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2003

Review of Cure: A Story of Cancer and Politics from the Annals of the Cold War

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Available at: https://works.bepress.com/steve_brantley/7/

Brantley, John S. (2003). **Cure: A Story of Cancer and Politics from the Annals of the Cold War**. *E-Streams*, 6 (7). http://www2.e-streams.com/es0607/es0607_2584.html.

Medicine – Internal - Cancer

2584. **Cure: A Story of Cancer and Politics from the Annals of the Cold War**, by Nikolai Kremmentsov. Chicago, IL, University of Chicago Press, 2002. 261p., illus., bibliog., index. ISBN [0-226-45284-0](#). \$26.00. LC Call no.: RC271.I45K74 2002.

Subjects: Cancer—Immunotherapy—Research—Soviet Union—History—20th Century; Antineoplastic Antibiotics—Research—Soviet Union—History—20th Century; Kliueva, Nina Georggievna; Roskin, Grigorii Iosifovich, 1892-1964.

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The Cure presents the reader with a fascinating tale of scientific discovery, cold war intelligence agencies, and internecine competition within Soviet biomedical research institutes. In 1946 husband and wife Nina Kliueva and Grigorii Roskin announced the discovery of a treatment to dissolve cancerous tumors in mice. Clinical Trials for „KR“ named for its developers, suggested that it might work in humans as well. The discovery garnered massive media attention and research grants, heralding progress in Soviet-American scientific cooperation, but the ideological clash between Stalin’s Russia and the U.S. proved too much to bear for either Kliueva and Roskin or the scientific community. Labeled as ideological sinners and traitors to the people of the Soviet Union, Kliueva and Roskin’s treatment, KR seemed destined to languish. Recent Russian reporting states that research into KR has begun again, shedding light an otherwise shadowed era of cold war political maneuvering that affected every strata of the biomedical research community. The language in **The Cure**, while written by an experienced and sophisticated science writer, is

accessible to most adults without talking down to the initiated scientist or physician. It is extremely well documented and heavily illustrated with photographs, portraits, drawings, copies of handwritten letters and scientific notes, and official correspondence. Krementsov goes to extraordinary lengths to identify personages within large group photographs. The index is sufficient if not exhaustive. Anyone with an interest in the intersection between science, history, and politics will enjoy this work. **The Cure** is appropriate and recommended for University collections with Health Science programs as well as the History and Philosophy of Science.