

By Loraine R. Dégraff

he knock was faint, but they all heard it. Young Sylvie scowled as her father, Mirko Beljanski, closed the hard-bound book that was on his lap, placed it back on the wooden bookshelf and sauntered to the front door. Sylvie did not wait to see the late night visitor. She grabbed Raggedy Ann and ran up the stairs to her bedroom. Throwing herself across the bed, the young girl burst into tears. It was not fair.

There would be no storytelling tonight again. She knew what that knock represented. Some sick person was seeking her parents' assistance. It had been that way for as long as she could remember. Whenever there seemed to be a little reprieve after the busyness of a long workday, an intruder would come knocking, ruining the atmosphere and dashing Sylvie's hopes of family time. It was just not fair.

THE Beljanski LEGACY

Today, Sylvie Beljanski has a different outlook on her father's work. In fact, she is working diligently to keep the legacy of the late environmental pioneer alive. She has come to realize that Mirko Beljanski was a remarkable, selfless man dedicated to his passion about discoveries that would benefit the lives of others.

The Scientific Discoveries of Mirko Beljanski, PhD

There has been a lot of talk about cancer in recent decades. It is practically a household word, but one that no one wants to hear in reference to themselves or their loved ones. It has destroyed lives, devastated families, and demolished hope. But does that mean it is invincible? A great destroyer that everyone must cower before? No. A surprising number of men have persisted and discovered the secrets to overcoming this formidable giant. One such man, Mirko Beljanski, a molecular biologist, was one of the first scientists to look at cancer from the angle of the environment and how the environment affects our DNA (an essential nucleic acid found in our cells and in all forms of life).

For almost 50 years, Dr. Beljanski studied RNA and DNA biology and made a number of discoveries. For example, he found that reverse transcriptase (a retroviral enzyme that synthesizes DNA from viral RNA as opposed to the usual DNA-to-RNA transcription) exists not only in viruses, but also in other types of organisms, including bacteria, fungus and fish. He was also one of the first biologists to study small RNA fragments, which play a vital role in the growth of a cell. He noted that some of these fragments promote the proliferation of healthy cells in the immune system.

In the 1950s, the physical structure of DNA was discovered; it has a unique structure called the double helix, which looks like a twisted ladder. This discovery led to groundbreaking research on genetics, which, in turn, resulted in a wide variety of medical studies, cancer included.

Within the scientific community of the time, mutations (deviations in the DNA's genetic code) were considered to be the primary difference between normal and cancer cell DNA and some of these mutations were thought to be responsible for the onset of cancer. (This explanation is still held to be true today). Dr. Beljanski's focus, however, was on how factors from our environment, specifically carcinogens, bind to our DNA, destabilize the double helix and cause it to escape normal cell regulation which eventually leads to serious diseases like cancer. Destabilization is the opening, or unwinding, of the two tightly intertwined strands of DNA. The cancer DNA double helix is permanently opened over large segments, whereas the normal DNA only opens temporarily over specific sections for replication or gene expression. Beljanski also developed the "oncotest" which is a method for determining which kind of substances could destabilize DNA structure, leading to cancerous cell proliferation, and, on the contrary, which kind of substances could trigger the apoptosis (programmed death) of cells with damaged and cancer-forming DNA. This significant development led to the discovery of two unique extracts, Pao pereira and Rauwolfia vomitoria, that have been used to overcome disease without harming healthy cells in the process.

The fascinating work of Dr. Beljanski was published over a 40-year span and in a variety of formats. Recently, the work has been compiled in a book titled Cancer Causes, Cancer Cures written by Dr. Morton Walker, a professional medical journalist.

Anyone wanting to learn more about these profound discoveries and the life of the man who made them can do so by attending the NAVEL expo where the book will be discussed by lecturers Sylvie Beljanski, president of Natural Source International, Ltd, and John Hall, PhD, Director of Research.

A Closer Look at Pao Pereira and Rauwolfia Vomitoria

Deep in the Amazon rainforest of South America, the Pao pereira tree has been growing for centuries. Dr. Beljanski was among the first to scientifically analyze the bark that had been traditionally used by the natives as a health aid. The anti-cancer properties of the extract from this bark are far-reaching. It helps with not only one cancer, but a wide variety of cancers.

Rauwolfia vomitoria is a small African tree with very potent roots. An extract from the bark of the roots containing the alkaloid, alstonine, has been shown to be especially effective against hormone-related cancers, such as those of the breast and prostate. Beljanski perfected a Rauwolfia vomitoria extract that had very low toxicity, no hypertensive effect, but a selective effect against cancer cells.

Sylvie and Dr. Hall will expound upon the research involving these extracts that was conducted at Columbia University Medical Center on prostate cancer and is ongoing at the University of Kansas Medical Center on pancreatic cancer and ovarian cancer.

Those attending the NAVEL expo will also be privy to a special viewing of The Beljanski Legacy, a documentary movie highlighting the life and major scientific achievements of Mirko Beljanski.

This piquant movie reveals Dr. Beljanski's passion for environmental studies and the obstacles that faced him while trying to bring about a change in the health of mankind. It shows the amazing discoveries of Dr. Beljanski and how his extracts were able to improve and extend the lives of many in his country, including the French President François Mitterrand, who was battling advanced prostate cancer at the time. It also shows the unnerving perils associated with these discoveries—how the passionate scientist and his wife/partner, Monique, were persecuted for their advancement to humanity by mainstream medicine and the French government.

Anyone attending this lecture is sure to get a better understanding of not only cancer causes, cures and prevention, but also of the struggle of truth to prevail against all odds and of how the choices we make on a daily basis affect our health and, ultimately, our life. Cancer is an illness we all dread simply because it has been very difficult to cure. Sylvie and Dr. Hall, through their work at Natural Source International, endeavor to continue the enlightenment that began some 50 years ago with the work of Mirko Beljanski—a powerful work that brings empowerment and hope to a society that desperately needs it.

Natural Source International, Ltd., a New York company, was founded in 1996 with the goal of providing research-driven, scientifically formulated natural supplements in order to help promote a healthy balance in the human body. The products are based on the 50-year career and scientific modalities of the late Dr. Mirko Beljanski, a molecular biologist and environmental pioneer who spent 30 years as a research scientist at the world-renowned Pasteur Institute in Paris, France.