Inside Cancer - Multimedia Guide to Cancer Biology

Cold Spring Harbor Symposia on Quantitative Biology
Molecular Approaches to Controlling Cancer Symposium Scenes

Fifty years ago, James Watson and Francis Crick made one of the major discoveries of the twentieth century: they described the double helix structure of DNA, leading them to receive the Nobel Prize for this work. Their discovery has been a major milestone in molecular biology, leading to major advancements in the understanding of disease and genetics.

Although James Watson will always be associated with DNA and its double helix structure, he will always be remembered for his remarkable writing, both literary and scientific.
Inside Cancer

» What are the molecular causes of cancer? How have researchers developed effective, targeted therapies for some forms of the disease? Why do combination therapies hold particular promise for treating certain tumors?

These are a few of the many questions answered by Inside Cancer, an ambitious new interactive website created by the Dolan DNA Learning Center's BioMedia Group. Inside Cancer (www.insidecancer.org) compresses a wealth of information about the biology of cancer into a clear, well-organized, richly educational resource for the public.

Comprehensible to high school students yet offering authoritative, in-depth analyses of many cancer-related topics, Inside Cancer is an excellent self-teaching and research tool. Imaginative multimedia presentations—including animated illustrations—function both as a vivid visual aid to understanding and as a brisk antidote to information overload.

One of the several noteworthy strengths of Inside Cancer is that it is a self-contained resource that does not rely on directing visitors to other websites. Instead, when necessary, the visitor is guided to a host of additional relevant material within the site, such as a pop-up "Molecule Menu" that provides helpful definitions for users to consult as required.

The site is divided into four broad, easily navigable categories: Hallmarks of Cancer, Causes and Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment, and Pathways to Cancer. Features within each category include exclusive video interviews with experts; 3D animations that depict, for example, the roles of growth control proteins in the cancer process and how cancer drugs work; and compelling, country-by-country maps of the worldwide prevalence of several forms of cancer.

Funded by a grant from the National Institutes of Health, Inside Cancer is an outstanding introduction to what is currently known about most facets of this disease.

Symposium Live

» Since its inception in 1933, the annual Cold Spring Harbor Symposium on Quantitative Biology ("the Symposium") has been a highlight of the international scientific calendar. By covering a broad range of emerging topics in the biological and biomedical sciences, and by gathering the world's leading international scientists and writers who offer lively opinions about Watson's life, scientific work, and literary achievements. Montages of text-linked photos, news articles, original book covers, correspondence, and other personal documents lend the website the friendly and inviting feel of a meticulously annotated scrapbook.

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The website's moniker Honest Jim was a working title of The Double Helix and stemmed from Watson's appreciation of Kingsley Amis' classic 1954 comic novel, Lucky Jim.