

Do Chance or Luck Have a Role in Research Findings? Personal Research Experience

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Abstract

In research studies, sometimes we find unexpected information by luck or chance. In my upcoming talk, I will share two personal experiences that underscore the role of chance and luck in shaping research outcomes.

Understanding the Mystery of Liver Myofibroblasts: During a study investigating hepatic fibrogenic cells in hepatic fibrosis, by luck I revealed in liver portal vessels, cells having ultrastructural morphological characteristic of myofibroblast. This unexpected finding draws attention to the possible reliability of the transdifferentiation of myofibroblasts from bone marrow stem cells postulated by some researchers rather than the solely contribution of bone marrow fibrocytes.

From Textbook Vision to Hypothesis Formation: In another instance, by chance, I saw the figure of the mouse mammary tumor virus in the microbiology textbook, which looked like an unexplained pathological change that I revealed in HCV infected liver patients. It acted as the spark for the inspiration of a new hypothesis for the turnover of HCV into a mouse mammary tumor virus and the description of a presumed involved mechanism.

In conclusion, chance or luck can play a role in finding unexpected data, but careful attention to detail and original thinking are also necessary for the researcher to explore the data.

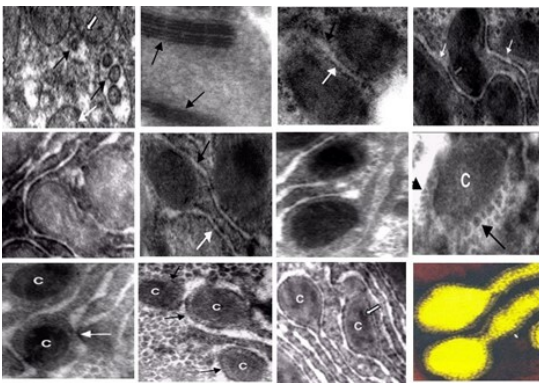


Figure 1 shows an ultrastructural scenario for the potential ability of HCV virion to progress, assemble, and replicate into a mouse mammary tumor virus, depending on the host hepatocellular structure.

References

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