

Dr. Richard G. Lynch

Dr. Richard Lynch received his B.A. degree in Zoology, University of Missouri, and his M.D. degree from the University of Rochester in 1966. Following graduation from medical school, Dick joined our training program in anatomic and experimental pathology. During this period of training, Dick became interested in the field of cancer immunology. In order to obtain the basic expertise required to work in this field, he trained for two years under the direction of one of the most outstanding immunochemists in the world—Dr. Herman Eisen, previous Chairman, Department of Microbiology, Washington University Medical School.

While working with Dr. Eisen, Dick discovered that immunization of animals with specific myeloma proteins would inhibit the growth of myeloma tumor cells in the immunized animals. This remarkable finding led to a continuing series of investigations on the mechanism of inhibition of growth of the neoplasms in the immunized animals.

In collaborative studies with Dr. Gerald Medoff, Department of Medicine, Washington University School of Medicine, Dick demonstrated that the antitumor effects of amphotericin B were in part due to the production of antibodies to the tumor in the treated animals. These investigations demonstrated that leukemic cells would survive in the central nervous system of these animals since the antibodies could not destroy the tumor cells in this privileged site. This animal model is directly applicable to human leukemias and provides an explanation of this phenomenon in man as well as providing a model to devise a means of eradicating the neoplastic cells remaining in the central nervous system.

In recent studies, Dick has developed techniques which indicate that myeloma tumor cells may undergo differentiation from primitive cells to mature cells which produce specific immunoglobulins. These fundamental findings are of direct importance in understanding the growth and development of human neoplasms as well as providing animal models for evaluating chemotherapeutic agents used in the treatment of certain tumors. Dick is not only an outstanding scientist, but he is a compassionate teacher who provides inspiration and leadership for the students.



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