Foundations of Clinical Cancer Research:
Perspective for the 21st Century

A Symposium to Honor Emil J Freireich, M.D.,
on the Occasion of His 70th Birthday

M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Houston, TX
March 14–15, 1997

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Foreword

This Special Issue of Clinical Cancer Research contains the invited papers presented at the symposium entitled “Foundations of Clinical Cancer Research: Perspective for the 21st Century,” which was held on March 14–15, 1997, at M. D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX. This Symposium was held to honor Dr. Emil J Freireich on the occasion of his 70th birthday. The purpose of the meeting was two-fold: (a) to recognize Dr. Freireich’s unique contribution to the field of clinical cancer research, and (b) to bring together the key leaders who worked with him in its development from the mid-1950s to the present. These key leaders trained many of the current leaders in the field, and the work of these former trainees of Dr. Freireich is also very important to the theme of this Symposium. Indeed, the papers presented in this Special Issue are meant to both summarize the current state of affairs in the various aspects of clinical cancer research, and also to point the way to the future, both in the treatment of various cancers and in the development of new modalities. The Symposium Steering Committee and the Symposium presenters feel that Dr. Freireich, through his unique perspective on clinical research, which was highly innovative in the early years, is responsible in a major way for our current approaches to clinical research in cancer. Therefore, in addition to the papers presented at the Symposium, we are also publishing, for the first time, Dr. Freireich’s 1976 David A. Karnofsky Lecture, which was presented at the 12th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology. We feel this award lecture was a particularly important exposition of Dr. Freireich’s philosophy of research and its interaction with society. Also, as part of this Symposium, the First Emil J Freireich Award in Clinical Cancer Research was presented to Dr. Hagop Kantarjian (M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX). His award lecture is also published in this Special Issue, and it is our plan that the Freireich Award will be an annual award.

The Steering Committee is grateful to all the Symposium speakers, to the many scientists and physicians who participated in the meeting, and especially to those whose manuscripts appear herein. We particularly wish to thank M. D. Anderson Cancer Center for providing its facilities for the meeting and the Department of Conference Services for organizing the meeting and various associated events. The Freireich Symposium was generously underwritten by the individuals and companies listed on p. 2546. We also greatly appreciate their support toward publication of this Special Issue.

Evan M. Hersh
Clinical Cancer Research


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