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About the Cover

The cover displays an electron photomicrograph (courtesy of Christopher Buck, Susana Pang, and John Schiller) of human papillomavirus (HPV)-16 particles, or pseudovirions, made in cultured cells; it is essentially impossible to isolate authentic HPV-16 virions from tumors. Although these pseudovirions contain a marker gene plasmid rather than the authentic HPV-16 genome, their outer shell, or capsid, is composed of L1 and L2, giving them the same surface structure as authentic HPV virions. HPV frequently is associated with oropharyngeal tumors, and new data indicate that racial differences in rates of HPV-positive oropharyngeal cancer underlie the overall racial disparities in head-and-neck cancer survival. See articles by Settle et al. (beginning on page 776), Chen et al. (beginning on page 782), and Brawley (beginning on page 769) for more information.