

## Book Review

*Society for General Microbiology. Symposium 51. Viruses and Cancer.* A. MINSON & M. McCRAE, eds. Pp. 309. Cambridge University Press: 1994. £55.00. ISBN 0-521-45472-7.

This hardback volume presents the proceedings of the 51st Symposium of the Society for General Microbiology. It is concerned with the role of viruses in cancer, and has been published with remarkable speed and includes references from 1993. This is an authoritative and up-to-date review of viruses and cancer.

It begins with a useful chapter on the nature and role of tumour suppressor genes and p53. This is followed by chapters on human and bovine papillomavirus and an overview of the possibilities for vaccination against HPV and carcinoma of the cervix. The next three chapters and the introductory chapter deal with various aspects of Epstein–Barr virus and oncogenesis. Next hepatitis B and C viruses are considered as causes of hepatocellular carcinoma and the woodchuck model of HBV oncogenesis is critically evaluated.

The next section examines retroviruses as causes of cancer in man and other animals. It covers HTLV and leukaemia, the biology of oncogenesis by bovine leukaemia virus and feline and rodent leukaemia and lymphoma. In each case these are used to illustrate the basic principles of viral oncogenesis and the validity of the particular viral system to malignancies in other species. This is an interesting and useful book which I have no hesitation in recommending.

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