



How Many Mutations Are Required to Produce a Human Cancer Cell?

By Pascal Kaufmann

GRIN Verlag. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 80 pages. Dimensions: 8.3in. x 5.8in. x 0.2in. Bachelor Thesis from the year 2011 in the subject Biology - General, Basics, grade: -, University of Cambridge, language: English, abstract: The widespread occurrence of cancer and its apparent lack of a cause has led to a plethora of myths spanning from a cancer personality in the 1970s to mobile phones today. The dissertation introduces some of the theoretical principles of cancer which lifts the veil on the mysteries surrounding its causes. The central issue addressed is whether genetic instability above the background level is necessary to account for the levels of cancer seen. In doing so, it touches on the idea that we are all born with mutations - from the very first division at the embryonic stage we begin acquiring them. This occurs even in a perfect environment without mutagens or any environmental stressors. The common conception, of the cells working together for a common goal is reversed. The body can be viewed as a vast community of selfish cells which are constantly competing for resources in a process analogous to Darwinian natural selection. Evolution at the organism level has resulted in a comprehensive...



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