As an autodidactic AIDS researcher for the last three decades, it was incumbent on me to understand not only HIV as a virus and a disease, but also to gain a workable understanding and appreciation of many of the topics tangential to HIV science. These include virology, immunology, cancer, aging, and the histories of science, medicine, plagues, and disease. No single book provides all the knowledge, complexity, or insights into any one of these subjects. My approach has been to read eight to ten volumes on each, to try to achieve a well-rounded understanding of these topics. In addition to reading scores of medical journal articles about cancer, I read the following well-selected books on the subject. There are many excellent, more recent books about cancer; but the following list may provide a jumping off point for your own deep dive into the literature of this fascinating, challenging subject.

- Howard S. Armistead, 20 November 2020

Basic Science of Cancer, Gary D. Kruh and Kenneth D. Tew, editors; Current Medicine, Philadelphia, 2000, 282 pages


Cancer, The Evolutionary Legacy, Mel Greaves; Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2000, 276 pages


Racing to the Beginning of the Road, The Search for the Origin of Cancer, Robert A. Weinberg; W. H Freeman and Company, New York, 1996, 274 pages

The Cancer Chronicles, Unlocking Medicine’s Deepest Mystery, George Johnson; Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 2013, 284 pages

The Emperor of All Maladies, A Biography of Cancer, Siddhartha Mukherjee; Scribner, New York, 2010, 571 pages