherapy, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland.

**ANTHONY CERAMI, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor and Head, Laboratory of Experimental Hematology, The Rockefeller University, New York, New York.

**VIRGIL R. CONDON, M.D.**

Assistant Professor, Department of Radiology, and Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, University of Utah College of Medicine; Director of Pediatric Radiology, Primary Children's Hospital, Salt Lake City, Utah.

**GIOVANNI COSTA, M.D., Ph.D.**

Professor of Medicine, Medical College of Virginia; Director, Clinical Research Center, Medical College of Virginia; Attending Physician, Medical College of Virginia Health Sciences Division of Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia.

**WILLIAM A. CREASEY, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor of Pharmacology (Medicine), Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, Connecticut.

**DAVID O. DAVIS, M.D.**

Professor and Associate Chairman, Department of Radiology, George Washington University School of Medicine, Washington, D.C.

**CLYDE J. DAWE, M.D.**

Head, Comparative Oncology Section, Laboratory of Pathology, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland.

**VINCENT T. DeVITA, M.D.**

Head, Solid Tumor Service, Medicine Branch, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland.

**AURELIO DI MARCO, M.D.**

Professor of Microbiology and Chemotherapy, and Director of Division of Experimental Oncology, Istituto Nazionale per lo Studio e la Cura dei Tumori, Milan, Italy.

**WILLIAM L. DOBES, JR., M.D.**

Resident in Dermatology, Mayo Graduate School of Medicine (University of Minnesota), Rochester, Minnesota.

**GERALD D. DODD, M.D.**

Professor of Radiology, The University of Texas Medical School at Houston; Professor of Radiology, The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute; Director, Program in Diagnostic Radiology, The University of Texas Medical School at Houston; Radiologist and Head, Department of Diagnostic Radiology, The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute at Houston, Houston, Texas.

**EILEEN S. DONOVAN, B.S., L.P.T.**

Clinical Education Supervisor and Physical Therapist, Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, University of Texas M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute at Houston, Houston, Texas.

**ROSE RUTH ELLISON, M.D.**

Associate Professor of Medicine, School of Medicine, State University of New York at Buffalo; Associate Director of Medicine, E. J. Meyer Memorial Hospital; Formerly Associate Chief of Medicine A, Roswell Park Memorial Institute, Buffalo, New York.

**ROBERT M. ELLSWORTH, M.D.**

Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons; Assistant Attending Ophthalmologist, Presbyterian Hospital, New York, New York.

**RALPH L. ENGLE, JR.**

Professor of Medicine, Cornell University Medical College; Attending Physician, New York Hospital; Chief, Department of Medical Systems and Computer Services, New York Hospital, New York.

**STUART L. FISCHMAN, D.M.D.**

Professor of Oral Medicine and Assistant Dean, School of Dentistry, State University of New York at Buffalo; University Associate in Oral Medicine, Buffalo General Hospital; Consultant in Oral Pathology, Deaconess Hospital, Buffalo, New York.

**JOSEPH F. FRAUMENI, JR., M.D.**

Head, Ecology Studies Section, Epidemiology Branch, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland.

**EMIL FREI, III, M.D.**

Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School, Physician-in-Chief, Children's Cancer Research Foundation, Inc., Boston, Massachusetts; Formerly Associate Director, Clinical Research, and Professor of Medicine, University of Texas M.D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute, Houston, Texas.

**EMIL J. FREIREICH, M.D.**

Professor of Medicine; Acting Head, Department of Developmental Therapeutics; Chief of Research Hematology, The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute at Houston, Houston, Texas.

**PAUL A. FRIEDMAN, M.D.**

Resident in Internal Medicine, Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, New York, New York; Formerly Research Associate, Laboratory of Neurochemistry, National Institute of Mental Health, Bethesda, Maryland.

**JOHN F. GAETA, M.D.**

Clinical Assistant Professor of Pathology, School of Medicine, State University of New York at Buffalo; Clinical Associate Professor of Pathology, School of Dentistry, State University of New York at Buffalo; Associate Chief of Pathol-

ogy, Roswell Park Memorial Institute, Buffalo, New York.

**SALMAN GAILANI, M.D.**

Research Associate Professor of Pharmacology, Graduate School, State University of New York at Buffalo, Buffalo; Associate Chief of Medicine A, Roswell Park Memorial Institute, Buffalo, New York.

**EDMUND A. GEHAN, Ph.D.**

Professor of Biometrics and Biometrician, The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute at Houston, Texas.

**HOWARD J. GLENN, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry, The University of Texas at Houston; Associate Chemist, Section of Nuclear Medicine, The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute at Houston, Houston, Texas.

**PHIL GOLD, M.D., Ph.D.**

Associate Professor of Medicine and of Physiology, School of Medicine, McGill University; Associate of the Medical Research Council of Canada; Associate Physician, Montreal General Hospital; Assistant Director, Division of Clinical Immunology, Montreal General Hospital, Montreal, Canada.

**IRA S. GOLDENBERG, M.D.**

Professor of Clinical Surgery, Yale University School of Medicine; Attending Surgeon, Yale-New Haven Hospital and West Haven Veterans Administration Hospital, New Haven, Connecticut.

**ABRAHAM GOLDIN, Ph.D.**

Associate Chief for Laboratory Research, Drug Research & Development, Chemotherapy, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland.

**ARNOLD M. GOLDMAN, M.D.**

Assistant Professor of Radiology, The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute at Houston; Associate Radiologist, The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute at Houston, Texas.

**LOUIS E. GOODMAN, M.D.**

Assistant Professor of Surgery, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine; Head, Tumor Clinic; Research Associate and Attending



Surgeon, Sinai Hospital of Baltimore, Baltimore, Maryland.

GILBERT S. GORDAN, M.D., Ph.D

Professor of Medicine, University of California Medical Center at San Francisco, San Francisco, California.

C. THOMAS GRIFFITHS, M.D.

Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts; Co-Chief of Staff, and Director, Division of Oncology, Boston Hospital for Women, Brookline, Massachusetts.

FREDERICK W. GUNZ, M.D.

Director of Medical Research, Kanematsu Memorial Institute, Sydney, Australia.

SAUL B. GUSBERG, M.D., D.Sc.

Professor and Chairman, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine of the City University of New York; Gynecologist and Obstetrician-in-Chief, Mt. Sinai Hospital, New York, New York.

ALLAN HALDEN, M.D.

Resident in Orthopedic Surgery, University of California Medical Center at San Francisco, San Francisco, California.

THOMAS C. HALL, M.D.

Professor of Medicine and Pharmacology; Director, Division of Oncology, University of Rochester School of Medicine, Rochester, New York.

ROBERT E. HANDSCHUMACHER, Ph.D.

Professor of Pharmacology, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, Connecticut.

HEINE H. HANSEN, M.D.

Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, George Washington University Medical Center, Washington, D.C.; Assistant Chief, NCI-VA Medical Oncology Branch, Division of Cancer Treatment, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland; Physician, Veterans Administration Hospital, Washington, D.C.

J. HARTWELL HARRISON, M.D.

Elliott Carr Cutler Professor of Surgery, Harvard Medical School; Chief of Service, Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts.

THOMAS P. HAYNIE, III

Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, The University of Texas Medical School at Houston; Associate Internist and Chief, Section of Nuclear Medicine, The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute at Houston, Houston, Texas.

JOHN E. HEALEY, JR., M.D.

Professor and Head, Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, University of Texas M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute at Houston, Houston, Texas.

CHARLES HEIDELBERGER, Ph.D.

American Cancer Society Professor of Oncology, McArdle Laboratory for Cancer Research, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine, Madison, Wisconsin.

KARL ERIK HELLSTRÖM, M.D.

Professor of Pathology, University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle, Washington.

FREDERICK HELM, M.D.

Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine (Dermatology), School of Medicine, State University of New York at Buffalo; Cancer Research Dermatologist I, Department of Dermatology, Roswell Park Memorial Institute, Buffalo, New York.

EDWARD S. HENDERSON, M.D.

Head, Leukemia Service, and Acting Chief, Hematology and Supportive Care Branch, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland.

EVAN M. HERSH, M.D.

Chief, Section of Immunology, Department of Developmental Therapeutics; Assistant Professor of Medicine, The University of Texas Medical School at Houston; Assistant Internist, The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute at Houston, Houston, Texas.

JOHN HIGGINSON, M.D.

Director, International Agency for Research on Cancer, Lyon, France.

C. STKATTON HILL, JR., M.D.

Assistant Professor of Medicine; Assistant Internist, The University of Texas M. D. Anderson

Hospital and Tumor Institute at Houston, Houston, Texas.

**JAMES F. HOLLAND, M.D.**

Professor and Chairman, Department of Neoplastic Disease, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine of the City University of New York; Formerly Chief of Medicine A, Roswell Park Memorial Institute, Buffalo, New York.

**JIMMIE HOLLAND, M.D.**

Associate Professor of Psychiatry, State University of New York at Buffalo; Director of Psychiatry, E. J. Meyer Memorial Hospital, Buffalo, New York.

**ARTHUR I. HOLLEB, M.D.**

Senior Vice President for Medical Affairs and Research, National Headquarters, American Cancer Society, New York.

**DIETER K. HOSSFELD, M.D.**

Fellow in Internal Medicine, Department of Medicine (Tumor Research), Klinikum Essen of the Ruhr University, Essen, Germany.

**MYROSLAW M. HRESHCHYSHYN, M.D.**

Professor, Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics, School of Medicine, State University of New York at Buffalo; Consultant Gynecologist, Roswell Park Memorial Institute; Attending Gynecologist, University Hospitals, Buffalo, New York.

**MONROE F. JAHNS, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor, Department of Biophysics, The University of Texas at Houston; Assistant Physicist, and Chief, Section of Radioisotopes, The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute, Houston, Texas.

**ELWOOD V. JENSEN, Ph.D.**

Professor of Physiology, and Director, Ben May Laboratory for Cancer Research, The University of Chicago School of Medicine, Chicago, Illinois.

**DAVID G. JOHNS, M.D.**

Head, Drug Metabolism Section, Laboratory of Chemical Pharmacology, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland.

**IRVING S. JOHNSON, Ph.D.**

Executive Director of Research, The Lilly Research Laboratories, Eli Lilly and Company, Indianapolis, Indiana.

**RITA M. KELLEY, M.D.**

Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School; Physician, Massachusetts General Hospital; Visiting Physician, Pondville Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts.

**B. J. KENNEDY, M.D.**

Professor of Medicine, and Director, Section of Oncology, Department of Medicine; Masonic Professor of Oncology, University of Minnesota School of Medicine; Staff Physician, University Hospitals, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

**DAVID KESSEL, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor of Pharmacology, University of Rochester School of Medicine, Rochester, New York.

**ROBERT R. KIERLAND, M.D.**

Professor of Dermatology, Mayo Graduate School of Medicine, University of Minnesota; Consultant, Department of Dermatology, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota.

**EDMUND KLEIN, M.D.**

Research Professor of Medicine (Dermatology), School of Medicine, State University of New York at Buffalo; Chief, Department of Dermatology, Roswell Park Memorial Hospital, Buffalo, New York.

**MORTON M. KLIGERMAN, M.D.**

Professor, Department of Radiology, University of New Mexico School of Medicine; Director, Cancer Research and Treatment Center, University of New Mexico; Chief, Radiation Oncology Service, Bernalillo County Medical Center, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

**P. RUBEN KOEHLER, M.D.**

Professor, Department of Radiology, University of Utah College of Medicine; Chief, Division of Diagnostic Radiology, University Hospitals, Salt Lake City, Utah.

**LEOPOLD G. KOSS, M.D.**

Professor of Pathology, Thomas Jefferson University School of Medicine; Pathologist-in-Chief, Sinai Hospital of Baltimore, Inc., Baltimore, Maryland.

**WILLIAM B. KREMER, M.D.**

Assistant Professor of Medicine, Duke University Medical Center; Chief, Hematology Section, Veterans Administration Hospital, Durham, North Carolina.

**FAITH H. KUNG, M.D.**

Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics, University of California at San Diego; Chief, Division of Hematology, and Active Attending Physician, Department of Pediatrics, University Hospital of San Diego, San Diego, California.

**MYO M. KYAW, M.D.**

Assistant Professor, Department of Radiology, University of Utah College of Medicine, Salt Lake City, Utah.

**JOHN LASZLO, M.D.**

Professor of Medicine, Duke University Medical Center; Chief, Medical Service, Veterans Administration Hospital, Durham, North Carolina.

**HENRY M. LEMON, M.D.**

Professor of Internal Medicine, Division of Oncology, University of Nebraska Medical Center; Medical Staff, University Hospital, Clarkson Douglas County Hospital, Omaha Veterans Administration Hospital, Omaha, Nebraska.

**LUIGI LENAZ, M.D.**

Research Assistant, Division of Experimental Oncology, Istituto Nazionale per lo Studio e la Cura dei Tumori, Milan, Italy.

**GERALD A. LePAGE, Ph.D.**

Professor of Pharmacology and Chief, Pharmacology Section, The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute at Houston, Houston, Texas.

**TI LI LOO, Ph.D.**

Professor of Pharmacology, The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute at Houston, Houston, Texas.

**GRANT W. LIDDLE, M.D.**

Professor and Chairman, Department of Medicine, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine; Physician-in-Chief, Vanderbilt University Hospital, Nashville, Tennessee.

**JAMES K. LUCE, M.D.**

Director of Clinical Research, Mountain States Tumor Institute, Boise, Idaho.

**CHARLES M. McBRIDE, M.D.**

Associate Surgeon (General Surgery); Associate in Surgery, and Acting Chief, Section of Experimental Surgery, The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute at Houston, Houston, Texas.

**KENNETH B. McCREDIE, M.B., Ch.B.**

Assistant Professor of Medicine; Assistant Internist, Department of Developmental Therapeutics, The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute at Houston, Houston, Texas.

**O. ROSS McINTYRE, M.D.**

Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, and Head, Hematology Section, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, Hanover, New Hampshire.

**EDWARD M. MAHONEY, M.D.**

Assistant Clinical Professor of Surgery (Urology), Harvard Medical School; Senior Associate in Urologic Surgery, Peter Bent Brigham Hospital; Surgeon-in-Chief, Urology Section, Carney Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts.

**GEORGE D. MALKASIAN, JR., M.D.**

Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Mayo Graduate School of Medicine, University of Minnesota; Consultant, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Mayo Clinic and Mayo Foundation, Rochester, Minnesota.

**RICHARD G. MARTIN, M.D.**

Surgeon and Professor of Surgery, The University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences; Chief, Section of General Surgery, The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute, Houston, Texas.

**CLAUDE MAWAS, M.D.**

Clinical Research Fellow, Department of Medicine A, Roswell Park Memorial Institute, Buffalo, New York.

**CHARLES E. MENGEL, M.D.**

Professor and Chairman, Department of Medicine, University of Missouri Medical Center, Columbia, Missouri.

**ENRICO MIHICH, M.D.**

Professor and Chairman, Program of Pharmacology, Roswell Park Division of the Graduate School, State University of New York at Buffalo; Director, Department of Experimental Therapeutics and Cancer Drug Center, Roswell Park Memorial Institute, Buffalo, New York.

**CHARLES G. MOERTEL, M.D.**

Professor of Medicine, Mayo Graduate School, University of Minnesota; Consultant in Internal Medicine, Gastroenterology, and Clinical On-

cology, Mayo Clinic and Mayo Foundation, Rochester, Minnesota.

**DONALD L. MORTON, M.D.**

Professor of Surgery; Chief, Division of Oncology, Center for Health Sciences, University of California at Los Angeles; Chief of Surgery, Sepulveda Veterans Administration Hospital, Sepulveda, California.

**CALUM S. MUIR, Ph.D.**

Chief, Unit of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, International Agency for Research on Cancer, Lyon, France.

**PIERO MUSTACCHI, M.D.**

Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine and of Preventive Medicine; Associate Director of Continuing Education, School of Medicine, University of California at San Francisco; Attending Staff Physician, Moffitt Hospital; Consulting Staff Physician, Children's Hospital, Franklin Hospital, and St. Mary's Hospital, San Francisco, California.

**JAMES H. NELSON, JR., M.D.**

Professor and Chairman, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, State University of New York, Downstate Medical Center; Chairman, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Kings County Hospital and State University Hospital, Brooklyn, New York.

**KENNETH M. NELSON, M.D.**

Assistant Professor of Neurological Surgery, University of New Mexico School of Medicine, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

**ROBERT L. NEY, M.D.**

Professor of Medicine and Physiology, University of North Carolina School of Medicine; Attending Physician, North Carolina Memorial Hospital, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

**GEORGE W. NIXON, M.D.**

Instructor, Department of Radiology, University of Utah College of Medicine; Associate Radiologist, Primary Children's Hospital, Salt Lake City, Utah.

**WILLIAM L. NYHAN, M.D., Ph.D.**

Professor and Chairman, Department of Pediatrics, University of California at San Diego; Professor and Chairman, Department of Pediatrics, University Hospital of San Diego County, San Diego, California.

**TIMOTHY E. O'CONNOR, Ph.D.**

Coordinator, Molecular Control, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland.

**HERBERT F. OETTGEN, M.D.**

Member, Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research; Attending Physician and Chief, Clinical Immunology Service, Memorial Hospital, New York, New York.

**TAKAO OHNUMA, M.D., Ph.D.**

Assistant Research Professor of Medicine, State University of New York at Buffalo; Clinician I, Department of Medicine A, Roswell Park Memorial Institute, Buffalo, New York.

**VINCENT T. OLIVERIO, Ph.D.**

Associate Scientific Director for Experimental Therapeutics, Chemotherapy, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland.

**KENNETH B. OLSON, M.D.**

Professor of Medicine, Division of Oncology, Albany Medical College; Attending Physician, Albany Medical Center Hospital; Consultant in Oncology, Albany Veterans Administration Hospital, Delaware Valley Hospital, Walton, New York, and Nathan Littauer Hospital, Gloversville, New York.

**BERGEIN F. OVERHOLT, M.D.**

Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine, University of Tennessee School of Medicine; Chief, Section of Gastroenterology, St. Mary's Hospital, Memphis, Tennessee.

**DONALD PINKEL, M.D.**

Medical Director, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, Tennessee.

**VAN R. POTTER, Ph.D.**

Professor of Oncology, University of Wisconsin Medical Center, Madison, Wisconsin.

**CHARLES B. PRATT, M.D.**

Associate Member in Chemotherapy, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, Tennessee.

**GEORGE R. PROUT, JR., M.D.**

Professor of Surgery, Harvard Medical School; Chief, Urological Service, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts.

DAVID P. RALL, M.D., Ph.D.

Adjunct Professor of Pharmacology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Director, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina.

ANNE L. RASSIGA-PIDOT, M.D.

Assistant Professor of Medicine, Case Western Reserve University; Assistant Chief, Hematology Section, Cleveland Veterans Administration Hospital, Cleveland, Ohio.

FRANK J. RAUSCHER, JR., Ph.D.

Director, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland.

GUSTAVO REYNOSO, M.D.

Associate Clinical Professor of Pathology, State University of New York, Upstate Medical Center, Syracuse, New York; Chief, Department of Pathology, and Director of Clinical Laboratories, Charles S. Wilson Memorial Hospital, Johnson City, New York.

EDWARD P. RICHARDSON, JR., M.D.

Associate Professor of Neuropathology, Harvard Medical School; Neurologist and Neuropathologist, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts.

BETTY S. ROOF, M.D.

Lecturer in Medicine, School of Medicine; Associate Research Physician, Cancer Research Institute, University of California Medical Center at San Francisco, San Francisco, California.

FRED ROSEN, Ph.D.

Research Professor of Biochemistry and Adjunct Professor of Pharmacology, State University of New York at Buffalo; Associate Chief Cancer Research Scientist, Department of Experimental Therapeutics, Roswell Park Memorial Institute, Buffalo, New York.

SAUL A. ROSENBERG, M.D.

Professor of Medicine and Radiology; Head, Division of Oncology, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, California.

FELIX RUTLEDGE, M.D.

Professor of Gynecology, and Gynecologist-in-Chief, The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute at Houston, Houston, Texas.

NAGUIB A. SAMAAAN, M.D., Ph.D.

Professor of Internal Medicine; Chief, Section of Endocrinology, The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute at Houston, Houston, Texas.

AVERY A. SANDBERG, M.D.

Research Professor of Physiology, State University of New York at Buffalo; Chief of Medicine C, Roswell Park Memorial Institute, Buffalo, New York.

ALAN C. SARTORELLI, Ph.D.

Professor, Department of Pharmacology, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, Connecticut.

FRANK M. SCHABEL, JR., Ph.D.

Professor of Microbiology, and Associate Professor of Experimental Pathology, University of Alabama Medical School; Director, Chemotherapy Research, Southern Research Institute, Birmingham, Alabama.

MARVIN A. SCHNEIDERMAN, Ph.D.

Adjunct Professor, Graduate School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Associate Clinical Professor, Georgetown University School of Medicine, Washington, D.C.; Associate Scientific Director for Demography, DCCP, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland.

ALBERT SEGALOFF, M.D.

Professor of Clinical Medicine, Tulane University School of Medicine; Staff Member, Department of Internal Medicine, Ochsner Clinic; Attending Physician, Ochsner Foundation Hospital; Head, Endocrine Research, Section I, Alton Ochsner Medical Foundation; Consultant in Internal Medicine, Charity Hospital of Louisiana, New Orleans, Louisiana.

OLEG S. SELAWRY, M.D.

Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, George Washington University Medical Center, Washington, D.C.; Chief, NCI-VA Medical Oncology Branch, Division of Cancer Treatment, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland; Physician, Veterans Administration Hospital, Washington, D.C.



**ARNOLD M. SELIGMAN, M.D.**

Professor of Surgery, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine; American Cancer Society Professor of Research Oncology and Cell Biology; Director, Department of Research Oncology and Cell Biology, Sinai Hospital of Baltimore, Baltimore, Maryland.

**ROBERT D. SHAFFER, M.D.**

Assistant Professor of Medicine, and Director, Gastrointestinal Diagnostic Laboratories, University of Missouri Medical Center, Columbia, Missouri.

**DONALD P. SHEDD, M.D.**

Associate Research Professor of Surgery, State University of New York at Buffalo; Chief, Department of Head and Neck Surgery, Roswell Park Memorial Institute, Buffalo, New York.

**MICHAEL B. SHIMKIN, M.D.**

Professor of Community Medicine and Oncology, School of Medicine, University of California at San Diego; Staff, University Hospital, San Diego, California.

**LUCIUS F. SINKS, M.D., D.Sc.**

Associate Research Professor of Pediatrics, State University of New York at Buffalo; Chief, Department of Pediatrics, Roswell Park Memorial Institute; Staff, Children's Hospital in Buffalo, Buffalo, New York.

**HOWARD E. SKIPPER, Ph.D.**

Professor of Experimental Pathology, Department of Pathology; Professor of Investigative Medicine (Voluntary), Department of Medicine, University of Alabama School of Medicine; Vice President and Director, Kettering-Meyer Laboratory, Southern Research Institute, Birmingham, Alabama.

**EDITH E. SPROUL, M.D.**

Associate Chief Cancer Research Pathologist, Roswell Park Memorial Institute, Buffalo, New York.

**G. GORDON STEEL, Ph.D.**

Biophysics Department, Institute of Cancer Research, Belmont, Surrey, England; Lecturer, University of London, London, England.

**PETER STRÄULI, M.D.**

Head, Department of Cancer Research, Institute of Pathology, University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland.

**WATARU W. SUTOW, M.D.**

Pediatrician and Professor of Pediatrics, The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute; Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Baylor College of Medicine, Texas Medical Center, Houston, Texas.

**ROBERT W. TALLEY, M.D.**

Chief, Division of Oncology, Department of Medicine, Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, Michigan.

**JOSEPH TANZER, M.D.**

Professor of Hematology, School of Medicine, University of Poitiers; Chief, Department of Hematology, University Hospital, Poitiers, France; Chief, Department of Cytogenetics, Hôpital St. Louis, Paris, France.

**HAMAO UMEZAWA, M.D.**

Professor, Institute of Applied Microbiology, University of Tokyo; Director, Institute of Microbial Chemistry; Director, Department of Antibiotics of National Institute of Health, Tokyo, Japan.

**ARTHUR C. UPTON, M.D.**

Dean and Professor of Pathology, School of Basic Health Sciences, State University of New York at Stony Brook; Attending Pathologist, Medical Department, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Stony Brook, New York.

**UMBERTO VERONESI, M.D.**

Director, Division of Clinical Oncology, Istituto Nazionale per lo Studio e la Cura dei Tumori, Milan, Italy.

**RAUL VILLANUEVA, M.D.**

Assistant Professor and Associate Physiatrist, Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, University of Texas M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute at Houston, Houston, Texas.

**ERWIN P. VOLLMER, Ph.D.**

Chief, Endocrine Evaluation Branch, National Cancer Institute; Executive Secretary, Breast Cancer Task Force, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland.

**MICHAEL WALKER, M.D.**

Chief, National Cancer Institute-Baltimore Cancer Research Center, U.S. Public Health Service Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland.

LOUIS R. WASSERMAN, M.D.

Distinguished Service Professor, The Mt. Sinai School of Medicine; Consultant Hematologist, Mt. Sinai Hospital, New York, New York.

JOHN H. WEISBURGER, Ph.D.

Head, Carcinogen Screening Section, and Director, Bioassay Segment, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland.

GLYNN P. WHEELER, Ph.D.

Head, Cancer Biochemistry Division, Southern Research Institute, Birmingham, Alabama.

JOHN WHITECAR, M.D.

Chief, Oncology Service, Brooke Army Hospital, San Antonio, Texas.

SUMNER WOOD, JR., M.D.

Clinical Professor of Pathology, New Jersey College of Medicine, Newark, New Jersey; Visiting

Lecturer in Pathology, Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, Baltimore, Maryland; Director, Department of Experimental Pathology, Merck Institute for Therapeutic Research, Rahway, New Jersey.

JOHN L. ZIEGLER, M.D.

Director, Uganda Cancer Institute; Senior Investigator, Medicine Branch, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland; Honorary Lecturer, Makerere University Medical School, Kampala, Uganda; Lecturer in Surgery, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts; Associate Professor, Cornell University Medical School, New York, New York; Honorary Consultant, Mulago Hospital, Kampala, Uganda.

C. GORDON ZUBROD, M.D.

Scientific Director for Chemotherapy, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland.

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