

# OPTIONS

*Revolutionary Ideas in the War on Cancer*



THE NEWSLETTER OF PEOPLE AGAINST CANCER

Volume 1, Number 3, April 1995

## War on Cancer: A Portrait of Chaos!

*Editorial*

In the wake of a devastating report about the failure of the National Cancer Program, Samuel Broder, MD, the Director of the National Cancer Institute (NCI), and Bruce Chabner, MD, NCI's director of Cancer Treatment, have called it quits.

In the fall of 1994, the US Congress and the American people were given the worst report in decades about the failure of the "war on cancer." A select government committee reported that cancer incidence was up, cancer mortality was up.

The response from the leaders of the cancer war is "We Quit!"

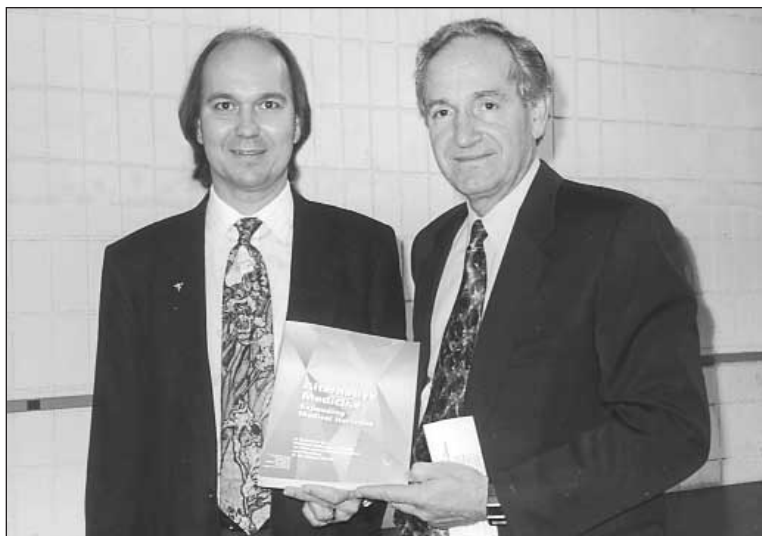
After decades of smoke and mirror declarations "the cure is just around the corner," their response was to give up rather than endure the continued pressure from Congress and the American people for a real solution - a comprehensive program of cancer prevention and evaluation of innovative alternative approaches.

Since 1962, cancer death is up nearly 100%! While in 1962, 278,562 Americans died of cancer, this year nearly 550,000 will die. Reports now confirm that Cancer will overtake heart disease as the nations number one killer by the end of the decade.

Instead of having the vision to see the "big picture," the leaders of the "war on cancer" have surrendered and left us with a war not won - a portrait of chaos. This is a call to arms - call or FAX the Whitehouse at 202-456-2684, FAX 202-456-2259. We want a director who supports prevention and alternatives! ☐

## OPTIONS

OPTIONS: *Revolutionary Ideas In The War On Cancer* is published bi-monthly as the Newsletter of People Against Cancer. We hope you find it provocative and informative.



People Against Cancer Founder Frank D. Wiewel and Senator Tom Harkin, Founder of the Office of Alternative Medicine discuss "Alternative Medicine: Expanding Medical Horizons."

PHOTO BY DENISE WIEWEL

## Alternative Medicine: Expanding Medical Horizons

On March 2, 1994, the federal government released a 372 page report to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Alternative Medicine entitled *Alternative Medicine: Expanding Medical Horizons*. The report was heralded by researchers as "a blueprint for future medical medical research." "The report," said Senator Tom Harkin, "should serve as the basis for a long-term strategic plan for the OAM. The Office was created to begin evaluating the efficacy, safety and potential cost effectiveness of alternative medical therapies" Harkin told Options, "This is a health issue

and a consumer issue and the American people deserve nothing less." Harkin admitted that the office had gotten off to a slow start since its creation due to the continued skepticism of the medical establishment as well as the offices mismanagement and lack of planning. Harkin said, "those who have been responsible for the lack of progress are on the way out" and expressed great hope that the newly named OAM Director, Wayne Jonas MD, will be able to put the office back on track. In the Washington press conference he told reporters, "The American People have the right to know whether these alternative treatments are effective. It is my hope that NIH will expand its

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PEOPLE  
AGAINST  
CANCER

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## *Alternative Medicine* (continued)

investigation of alternative therapies. The document contains well referenced details on a wide variety of alternative approaches to healing, from dietary therapy through herbal treatments to the innovative high-tech pharmacological and biological treatments not yet approved by FDA. Brian Berman, MD, director for Complementary Medicine at the University of Maryland and OAM Advisory Board member said, "The report includes the history, philosophy, clinical use and research to date."

OAM officials promised that the report will be distributed at NIH "to seed people's interest," saying, "this represents the field of alternative medicine coming of age."

OAM Advisory Board Chairman, and Clinical Professor at Georgetown University, Dr James S Gordon, called the report "a composite of just how much is known about different kinds of alternative therapies...a good overview of what is out there. Here are stories of people who have gotten better...this is the kind of thing we need to follow up on."

Harkin told reporters that "I intend to use this report as my means of holding NIH accountable." Harkin, himself, claims he has benefited from alternative medicine by using bee pollen to cure his allergies. Harkin told Options, "People are using these therapies because they are less expensive and a more prevention-based alternative to conventional treatments." Harkin has long urged the NIH to adapt sound programs for the prevention of disease.

The report recommends that OAM conduct "outcome studies" and develop teams to conduct "field investigations" to evaluate the existing body of evidence. The report points out that this approach was also the recommendation of the original OAM Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee and two US Senators.

*Alternative Medicine: Expanding Medical Horizons* is available post-paid for \$30 from People Against Cancer or the Government Printing Office. ☐

## NIH Names Walter Reed Physician Wayne Jonas as New Director of OAM

On January 25, 1995, The National Institutes of Health (NIH) announced that Walter Reed physician, Dr Wayne Jonas, would be the new director of the Office of Alternative Medicine (OAM). Jonas is expected to take the post on July 1st. Insiders say it was just in time.

"The OAM has become the epicenter of a massive paradigm shift in American Medicine," says Frank Wiewel, founder of People Against Cancer and OAM Advisory Board Member. Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) told a Washington press Conference, "The American people have spent nearly \$14 Billion on alternative therapies, and made more visits to alternative practitioners than they do to primary care doctors. The American people have a right to know if these therapies are effective."

*"The OAM has become the epicenter of a massive paradigm shift in*

*American Medicine" - Frank Wiewel*

But, Wiewel said "There is now an effort under way at NIH to make over the new office in their own image." The new direction taken by OAM, and even the very existence of the office in NIH, has become a tremendous controversy, Wiewel contends. And others agree.

Former Congressman Berkley Bedell, also an OAM Advisory Board member, told Options, "The OAM today is in shambles. It appears that OAM personnel who had a sincere interest in, and dedication to, alternative medicine have been, or are being replaced with persons from NIH, and other areas, with little or no commitment to alternative medicine." Bedell said, "The one bright spot is the appointment of Dr Wayne Jonas as Director of the Office. Unfortunately, Dr Jonas does not come aboard for several months, and we fear that the damage that has already been done to

destroy the effectiveness of the Office may continue until that time."

In a letter to NIH director Dr Harold Varmus, OAM Advisory Board member Carolla Burroughs said, "I am deeply disturbed to hear of the abrupt dismissal of Jackie Wooten...a respected and trusted colleague. I know her dedication to the Office and to the field of alternative medicine to be profound. It almost seems that there has been an attempt to systematically remove or alienate all personnel attached to the Office from earlier times."

Dr Adrienne Fugh Berman has also left the OAM as contractor in charge of the Field Investigations Program, which was set up to evaluate therapies out in the real world. She was a respected researcher who complained that she was never given a staff to properly carry out the field investigations program.

From the start the Field Investigations Program was in trouble at NIH - which insiders joke stands for Not Invented Here. "Field Investigations were the idea behind setting up the office," points out Berkley Bedell. And now I'm not sure OAM will ever have a program. I just don't understand it."

Ralph Moss, OAM Advisory Board Member and Editor of the Cancer Chronicles pointed out, "Starting up an office is never easy but anyone would have the right to be dismayed that OAM has not yet evaluated a single alternative treatment. Whatever the reasons, for 1.5 million Americans, whatever OAM does will come too late: they are the ones who have died of cancer during this period."

But even so, Moss greets Dr Wayne Jonas with enthusiasm, saying, "Truth is, Wayne is going to need all the support he can muster if he intends to take on the quackbusters." Wiewel agrees saying, "Wayne is a good man. I also hope he will be able to stand up to NIH." ☐

# Burzynski Wins Big Against Texas State Medical Board

On Friday February 3, 1995 Dr Stanislaw Burzynski won a big victory in Texas.

After years of litigation, Texas District Court Judge Paul Davis, ruled in favor of Stanislaw Burzynski MD PHD and against the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners (TSBME).

In 1992, the Texas Board charged Burzynski with violating Texas law by treating patients with a drug that was not approved by the FDA. Burzynski had countered that Section 5.09 of the Texas Medical Practices Act specifically allows him to treat patients with "any drug" necessary to meet patients' immediate needs.

The Act reads as follows: A physician licensed to practice medicine under this Act may supply patients with any drugs, remedies or clinical supplies as are necessary to meet the patients' immediate needs.

In May of 1993, Burzynski appealed to administrative law judge Earl Corbitt. His decision was to serve as a recommendation to the TSBME. The Judge ruled that testimony by Dr Nicholas Patronas, Chief of Neuroradiology at NCI, and testimony by patients, indicated that Antineoplastons were, in fact, necessary to meet the immediate need for survival. The State, he noted, offered no evidence to the contrary. Therefore, Dr Burzynski's use of Antineoplastons in his practice was legal under Section 5.09.

In August of 1994, the Texas Board met and ignored Judge Corbitt's decision and ruled that "survival" did not qualify as "immediate need" under the law. They ruled that Burzynski had been breaking the law by treating patients with Antineoplastons outside of FDA trials. They put him on probation for 10 years and told him to obey the law.

Burzynski then appealed to District Court Judge Paul Davis who, in this latest ruling sided with Burzynski. Further, in a surprise

move, he ruled from the bench that the action of the State Board against Burzynski was "in excess of the agency's statutory authority, not reasonably supported by substantial evidence, arbitrary, capricious and characterized by abuse of discretion."

Tim Weitz, counsel for the Texas Board told the Houston Chronicle "I expect he Board will want to appeal this decision."

## The Burzynski Story Makes The CBS Evening News

On the evening of March 13, 1995 the Burzynski story was presented to the world by Dan Rather on the CBS Evening News. CBS framed the story - Burzynski and his patients vs the establishment. They asked the question, "What should be done about the cancer doctor who doesn't play by the rules - but whose patients swear his unapproved treatment is the only reason they're still alive?"

The report went on to tell the story of Paul Michaels who was supposed to be dead and buried 7 years ago. But today he is a teenager living a normal life. In 1988, Paul had inoperable brain cancer and his parents took him to the controversial cancer doctor in Houston. The result? His tumor, which was larger than an egg, has shrunk to the size of a pea. His mother called it a miracle.

However, CBS pointed out that not everyone agrees, reporting, "Paul's doctor, Polish born, Stanislaw Burzynski, is a cancer pioneer to some - a renegade, who experiments on his patients, to others." They cut to the courtroom scene, where the Texas Board has taken Burzynski to court to attempt to close his Houston clinic because the medicine he dispenses has not been approved by the government. CBS correspondent, Peter Van Zant asks Burzynski, "Why not suspend operations until you get FDA approval of your medicine?" And Burzynski replied, "Because I have an

obligation to my patients. I cannot just stop and tell them goodbye and go and die." But that was precisely what it appeared the Texas Board wanted him to do.

The report went on to describe that Dr Burzynski uses a non-toxic cancer fighter he calls Antineoplaston and explained that the medicine alters cancer cells, so instead of reproducing, they die.

Dr Bruce Cohen, the director of Neurologic Oncology at the Cleveland Clinic confirmed Dr Burzynski's results on Paul Michael, saying "He has had a genuine response to therapy."

The report went on to say, "There is no shortage of people who claim the treatment has saved their lives." An advanced lymphoma patient says, "The cancer is completely out of my liver." A lung cancer patient says, "I've gotten better, I don't have cancer anymore."

Then CBS reported, "According to the MRI this little boy's brain tumor, a fast growing medulo-blastoma, has disappeared." Followed by a wonderfully tiny voice from the little boy saying "Dr Burzynski helped me." No one could ignore the drama!

Dr Fred Epstein, the famed director of pediatric oncology at NY University Hospital, "I think that's impressive. It tells us that his treatment has activity in this tumor." Epstein went on to say, "While I don't think he has a cure, neither do we."

"Nonetheless," CBS reported, "the Texas Board says it is irresponsible to treat patients with drugs that haven't been fully studied or approved by the FDA. The board wants to yank Burzynski's license." Richard Jaffe, Burzynski's attorney says, "People need the treatment to stay alive."

The judge rules in Burzynski's favor, the courtroom cheers and the the latest chapter of the Burzynski saga draws to a close. (News Flash! Burzynski Raided After CBS News Story! See Page 7). ☐



## Jack Link

### 1928-1995

### A Memorial

John Raymond (Jack) Link passed away January 29th, 1995 after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Jack Link was a good man. Not only a good man, but a great man.

Jack was the founder of the IAT Patients' Association and Co-founder of People Against Cancer.

He was born December 28, 1928 in Clifton Springs, NY and attended Valley Forge Military Academy near Philadelphia.

On June 23, 1951 he married Jeannette Mallon, who grew up in a nearby Philadelphia neighborhood. They were together for 43 years and would raise four children: Jeff, Janet, Joanne and Jim, and 10 grandchildren. He was called for active duty in Korea in 1951 as a 1st Lieutenant in the US Army and received the bronze star for heroic achievement.

Throughout his life, Jack was involved with many philanthropic activities, culminating in *Jack Link Day* in Alden, NY. He later moved to Kalamazoo, MI, as the president of a hydraulics manufacturer, Hydreco, a Unit of the General Signal Corporation. He worked with Nat Owen, the CEO of General Signal.

Jack was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 1984 and learned about Immuno Augmentative Therapy (IAT) from Nat Owen and his wife Janet, who had cured her breast cancer with IAT. Jack's cancer was aggressive and advanced (technically graded Gleason Grade 8), and his physicians told him he had a year to live. So he immediately left for Freeport, Bahamas to begin IAT, a biological therapy, developed by maverick cancer researcher Lawrence Burton PhD.

In July of 1985, my wife, Denise and I were introduced to Jack Link for the first time. And it was under the most frightening of circumstances.

We were in Freeport, Bahamas with my father-in-law Robert Dallman who was being treated with IAT.

He was responding well, having lost all of the symptoms of his cancer.



#### Give What's Left of Me Away

When I die  
Remember me with a smile and laughter.  
If thoughts of me provoke no love,  
Only sadness and tears,  
I ask that I be soon forgotten.

Give what's left of me away  
To children and old men who wait to die.  
And if you must cry, cry for your brother  
Who walks in grief beside you.  
And when you need me,  
Put your arms around anyone,  
And give them what you need to give to me.

I want to leave you something.  
Something better than words or sounds.  
Look for me in the people I've known or loved,  
Or helped in some special way.  
And if you cannot give me away,  
Let me live in your eyes for awhile,  
As well as in your mind.

You can love me most  
By letting love live  
Within the circle of your arms  
Embracing the frightened ones.

Love doesn't die, people do.  
So when all that's left of me is love,  
Give me away.

I'll see you at home,  
Where I'll be waiting.

Robert had been diagnosed with inoperable terminal colon cancer.

I came from the world of music - a CBS recording artist and producer - between record albums.

On July 19, 1985 - my birthday - we received a baptism by fire into the "politics of cancer." After decades of hostility toward IAT researcher Lawrence Burton, officials at the US National Cancer Institute now claimed they had identified the HIV antibody in the Burton serum and convinced frightened Bahamian health officials to close the Clinic.

At the time, Burton was treating over 500 Americans with cancer. We all became engulfed by a firestorm of controversy.

My wife Denise returned to the States to interview health officials and I stayed with Robert to plan strategy.

Jack Link immediately took control and formed the IAT Patients' Association (IATPA) and organized a fact-finding visit by then US Congressman Guy Molinari (R-NY), who quickly realized the hostilities were so deeply rooted that nothing short of a Congressional Hearing would uncover the truth. Jack began working day and night. He raised money and wrote a newsletter to provide weekly, and sometimes daily, information to the hundreds of frightened IAT patients.

Over the next six months, Jack became a lifeline for his fellow patients. First he had samples from all lots of IAT serum tested by Western Blot - and all were negative. Then he urged personal HIV testing - also all negative. The Congressional Hearing was held. US health officials admitted they had no evidence of AIDS transmission and the IAT Clinic was reopened. Though it was too late for my father-in-law Robert, who quickly lost ground and died without completing IAT, many have gone on to live for decades. Though Jack Link is gone, his legacy lives on. Through, the patients rights movement and the Office of Alternative Medicine. ☸

Editor: Frank Wiewel

*Jack Link*

# ACTION ALERT

## Burzynski Clinic Raided In Houston Patients Harassed And Threatened Burzynski Ordered to Face Grand Jury!

Dear Friends,

On Friday March 24th, Federal Agents from the FDA and the US Postal Service (USPS) raided the Burzynski Clinic in Houston. They served Burzynski with a Search and Seizure Warrant and confiscated patient records on 15 of Burzynski's patients. Agents then served Burzynski with a subpoena to appear before the Texas Grand Jury. Federal agents reportedly harassed a NY patient and threatened to seize his medicine.

This raid was the latest chapter in the unrelenting attack on Dr Burzynski by the medical establishment which has gone on for over a decade. Here is a chronology:

\* In March 1983, the FDA filed a lawsuit against Burzynski alleging interstate shipment of his medicines. The US District Court Judge McDonald ruled against FDA and allowed Burzynski to treat patients within Texas but not to ship the medicine interstate.

\* On July 17, 1985, Burzynski's Clinic was raided by FDA agents who confiscated all of the confidential patient records. Burzynski was not allowed to copy the records so he could properly treat the patients.

\* In 1986, a US Attorney, Henry Oncken, launched a grand jury investigation into Burzynski's Clinic. Oncken, the US Attorney was forced to resign.

\* Later in 1986, Burzynski patients sued Aetna Insurance for failing to pay claims. Aetna then filed a racketeering (RICO) lawsuit against Burzynski. Burzynski countersued with a RICO action against Aetna. The Aetna suit against Burzynski was dropped.

\* In 1988, the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners (TSBME) filed suit to take Burzynski's medical license. In 1993, a Texas judge ruled for Burzynski - the treatment was legal. In 1994, TSBME ignored the judge, suspended his license and put Burzynski on probation for 10 years. Burzynski appealed.

\* On February 3, 1995 ruled in favor of Burzynski on Appeal saying the TSBME's action was "arbitrary, capricious and characterized by abuse of discretion." TSBME appealed.

\* On March 24, 1995 Burzynski appeared on CBS Morning News.

\* Later on March 24, FDA and USPS Officials raided Burzynski's Clinic (See Options Page 7).

This is an outrage! In all these actions against Burzynski, no one has even suggested that Burzynski has harmed a single patient. The fact that Burzynski has cured terminal cancer patients who failed to respond to conventional therapy doesn't seem to matter to them.

We ask each and every one of you to call and write and fax: FDA Commissioner Dr David Kessler, 5600 Fishers Ln, Rockville, MD 20857 Phone: 301-443-2410 Fax: 301-443-3100. Please phone, fax and send a copy of your letter to: Tom Johnson, USPS Inspection Service, PO Box 1276, Houston TX 77251-1276 Phone: 713-238-4414 Fax: 713-238-4460 and to: US Attorney Gaynelle Griffen Jones, 515 Rusk Suite 3300, Houston, Tx 77002 Phone: 713-238-9314. We have enclosed a sample letter on the next page. Sign and send it - or better yet, write your own.

Sincerely,



Frank D Wiewel, Editor

# ACTION ALERT

April, 1995

Dear Dr Kessler,

We are outraged by the FDA and USPS raid on Dr Stanislaw Burzynski's Clinic in Houston Texas on Friday March 24th. People with terminal cancer, not responsive to conventional therapy, need access to Burzynski's non-toxic therapy. American citizens should not be harrassed FDA agents. The FDA should protect and serve American citizens.

Dr Burzynski has complied with all FDA regulations and is successfully treating patients with terminal cancers which have not responded to conventional therapy. He has had success with brain cancers such as glioblastoma multiforme and astrocytoma which are incurable conventionally. He has had success with Non Hodgkins Lymphoma after chemotherapy and even bone marrow transplants have failed. He has applied for and received permission from FDA to use his medicine Antineoplastons under Investigational New Drug Permits. Further, Dr Burzynski and his employees are complying with FDA regulations not to ship the medicine across state lines. But the harassment by the FDA in Houston continues.

As a physician you took an oath, *Above All, Do No Harm!* There is no evidence that any of his patients have been harmed by the therapy. But Dr Burzynski's patients may indeed be harmed by the stress and fear of recent FDA actions. Many have no other options, as the conventional therapy for these cancers has been toxic, dangerous and ineffective.

Patients with life threatening illness need access to new medical treatments. Physicians need the freedom to treat them. How else will medical science progress? As you know, it now takes decades for new drug approval in America. Thousands will die waiting. It now costs hundreds of millions of dollars for new drug approval. So safe, effective and economical alternatives, like Burzynski's Antineoplastons must be available.

You can stop the FDA action in Houston.

Out of human decency and compassion, don't harm these patients by further FDA harassment. Don't let these patients die without hope.

Sincerely,

## Burzynski Clinic Raided By FDA And USPS Patient Records Seized And Patients Harrassed!

On Friday March 24, 1995 the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and United States Postal Service (USPS) Agents raided Dr Burzynski's Clinic in Houston Texas.

The FDA and USPS raid occurred after dark on the day Burzynski appeared with on the CBS Morning News with three patients he had cured of advanced cancer.

Seven government officials raided the clinic and presented a Search and Seizure Warrant signed by US Magistrate Francis H Stacy. Burzynski employees asked agents to wait for Richard Jaffe, Burzynski's attorney, but were informed that if agents were not allowed to do the search and seizure immediately, they would do it by force.

The agents then grouped all of the employees in the conference and took a nurse away from a patient she was treating. They began interrogating the employees and began their search and seizure of documents. The search concentrated on medical and insurance records of 17 patients on their list. Two on the list were not patients of Dr Burzynski and 9 names were of patients under active treatment by Burzynski. The search went long into the night, ending about

midnight when Dr Burzynski was served with a subpoena to testify before the Grand Jury and bring additional documents.

### Patient Harassed in New York

At the same time the clinic was being raided a patient suffering from a brain cancer called glioblastoma multiforme was being harassed in New York. A Federal agent tried to enter his home and attempted to confiscate his medicine. The agent was turned away but vowed to return with a search and seizure warrant.

### Further Harassment Feared

Since the FDA confiscated the list of all Burzynski patients, with addresses and phone numbers, Burzynski told Options, "We are afraid they may go after the remaining patients."

The main reason for the raid was to determine if Burzynski was shipping the medicine out of Texas. Burzynski states, "We have a strong policy and our employees are repeatedly warned, under threat of termination, not to ship medicine outside the state of Texas and we never do this."

### Above All Do No Harm

FDA or USPS officials have never claimed that Dr Burzynski has harmed any of his patients. And Dr Burzynski has repeated demonstrated evidence that advanced patients who have failed to respond to the conventional treatments have gone on to live longer and feel better on his non-toxic treatment. Indeed, some have been cured and now survive nearly 20 years.

"Incredibly, in the absence of harm, government officials have now began harassing American citizens who have been helped by Burzynski, says long term Burzynski patient Neil Dublinsky. Mr Dublinsky told CBS Morning news that he had taken every kind of conventional therapy, even a bone marrow transplant, and when his cancer recurred, Dr Burzynski cured him and he is now surviving over 5 years with no evidence of disease.

Dean Mouscher, who's father took Burzynski's treatment, said, "Innocent until proven guilty has gone out the window. But the patients have vowed to fight"

For information on what you can do see the Action Alert on page 5-6 of this issue of Options. ☐

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

Yes! I would like to support the important work of *People Against Cancer*.

- ☐ \$35 .....Regular Annual Membership — Includes our newsletter, *Options*.  
☐ \$50 .....Foreign Regular Annual Membership — Includes our newsletter, *Options*.  
☐ \$100 .....Supporting Annual Membership — Includes our newsletter, *Options*, plus a free book.

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☐ \$1,000 .....Founding Annual Membership — Includes all the benefits of Benefactor membership plus special select reports and publications.  
☐ \$5,000 .....Patron Annual Membership — Includes all the benefits of Founding Membership and all select reports and publications.  
☐ \$10,000 .....Golden Circle Patron Membership — Special Membership with all select reports and Golden Circle publications.

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☐ I have enclosed (US funds) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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### COMING IN THE NEXT ISSUE

- Chemo: The Cure That Killed the Patient
- Kyle Slavik: A Success Story
- Burzynski Patent: Increasing the Activity of Tumor Suppressor Genes
- Pycnogenol: A Powerful Antioxidant
- Miracle from the Soybean: Isoflavones

## Mammograms: Still A Cloud of Controversy!

For decades women have been told by the medical establishment that regular mammograms can save lives. The National Cancer Institute and the American Cancer Society recommended yearly mammograms for women over 40. Now Hillary Clinton has launched a campaign to promote mammograms.

But in 1991, the London Times shocked the world by reporting that preliminary results from a Canadian National Breast Screening Study (NBSS) had found a 52% increase in mortality in the women of 40 to 49 years who had received yearly mammograms according to guidelines.

Even more disturbing was the news when the 7-year results were published in 1992; the study showed no benefit from mammography in those age 40-49 or 50-59! The news created a cloud of controversy which remains today.

Dr Howard Ozler, chief of medical oncology at the University of North Carolina School of medicine, pointed out that the debate over screening occurs against a background of pressures having nothing to do with the data. He said that it could be difficult for groups like the American Cancer Society to reverse a position they have spent a decade promoting.

In addition, the mammogram business has become highly lucrative, and younger women are the best customers.

Dr I Craig Henderson, director of the clinical cancer center at the University of California in San Francisco said, "We have to tell women the truth. 'We've gotten ourselves out on a limb.'" He said the rationale for the screening recommendations for younger women were based on inference rather than hard facts.

But controversy ensued, and from the very beginning, some physicians and researchers argued that the Canadian studies were not properly randomized so they were invalid. Further, they argued that some mammograms were taken by substandard equipment and mammograms today use less radiation.

Canadian Cancer researcher, Dr Cornelia Baines told *Options*, "We knew the results of our study would be extremely unwelcome." And because of intense criticism, the Canadians completely reanalyzed and confirmed their data.

After three years the cloud of controversy still hovers over the Canadian study so the study will be reanalyzed, yet again, by an independent team. ☐



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