



## This special volume of mesothelioma is dedicated to my friend Adi Gazdar

As of today, Adi has >130,000 citations and an H-index of 175. Adi was the “father” of what it is now known as molecular pathology. Trained as a classic pathologist at Harvard, he applied molecular biology to pathology and elucidated the genetic alterations of lung cancer. In other words, he revolutionized the world of pathology using molecular biology. He established many cell lines, one of them was the ONLY cell line in which retroviruses grew: it was used to discover first HTLV1, and later to isolate and grow HIV. Adi told me: without my cell line, NCI would have closed all retro-virology labs! I met him at a meeting where I presented my work showing that SV40 DNA was present in some human mesotheliomas. He told me: I do not believe your data, I will test your hypothesis in my lab and disprove your findings. Yes, he spoke his mind, very directly, I was scared, he was quite famous, I was just a “kid”. He called me a few months later, he said remember me? Sure, Dr. Gazdar, so? So you were right! I laser microdissected mesothelioma and nearby normal tissue and found SV40 only in tumor cells. Since then we became friends!

A year ago, he told me he wanted that I edited an issue of *TLCR* dedicated to mesothelioma. He said he would have contributed the article about SV40 and mesothelioma and that he would have liked to have me and Janet Butel as co-authors of his article. When Adi asked something, it was very difficult to say no. A week later he sent me a power point outlining the article he planned to write, with the 2 figures included in the SV40-mesothelioma article, soon after he died, unexpectedly. I felt I owed to Adi to bring this issue of *TLCR* to light and I am thankful to all those who enthusiastically contributed an article to this issue. These articles have been written by the top experts in the field, all have gone through a rigorous peer review process. I hope this comprehensive issue will serve as a guide to mesothelioma to both MDs and PhDs.

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### Footnote

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**Ethical Statement:** The author is accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

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