tance in light of the new forms of specific therapy (in addition to supportive care with measures such as transfusions, vitamins, androgens, and corticosteroids) that are available. The results of treatment of PL/MDS with agents such as 13-cis-retinoic acid and low-dose cytosine arabinoside have been reported.6,7 Patients with PL/MDS who have substantial morbidity in association with cytopenia are being offered the benefits of bone marrow transplantation when age and medical status permit and when an HLA-identical sibling match is available.8

Therefore, cytogenetic studies of series of patients with PL/MDS and malignant lesions, such as the series reported by Knapp and associates, will continue to provide valuable information that may improve classification, determine prognosis, and be helpful in monitoring the course of the disease and the response to drug therapy. More importantly, this information may be extremely helpful in the selection of patients with PL/MDS who have the highest probability for the development of acute leukemia or appreciable morbidity from the cytopenia (or both) and therefore should be offered a trial of specific drug therapy.

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REFERENCES

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Stamp Vignettes

Stamp collecting is a popular avocation, as attested to by the American Philatelic Society that now boasts a membership of 53,000. In this issue of the Proceedings, we begin a new feature that should appeal to philatelists and to history buffs as well—stamp vignettes that honor famous medical persons and well-known scientific discoveries or events. This material has been prepared by Robert A. Kyle, M.D., and Marc A. Shampo, Ph.D. (occasionally in conjunction with other colleagues). Although previous vignettes by these authors were published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, a change in the page format of that journal eliminated the need for this material. Thus, our Editorial Board elected to publish the vignettes in the Proceedings. We hope that our readers will enjoy these informative contributions.

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