

How One Man's Courage is Helping Cancer Patients Across America

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The history of science is filled with stories of men and women who, with their breakthrough discoveries, challenged the existing powerful interests of their day. These heroes of science (who often became political heroes as well) often demonstrated great courage to face off against extremely well funded, established and profitable cartels like the intertwined interests of the chemical and food industries and the cancer and medical establishments. These scientific pioneers frequently suffered greatly for their courage in advocating truth over traditional theories, however unpopular and unwanted the truth may have been—at least by the most powerful moneyed interests.



Take, for example, Ignaz Philipp Semmelweis, born in 1818, an Austrian-Hungarian physician called the “savior of mothers.” He discovered, by 1847, that the incidence of puerperal fever could be drastically reduced by implementing hand washing standards in obstetrical clinics. Puerperal fever (or *childbed fever*) was common in mid-19th century hospitals and often fatal, with mortality rates as high as 35 percent.

In 1847, as head of Vienna General Hospital's First Obstetrical Clinic, where doctors' wards had three times the mortality rates of those run by midwives, Semmelweis postulated that doctors who touched cadavers should wash with chlorinated lime solution prior to examining live patients. Despite his 1861 book which recounted statistically significant clinical trials where hand washing reduced mortality rates below one per-

cent, Semmelweis' practice only earned widespread acceptance years after his death, when Louis Pasteur confirmed the germ theory.

In *The Secret History of the War on Cancer*, author Devra Lee Davis, Ph.D. tells how following World War II, the great industrial doctor and scientist Wilhelm Hueper discovered while working for Dupont that the benzidine dyes the company pro-

duced were causing occupational cancers. The company responded by suppressing his work and prohibiting him from ever visiting its industrial plants again. Hueper went to work for the recently formed National Cancer Institute where instead of being allowed to pursue his work, he was persecuted and branded as a communist, again because of the inordinate industry pressure from without and within the NCI.

Cancer prevention and treatment have become political because there is so much money at stake when it comes to protecting the profitable treatments that are sanctioned by the mainstream medical establishment and the commercial uses of toxic chemicals supplied by huge corporations. Like Semmelweis and Hueper, many scientists have been compelled to spread the news of their breakthrough scientific discoveries for the public good, but the truth is often inconvenient, and sometimes the last thing society—and especially powerful petrochemical, medical, pharmaceutical, and agricultural interests—want to hear.

Yet history also shows that ultimately the truth wins out, and it is often a courageous few who protect the many.

A COURAGEOUS MOLECULAR BIOLOGIST IN FRANCE

Ironically, one such scientist, Mirko Beljanski (1923-1998), spent a quarter of a century performing much of his controversial research at the prestigious Pasteur Institute, the leading non-English speaking molecular biology institute in the world. Yet, although the Institute's own founders advocated the controversial findings of Semmelweis, in

this case, Beljanski's work was strongly suppressed rather than supported. This is a story of courage and heroism worth telling.

Dr. Beljanski's key discoveries were that destabilized deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) is a fundamental cause of cancer and that ribonucleic acid (RNA) can actually alter the master DNA blueprint. Today, his discoveries have become critical to developing selective nontoxic treatments for cancer, and to initiating an entirely new and important method of screening chemicals for toxicity. Beljanski's work with RNA fragments (as well as golden-leafed Ginkgo) have also led to an enormous breakthrough for support for cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy and radiation.

Beljanski's contributions in the field of cancer prevention and therapy, while known in his own time and appreciated by European doctors, immunology experts, and other clinicians, were particularly controversial in his beloved France, whose leading scientists at the Pasteur Institute were focused entirely on the mutational theory of cancer—and on winning the Nobel Prize! The story of Nobel Prize winner Jacques Monod and Beljanski, scientific rivals at the Pasteur Institute, is a classic.

Mirko's findings challenged France's prevalent orthodoxy of genetic research that was centered on the primacy of cellular DNA as the ultimate blueprint of biological and genetic fate. Beljanski was a man who saw what others had only abstracted. He saw the three-dimensional changes to DNA structure. By his way of seeing DNA with spectrophotometry, he revealed the damaging effects of chemicals on the conformational structure of DNA before or without mutations in the genes. Beljanski's ability to interpret damage to the DNA double helix and assign meaning to what he saw in his scientific spectrophotometry (which was confirmed by the enhancement in DNA synthesis *in vitro*) represented a critical breakthrough in our understanding of cancer causation and treatment. *Mutations in the DNA might only appear later, and by then it is often too late to reverse the damage.*

Yet Beljanski's observations didn't fit into the scientific dogma of his day. Not only was he opposed by Monod, but the most dangerous attacks came from the French medical establishment after French President Francois Mitterrand successfully used the Beljanski formulas to prolong his own life in his battle with prostate cancer. Sadly for the rest of the world, once Mitterrand died, the French pharmaceutical and medical bureaucracy

successfully attacked Beljanski mercilessly, suppressing his new discoveries for decades, and denying cancer patients potentially life-saving help.

Most tragically, Beljanski was indicted in his beloved homeland and all of his scientific tools and writings were taken from his laboratory and destroyed. In America, of course, the Constitution guarantees a speedy trial and due process, but in France this slow torture of a scientist was condoned. Yet the European Court of Human Rights, when confronted with the evidence, later found that France had violated Beljanski's basic human rights. In Beljanski's case, in his adopted and beloved homeland of France, we have a shameful example of the harassment of a brilliant scientist who worked on behalf of the good of humanity.

In researching Beljanski's career, we became so absolutely troubled by what was done to him and the implications of his work—but we were also heartened by the greater receptivity to his findings here in the United States within our more liberalized health and medical system—and by the passion and determination of people who are dedicated to keeping Dr. Bel-janski's flame burning brightly.

Despite the opposition he faced, Beljanski managed to publish more than 130 studies in peer-reviewed scientific publications including those he authored with Nobel Prize winner Severo Ochoa. Beljanski's studies are being belatedly recognized as major contributions to the field of environmental medicine, particularly in cancer prevention and treatment and for innovative effective cancer support therapies (thanks to his RNA fragments).

The treatments based on Beljanski's molecules are being today used throughout Europe and North America by medical doctors and thousands of cancer patients; and, with more than one million Americans diagnosed with cancer each year, the number of patients who could potentially benefit from the Beljanski molecules is truly staggering. Beljanski's molecules could help millions of people globally to prevent and fight cancer. The public needs to know about Beljanski's research, particularly people who are dealing with cancer now.

Fortunately, the work of Beljanski is currently enjoying a renaissance because major institutions including Columbia University and the Cancer Treatment Centers of America have demonstrated the efficacy and mechanism of action of the Beljanski molecules. Now it is time for their use to become the backbone of mainstream cancer treat- ➤➤➤

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ment, and for widespread acceptance of Beljanski's method of observing cellular damage to screen substances for carcinogenicity.

Indeed, Beljanski's findings are infiltrating into the mainstream cancer establishment that once persecuted or, even worse, ignored him. It is as if he is more alive now than ever. Beljanski's fundamental research and its dissemination may finally help the global health community win the war on cancer with improvements in prevention and treatment that truly offer a breakthrough that is desperately needed.

Beljanski's findings also offer a means of identifying a whole new class of chemicals that should be identified as early carcinogens, or what some experts refer to as pro-carcinogens or cancer promoters. These environmental chemicals cause cumulative damage to the cell's structural materials independent of genetic mutations. Indeed, it is as if genetic mutation tells only a small part of the story, as cellular interaction with these environmental chemicals results in DNA destabilization, which in

turn makes cells susceptible to uncontrolled proliferation (the definition of cancer). In other words, by using Beljanski's findings, we can identify toxic chemicals in the environment that set the stage for cancer, instead of simply waiting until the last minute and primarily regulating only mutagens.

Today, scientists and medical doctors, particularly those from America and who espouse the use of integrative methods—also known as complementary and alternative medicine (CAM)—are embracing the Beljanski plant molecules, RNA fragments and his basic insights as integral to their primary cancer treatment support programs. Many people are surviving cancers that they probably would not have otherwise, and experiencing a better quality of life with the help of the Beljanski plant molecules and RNA fragments. This is a fact.

There is hope in the war against cancer. To seize a brighter future, however, it is imperative that everyone with cancer or a history of cancer or who is interested in prevention learn about the Beljanski plant molecules and RNA fragments. ■

Resources

For more information about Dr. Beljanski's scientific research, please visit: www.beljanski.com