Cancer gene found
Weinberg leads research team

Recently, however, Weinberg's group discovered that all cancerous cells of a specific type always have the same single gene that makes a cancerous cell overproduce the gene. This gene is called the "cancer gene," and it is responsible for the growth of cancerous cells. By identifying this gene, Weinberg and his colleagues have made significant progress in understanding the mechanisms of cancer development.

**By Tom Lordeo**

Genes that transform healthy cells into cancerous cells were recently isolated by three research groups, according to Dr. Robert Weinberg, MIT. Weinberg explained that three years ago it was discovered that the information responsible for the cancerous growth of a cell is carried in the cell's DNA. Weinberg said that this discovery prompted researchers to attempt to isolate the component of DNA that was responsible for the cancerous effect. This component appeared to be a single gene.

One and a half years ago it was discovered that "altered versions of normal cellular genes, and not foreign genes," were responsible for carcinogenesis, according to Weinberg. He noted that the transformation of any given cell into a cancer cell could be accomplished by the alteration of any one of many genes by a carcinogenic substance.

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