

in normal and adenomatous human pituitary tissues using the polymerase chain reaction. *Cancer (Phila.)*, 76: 490–496, 1995.

9. IARC Working Group. *Monographs on the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risks to Humans*, Vol. 64: Human Papillomaviruses. Lyon, France: IARC, 1996.

tumors based on the detection of the virus in human cancers, I feel it would be an equal mistake to ignore the presence of a highly oncogenic virus in humans.

Mauro Tognon
Institute of Histology and General Embryology
School of Medicine
University of Ferrara
Via Fossato di Mortara 64/B
44100 Ferrara, Italy

Reply

I agree with most of Dr. Strickler's comments concerning the article by Martini *et al.* (1) and the problem of SV40 as a putative human virus. I find reasonable his warning to consider the presence of SV40 sequences in human tissues as an association and not as proof of an etiologic role of the virus in human tumors. However, if it would be a mistake to suggest a causal relationship between SV40 and human

Reference

1. Martini, F., Iaccheri, L., Lazzarin, L., Carinci, P., Corallini, A., Gerosa, M., Iuzzolino, P., Barbanti-Brodano, G., and Tognon, M. SV40 early region and large T antigen in human brain tumors, peripheral blood cells, and sperm fluids from healthy individuals. *Cancer Res.*, 56: 4820–4825, 1996.

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