

# Small DNA Tumour Viruses

Edited by

Kevin Gaston

School of Biochemistry  
University of Bristol  
Bristol  
UK



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# Preface

The small DNA tumour viruses continue to provide new insights into many fundamental aspects of biology, including gene regulation, DNA replication, cell transformation, cell cycle control and tumorigenesis. The causal link between papillomaviruses and some human cancers is well known and has resulted in the development of effective vaccines that are coming into widespread use. A role for polyomavirus in human cancer has recently been established. Adenoviruses do not cause cancer in humans but, as well as providing excellent tools for the study of many host cell processes, these viruses have been exploited as delivery vehicles in gene therapy. A common feature of the small DNA tumour viruses is their heavy reliance on the host for survival

and replication. Understanding the virus–host relationship is critical to understanding the tumorigenic process and how these viruses subvert the host’s immune system. The aim of this book is to provide an overview of the molecular biology of these viruses and some of their interactions with the host. Many of the chapters focus on human papillomavirus, reflecting the current volume of research in this area. However, in many cases comparisons are made with other viruses. Other chapters go beyond the papillomaviruses and focus on cellular pathways that are targeted by many viruses. I hope that this collection is a useful reference for those currently working in this field and a stimulating introduction for those new to this area.

Kevin Gaston

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 E2 *see* HPV E2 protein  
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