

How to Solve the Cancer Problem

Survivors of Cancer Want to Concentrate on Causes; not “Cures”

by Marilyn Axelrod Burch, President and Founder

It's almost impossible to synthesize the feelings of more than 1,500 survivors, the commitment of more than 80 countries representatives at three World Conferences on Breast Cancer, and voices from the past like that of Rachel Carson—all concerned about the rise of the same thing—Cancer! Cancer, is a worldwide problem—brought about by the constant, unrelenting degradation of our environment by individuals, governments, and corporations, with the steady dumping of thousands of tons of chemicals—oil, gasoline, pesticides, and plastic by-products that have resulted in tainted water, air, and food, which is altering the cells of plants, animals and humans alike.

In the United States, for example, we have almost equal numbers of men and women who die each year from prostate, 40,000 men, and 45,000 women, of breast cancer. The victims of the disease come from a general cross-section of our population. Light, dark-skinned, tall and short, stout and thin. My observation is that the disease of cancer is not dependent upon our age, our diet or exercise habits, or our personalities. Powerful, toxic, chemicals cannot be fended off by a mere personality or lifestyle “makeover”.

We have focused for too long on drugs as the sole “answer” to the cancer problem. The answer to this national and global problem does not reside in a bottle, or in the realm of yet more “manmade” chemicals. Targeting and attacking our cancer, is to target and attack our own bodies. This simply is against common sense. Our immune systems need strengthening and nurturing.

The question is, what do we do now? We have convinced ourselves that the answer lies in “research”. The average citizen buys into this idea of “research”, and barely questions what kind of research we are talking about. Unfortunately, it means almost exclusively, hunting for a chemical mix or fix to “battle” the terrible cancer cells in our bodies. This fuels the insatiable appetite of the pharmaceutical industry for more and more drugs to offer the sicker and sicker cancer patient. Where are the statistics that show how many thousands have died from this chemical treatment and not the cancer? I have met too many people with stories of their loved one's lost in this unseemly manner.

We have been wired to believe that all this “research” will lead to a cure. Legions of us go out for walks and runs in cities across the United States, paying handsomely to be part of the group. There is hope for curing a cold, the flu, or even AIDS. These are *communicable* diseases. Cancer is NOT communicable. Therefore, why would we apply the word, “cure”? We can stop cancer or solve the cancer problem, but to assert that we can “cure” something that has caused ourselves genetic damage, in our lust for a higher and higher standard of living, is ludicrous. In addition, this supposed “cure” is delivered after one has already developed cancer, and does nothing to prevent it. Currently, the pharmaceutical industry is a \$450 billion per year business. Think of how many jobs this industry represents, and how many people count on this industry providing them with a comfortable standard of living.

The solution to the cancer problem will not come out of a bottle. We only wish cancer could be whisked out of our systems that easily. Instead we have created a plethora of toxins in several “flavors”, depending on the locale. Some of these flavors are petroleum-based, others are pesticide-based, and still others are munitions-based, or nuclear-based. The ONLY way we can reduce the incidence of cancer is to work on rolling back the true causes. An easy task to face? No! The alternative? The majority of human populations will face death by cancer, if we fail act.

I have been a cancer survivor for 15 years. I was promised by my doctor, in 1990, that if I would just be good and take my medicine, and survive until 1995, I would have the “cure”. As far as I'm concerned, we have wasted these last 15 years chasing after the wrong thing! The proof is in the higher-than-ever cancer rates today. The proof is in when I meet a young intelligent 19-year old college co-ed with a double mastectomy. Perpetuating the myth that the solution to cancer is in a bottle is a crime of the proportions of what the tobacco industry did, when one considers the hundreds of thousands of deaths that have accumulated world wide, as we've searched for this “elusive cure in a bottle”. Instead of searching for this chemically-manufactured “cure”, we need to methodically, separate out each possible cause, and either remove it, or replace it with something plants, animals, and humans can tolerate.

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