

Professor K.H. Bauer, had he lived, would have been delighted to celebrate the 25th Birthday of the Institute he had created. By 1989, the Center employed 1500 people; among them more than 300 senior scientists and postgraduates as well as almost 200 graduate and undergraduate students. Its annual budget in 1989 was DM 140 million, with DM 100 million from the Federal Ministry of Research and the remainder from the Land Baden-Württemberg, the German Research Association, (DFG), and from a number of other Foundations.

In 1975 the DKFZ was incorporated as one of Germany's famous National Research Laboratories, and Professor Dr Harald zur Hausen was appointed as the Chairman of the Centre's Managing Board of the Krebsforschungszentrum in Heidelberg. It was by no means a smooth path during those 25 years to achieve world rank, and numerous obstacles had to be overcome. But due to the great scientific ability, the administrative skill and engaging personality of Harald zur Hausen, final success came as the recognition of being one of the world's Centers of Excellence in its field. I had often been a personal witness to its growth pangs and was therefore happy to produce the special issue of ISR in September 1989 which bore such eloquent testimony to the Center's eminence.

The Issue began with Congratulatory Messages from Dr Heinz Riesenhuber, the Federal Minister of Research and Technology in Bonn and was followed by Anniversary Greetings from Professor Dr Helmut Engler, the Minister for the Sciences and the Arts of the Land Baden-Württemberg in Stuttgart. The principal article, which followed my Editorial and the Congratulations to the 25th Anniversary, was the contribution by Harald zur Hausen on "Growth of New Knowledge in the Concepts of Carcinogenesis". The description of the role of viruses in specific human cancers was one of the focal points in the article. Another important new field of advance was described by Hilke Stamatiadis-Smidt, the Head of the Office of Press and Public Information. Her merit is the 'telephonic cancer information service' allowing members of the public to obtain medical information about progress in their personal cancer therapy. It has been internationally imitated.

The 125-page issue, the second biggest ever published, contained articles about "Genes and Chromosomes in Cancer", "Growth Control of Lymphocytes", "Chemical Carcinogenesis", "Environmental N-nitroso Carcinogens", "Cancer of the Colon and the Rectum", "Human Immunodeficiencies", "Imaging Methods in Oncology", "Intermediate Filament Proteins", "Cancer Chemotherapy, Current Status" and "Immunotherapy of Cancer Metastases", all being contributed by Senior Members of the Staff of DKFZ, including one on "Administration of Scientific Research". The cover was a colour image of a three-dimensional structure of a transfer RNA molecule. I was told that the issue remained a success for several years.