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I suppose my interest in cancer research began with my Ph.D. studies on the structure of DNA, when I demonstrated by chemical means that the sugar component of the pyrimidine nucleotides was D- 2-deoxyribose (*Canadian Journal of Chemistry* 1956; 34:1168-75). A chemical proof had not been obtained previously! After this work, I published studies on the reaction of sulphur mustard with DNA. Sulphur mustard is analog of nitrogen mustard, which was widely used to treat leukemias. One finding of note was that the mustard formed intrastrand links with DNA as well as the already discovered interstrand links. Subsequent studies concerned the repair of DNA in mammalian cells that had been treated with nitrogen or sulphur mustard, UV-light or 4NQO, a compound that mimics the action of UV-light.

I benefited greatly from a Canadian Cancer Society fellowship held at the Princess Margaret Hospital, Toronto; an Eleanor Roosevelt International fellowship at the Chester Beatty Research Institute, England; and sabbatical periods at Erasmus University, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, and at Stanford University, California. Not only did these periods aid my research but they added to my knowledge of the cancer problem, which I passed on to many classes of medical and science students. Throughout my career I published articles in the journal *Cancer Research*, was a referee for articles in that journal, and of course attended the wonderful meetings of the AACR.