

ABOUT THE COVER

Genetic technologies have revolutionized our understanding of many human diseases. The cover shows a technique called chromosome painting in which specific chromosomes are given computer-generated colors to aid in their identification. Humans have 46 chromosomes which come in pairs that are called homologs. The sample shown on the cover came from a person with cancer. Chromosomes 2 and 3 are labeled in pink and light blue. The other human chromosomes are blue. As you can see, one homolog of chromosome 2 and one homolog of chromosome 3 are intact. However, the other homologs of chromosomes 2 and 3 have exchanged pieces and produced a reciprocal translocation in which a small piece of chromosome 2 is attached to chromosome 3 and a small piece of chromosome 3 is attached to chromosome 2. This event alters the expression of particular genes on these chromosomes and thereby contributes to the development of cancer.



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