Study Questions for Lecture 18 – Transformation and oncogenesis

1. What is meant by the term “transformation” as applied to cells in culture?

2. Explain the three ways that RNA tumor viruses transform cells.

3. What are the normal cellular functions of oncogenes identified by the study of RNA tumor viruses?


5. Do RNA and DNA tumor viruses ‘need’ to transform cells? Explain why transformation of cells is an accident for both types of tumor viruses.

6. Why do DNA tumor viruses cause tumors only rarely, and in the ‘wrong’ hosts?