

Strand *et al.* Dysplastic cells featuring a high number of apoptotic granules showed no intraepithelial lymphocytes whereas dysplastic cells with intraepithelial lymphocytes had none or only a few apoptotic granules. Notably, the apoptotic bodies were not haphazardly distributed in the cytoplasm of the dysplastic cells (as would be expected if they were derived from adjacent neoplastic epithelial cells). The overwhelming majority of those granules were present in the basal-subnuclear aspect of the dysplastic cells facing the basement membrane, strongly suggesting that the factors responsible for apoptosis were acting in the vicinity of the connective tissue of the lamina

propria, which contained lymphocytes and/or adjacent lymphoid aggregates. Whereas intraepithelial lymphocytes showed signs of destruction in apoptotic assays and transmission electronmicroscopy studies, there was no indication that the dysplastic cells with apoptotic granules were being destroyed (as deduced by transmission electronmicroscopy, proliferation immunomarkers and labeling of DNA fragments).

Based on those results we suggested² that apoptosis in colorectal adenomas could be the expression of "a not previously envisaged mechanism of cell defense, whereby neoplastic cells inflict apoptosis upon non-epithelial cells" (that

is, lymphocytes), a conclusion very similar to that reported by Strand *et al.* Thus, the immune evasion concept proposed by Strand *et al.* may be a more general phenomenon since it appears to include the early phases of colorectal carcinogenesis.

CARLOS A. RUBIO

Gastrointestinal and Liver Research Laboratory,
Department of Pathology, Karolinska Institute,
171 76 Stockholm, Sweden

1. Strand, S. *et al.* Lymphocyte apoptosis induced by CD95 (APO-1/Fas) ligand-expressing tumor cells — A mechanism of immune evasion?. *Nature Med.* **2**, 1361–1366 (1996).
2. Rubio, C.A., Kumagai, J., Kanamori, T. & Nakamura, K. Apoptosis in flat neoplasias of the colorectal mucosa. *In Vivo* **9**, 173–176 (1995).

He moved again?

To the editor — Thank you for publishing my reply to the Duerr *et al.* response to my article on Progesterone and SIV vaginal transmission. My professional affiliation was listed as with the New England Regional Primate Research Center of Har-

vard Medical School. I have the greatest admiration and respect for this august body, but inexplicably they have not yet shown the forethought to hire me. My affiliation is with the New York University School of Medicine and the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research

Center. Since errors have a way of multiplying, a correction might be in order.

PRESTON A. MARX

Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center 984 Long
Meadow Road, Tuxedo, New York 10987-9801, USA



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