Professor Joseph Sinkovics

József Sinkovics was born on 17th June 1924 in Budapest, so he is 99 years old now. He was 9 years old when his father died. The trauma of watching his father die led Sinkovics to become a medical doctor.

His mother provided for his education in difficult circumstances and he graduated summa cum laude in 1948.

He married Dr. Erzsébet Molnár, who was a virologist. For her contribution of the research of tick-borne encephalitis virus, she was awarded Manninger Prize by Hungarian Society for Microbiology. The couple, József and Erzsébet have twin children, Geza, who is a cameraman and Eszter who is a secondary school teacher.

Dr. Sinkovics started working at the Institute of Microbiology of the Faculty of Medicine of Pázmány Péter University, now it is called Semmelweis University. He isolated several viruses from patients, including Newcastle disease virus, influenza virus, mumps virus and lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus. It was a notable achievement at that time.

The Institute of Microbiology produced pertussis hyperimmune serum for therapeutic and prophylactic purposes. In 1950, under unclear circumstances it was contaminated with tetanus toxin, and caused the deaths of ten infants. For this, the head of the Institute and four of his colleagues, including Joseph Sinkovics, were prosecuted and imprisoned for political reasons. Sinkovics spent three years in prison. He was appointed prison doctor and was allowed to do scientific work in prison. He wrote his first textbook on virology, which was published after his release in 1955. The following year the textbook was published in German, too.

Within a few months, all charges against him had been dropped and he was appointed virologist to the National Public Health Institute.

In November 1956, Sinkovics escaped to Vienna to avoid further imprisonment. In Vienna, he managed to win a Rockefeller Foundation fellowship to the United States. He was sponsored by Albert Sabin, who appreciated him because of his textbook. He worked in several places in United State and gained a lot of experience.

Sinkovics spent a year at Rutgers' Waksman Institute of Microbiology in New Jersey, and then moved to work as a resident at Cook County Hospital, Chicago, to secure his license for clinical medicine. After completed it, Sinkovics worked at M.D. Anderson Hospital in Texas. He became the clinical chief of the united Sarcoma-Melanoma Clinics and In-patient Services; and operated as Chief the research laboratories Section of Clinical Tumor Virology and Immunology, within the Department of Medicine.

From 1979, he worked at Baylor College of Medicine in Texas, and the University of South Florida College of Medicine, Tampa, as an external professor.

From 1983 until his retirement, he was the Medical Director of the St. Joseph's Hospital Cancer Institute in Tampa, and continued to work after his formal retirement. His medical career was ended by the SARS-CoV-2 outbreak closures, as he was not allowed to enter the institute due to his age of 96.

Sinkovics made several key discoveries. In 1958, he published a paper in Nature in which he described his analysis of the properties of bacteria without cell walls. Ten years later, he discovered that cancer cells could be destroyed by certain lymphocytes, later identified as killer cells, without the host first being immunized. In the late 1960s, he was the first to observe and photograph previously unknown large granular lymphocytes in his own blood, which destroyed allogeneic human tumour cells in vitro. In 1968, he developed a tissue culture technique to produce monoclonal antibodies.

Later he published several papers on the relationship between viruses and tumours. He was also an early pioneer of the development of viral therapy for cancer.

207 journal publications can be found in PubMed, many of them written with Hungarian-born colleagues living in the US. The most recent was published two years ago, at his age of 97. He has written eight books, most of them on the relationship between viruses and tumours, and many of his books have been published in more than 10 editions. He is constantly improving and updating his books.

He was awarded a lot of scientific prizes and the external member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences since 1993.

He has been working as a virologist, researcher, oncologist and clinician for 75 years, which makes him eligible for the platinum diploma.

He is in close contact with Hungarian colleagues in several institutions, helping young talents. Even after the age of 90, he still came to Hungary to give lecture in congresses.

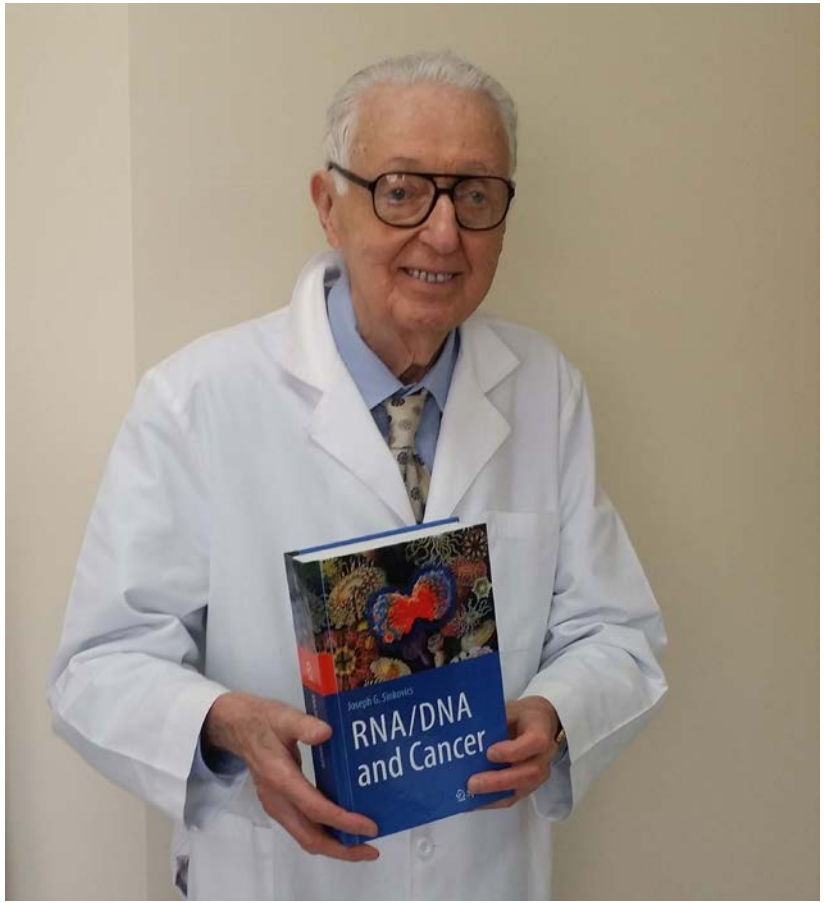
Because of his scientific activities and his connection with Hungarian science, Mária Takács proposed him as an honorary member of the Hungarian Microbiological Society, which was approved by the General Assembly, in April this year.

Unfortunately, due to his age, Prof. Sinkovics could not attend the ceremony.

The life and achievements of Joseph Sinkovics

Mária Takács
National Public Health Center, Semmelweis University

19th International Congress of the Hungarian Society for Microbiology
Eötvös Loránd University Convention Centre, Budapest, 5-7 July, 2023


Joseph G. Sinkovics
RNA/DNA
and Cancer

1946

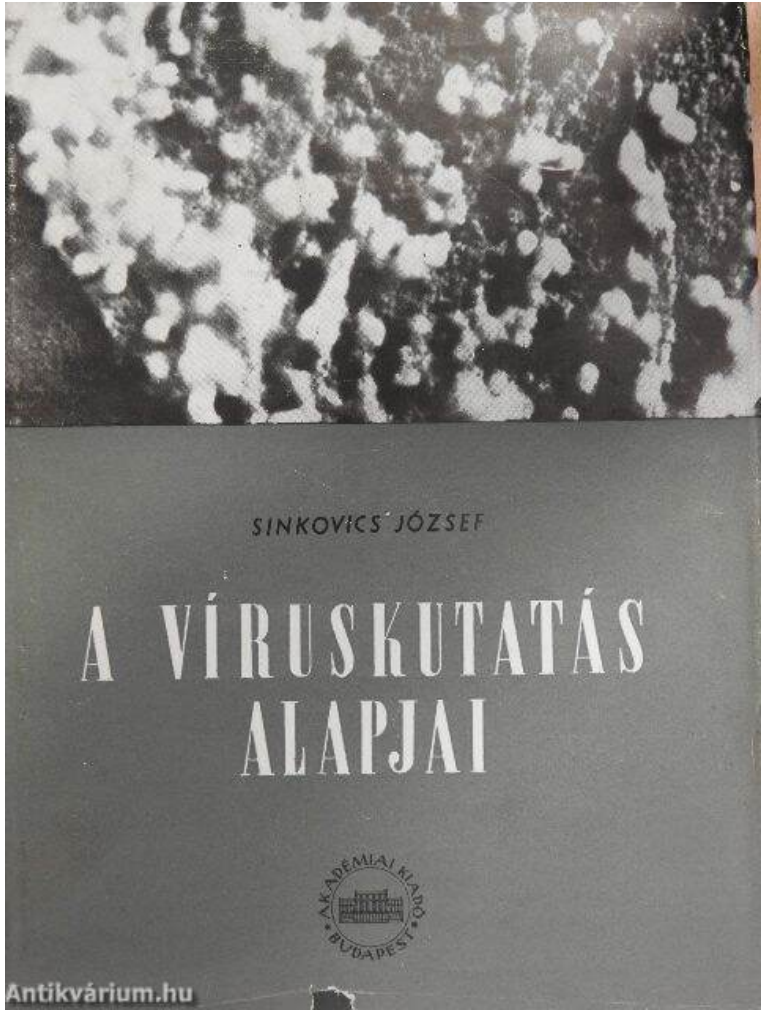
Medical student

Joseph Sinkovics’ wife

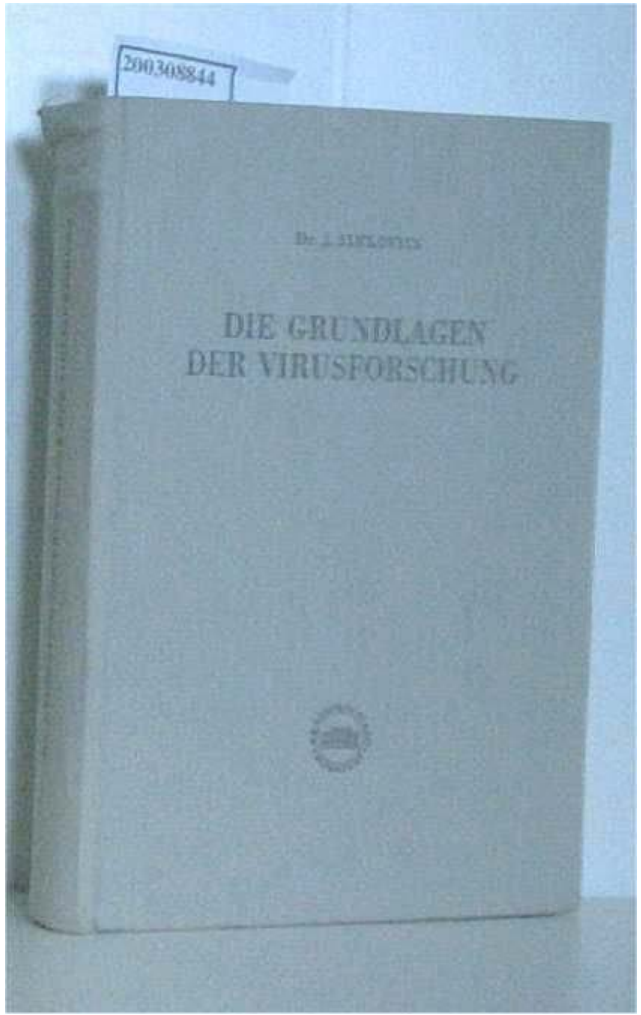
Prof. Erzsébet Molnár DSc, virologist, was awarded the Manninger Prize by the Hungarian Society of Microbiology.

1921-2014

1955


SINKOVICS JÓZSEF
A VÍRUSKUTATÁS ALAPJAI
AKADÉMIAI KIADÓ BUDAPEST
Antikvárium.hu

1956



1958

Published: 22 February 1958

Occurrence and Filterability of Protoplast-like Elements in Aged Bacterial Cultures

J. SINKOVICS

Nature **181**, 566–567 (1958) | Cite this article

1959

1963

1964

1966, Kenya

1976

1978

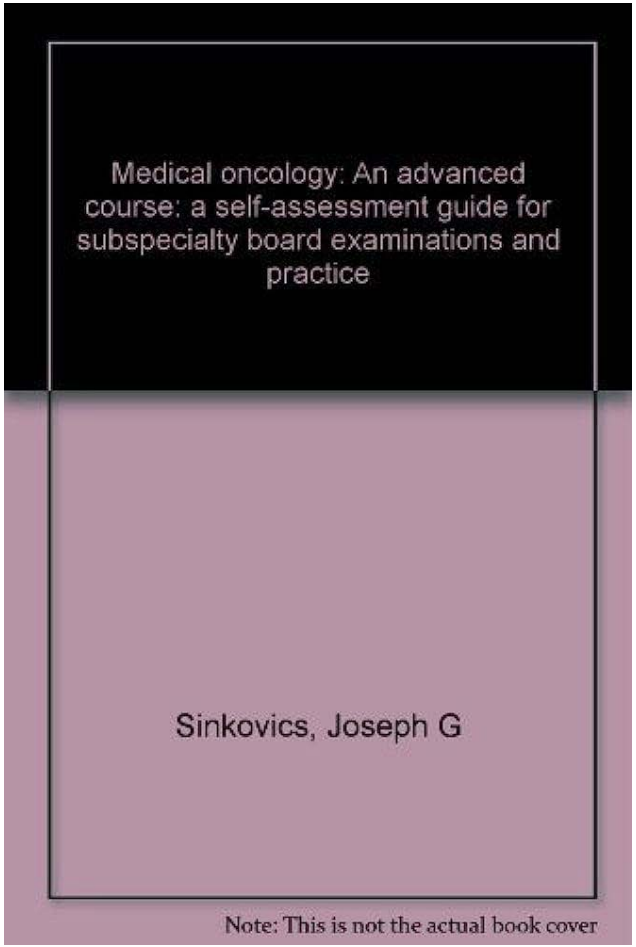
USA Semmelweis Award

1979

1979

1979

1979


Medical oncology: An advanced course: a self-assessment guide for subspecialty board examinations and practice
Sinkovics, Joseph G
Note: This is not the actual book cover

1983

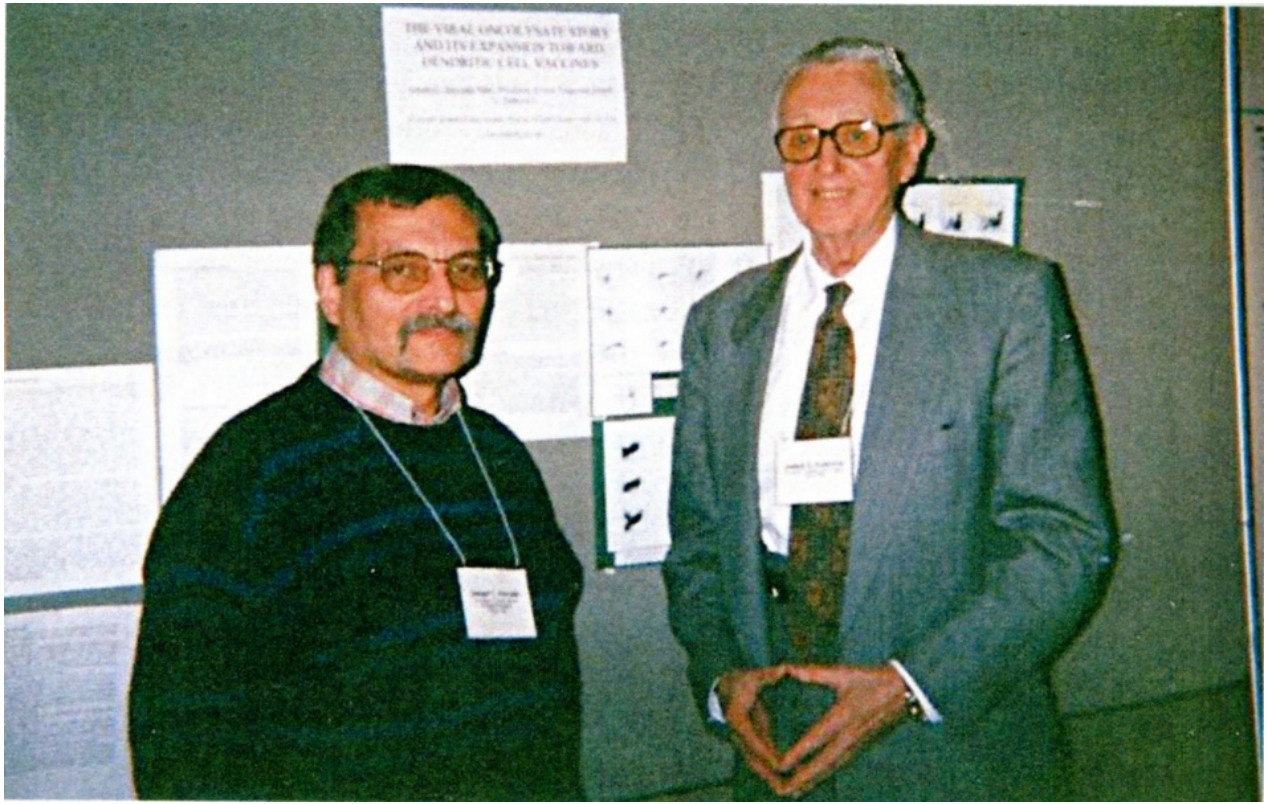
Cancer Institute, St. Joseph’s Hospital

1983

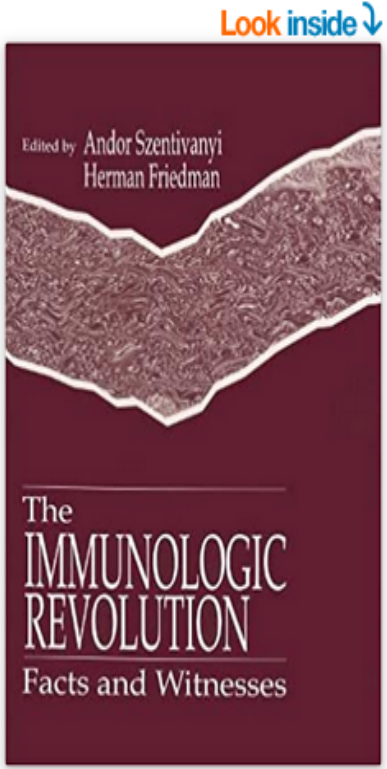
1980’s

With his mother

1993



1993



The Immunologic Revolution: Facts and Witnesses 1st Edition

by Andor Szentivanyi (Author), Herman Friedman (Author), Bernhard Cinader (Contributor), Robert A. Good (Contributor), J. F. A. P. Miller (Contributor), Noel R. Rose (Contributor), Joseph G. Sinkovics (Contributor), David W. Talmage (Contributor), Alain E. Bussard (Contributor), Jaroslav Sterzl (Contributor), Ervin Diener (Contributor), G. J. V. Nossal (Contributor), Joseph M. Yoffey (Contributor), Henry N. Claman (Contributor), Maxwell Richter (Contributor), Abram B. Stavitsky (Contributor), Felix Milgrom (Contributor), Gunther Gillissen (Contributor), Zoltan Ovary (Contributor), Panayotis Liacopoulos (Contributor), David W. Weiss (Contributor), Kurt Stern (Contributor)

★★★★★ 1 rating

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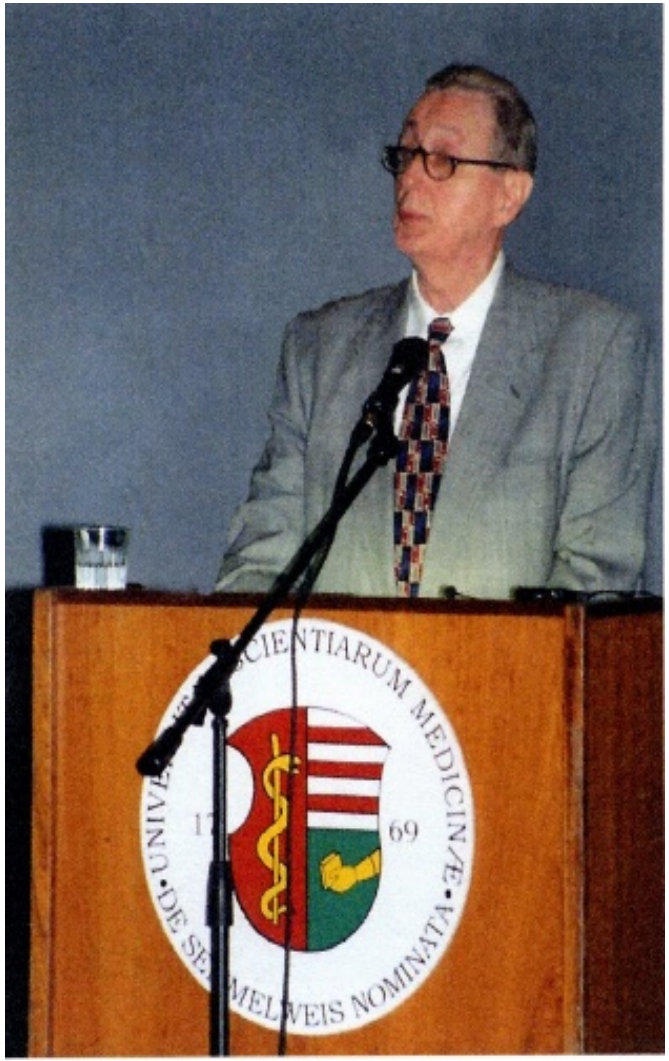
1994

Semmelweis University



1994

XVI. International Cancer Congress, New Delhi, India

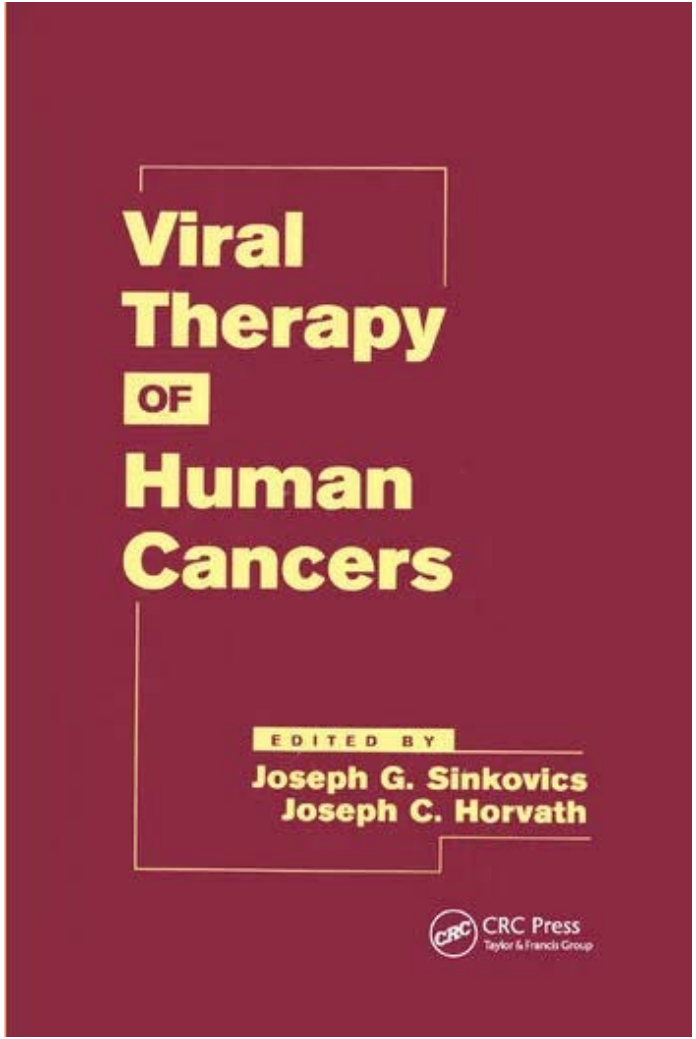
1994

XVI. International Cancer Congress, New Delhi, India

2003

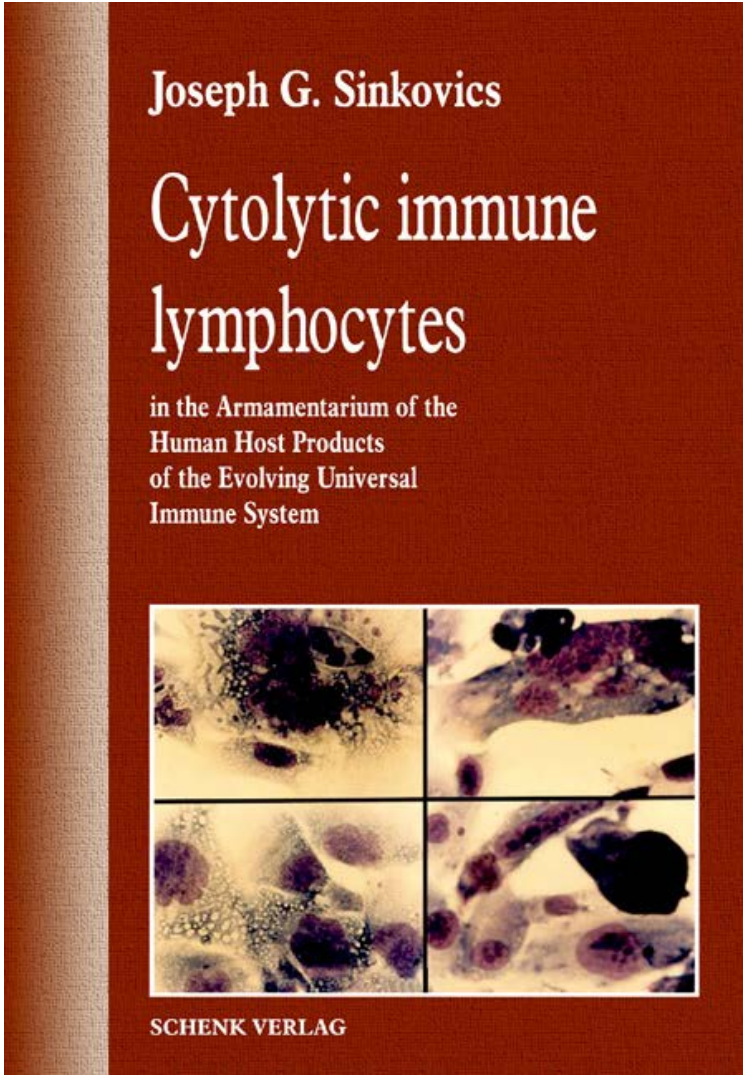
Banff, Canada, Viral Oncolysis Conference

2004


Viral
Therapy
OF
Human
Cancers
EDITED BY
Joseph G. Sinkovics
Joseph C. Horvath
CRC Press
Taylor & Francis Group

2006

2008

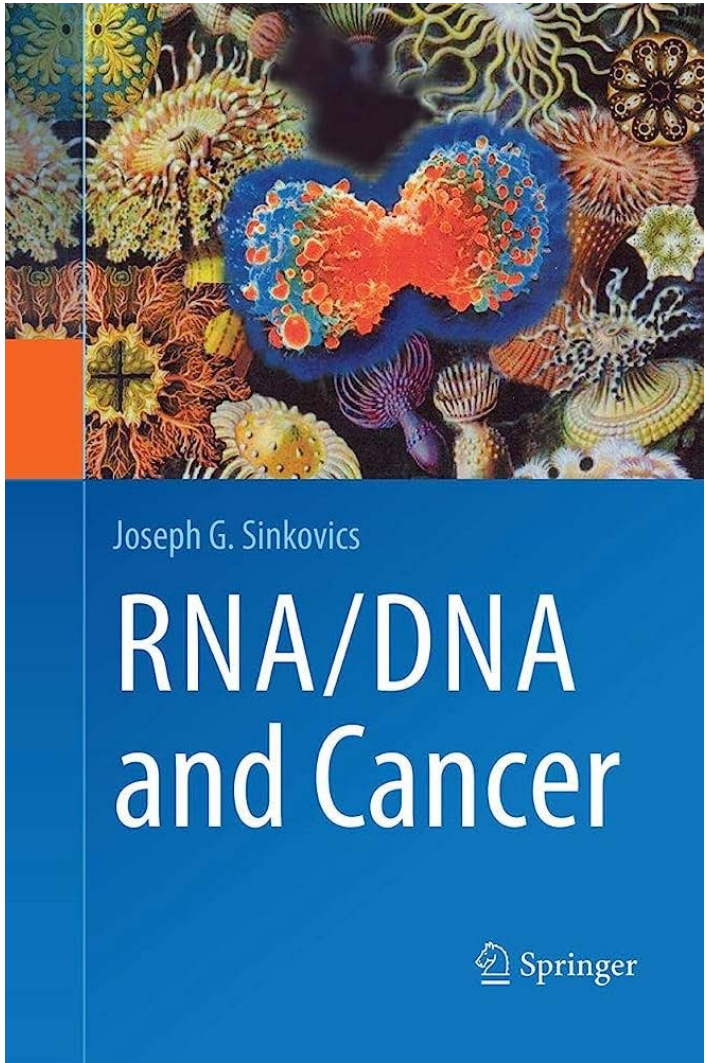

Joseph G. Sinkovics
Cytolytic immune lymphocytes
in the Armamentarium of the Human Host Products of the Evolving Universal Immune System
SCHENK VERLAG

2008

Diamond diploma

2011

2016



2021

AKADÉMIAI KIADÓ

European Journal of Microbiology and Immunology

11 (2021) 2, 44–49

DOI:
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REVIEW PAPER

Self-defense of human sarcoma cells against cytolytic lymphoid cells of their host

JOSEPH G SINKOVICS[1]* and JOSEPH C HORVATH[2]

[1] Retired Medical Director, Cancer Institute, St Joseph's Hospital Tampa, FL, USA

[2] Retired Director of Research & Development, Hemispherx Biopharma, Inc, New Brunswick NJ, USA

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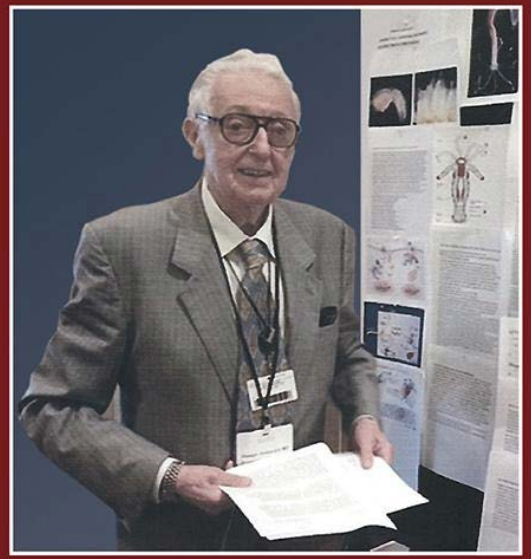
ABSTRACT

Metastatic human sarcomas temporarily respond to radio-chemotherapy relapse and remain highly resistant to further combination chemotherapy as to a curative effect, including checkpoint control.

KEYWORDS

Burnet's surveillance, natural hybridoma, myxofibrosarcoma, oncolytic virus, apoptosis, NK cells

2018



JOSEPH (JÓZSEF) SINKOVICS

My Life – My CV
Életutam

Dóm–Schenk