

The Burzynski Breakthrough and Burzynski the Movie

Could antineoplastons be the most promising cancer treatment in the world?

by Jed Stuber

Thomas D. Elias, author of *The Burzynski Breakthrough*, believes that the U.S. government and pharmaceutical industry have for decades used all the means at their disposal to quash the most promising cancer treatment in the world.

If this story sounds far-fetched, consider Elias's background. After taking a master's degree from Stanford he was the West coast editor for Howard Scripps news service for 15 years. His syndicated columns now appear in 70 newspapers.

Elias is a veteran journalist with a nose for a story. He questions everything. When he first heard about Burzynski, he wanted nothing to do with the story. He explains, "As a reporter, I had been confronted on a regular basis by cranks claiming to have unique or scandalous stories. They virtually never pan out." Burzynski's patients prevailed upon him though, and so Elias took another look and did a few stories. He has published millions of words in his lifetime, but only two topics have ever compelled him to make sure a full book-length treatment got into the public record: the O.J. Simpson trial and Dr. Stanislov Burzynski's antineoplaston treatment for cancer.

Burzynski's Background

Burzynski was born in 1943 in Lublin, Poland, which was occupied by the Nazis during World War II and quickly turned communist in the years after the war. His father was harassed and jailed for teaching Jews, and his older brother, Zygmunt,

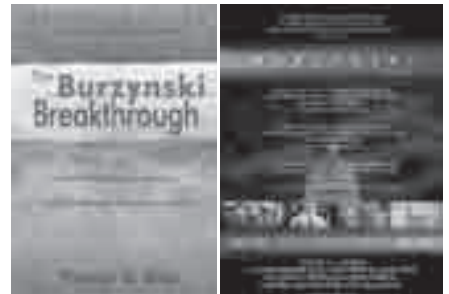
joined the resistance and died from a gunshot wound.

Young Stan always excelled in academic pursuits, especially science, and upon graduation from secondary school he was sent to medical school. Burzynski became an assistant to biochemist researchers working in the developing field of chromatography, which used chemicals to produce colors that reveal the molecular structure of a substance.

They were researching peptides, a class of very small molecules which are building blocks for larger molecules such as amino acids and proteins. Burzynski's teachers were interested in agricultural applications, basically the potential to develop better food supplies. While it was assumed that these classes of molecules also had important functions in the body, exactly what those functions were was still being worked out, and in fact is still being researched to this day as the biochemistry of the human body continues to amaze scientists.

Burzynski had a natural talent for isolating the peptides using the tricky art of chromatography and had soon identified 39 substances that seemed to be uncataloged. He'd later learn that some British researchers had noted a few of them, but nobody seemed to think these particular ones were significant, or worth studying further.

Burzynski needed an interesting topic for his doctoral thesis, so he kept working on the peptides, and noticed that they appeared less



frequently in the blood and urine of cancer patients. He surmised that giving them to cancer patients might help them. He determined to explore the possibilities, not then understanding that this quest would become a calling and a lifelong battle with the medical establishment and government authorities.

Dr. Burzynski was one of the two youngest people in Poland to receive M.D. and Ph.D. degrees. He was recruited by the communist party and promised a prestigious university position, but turned it down. Authorities sought to quash his independence by drafting him into the army to be sent to North Vietnam to aid the Vietcong, the fate of many Polish doctors.

An influential Polish scientist intervened and Burzynski mysteriously received a passport, which was nearly impossible to get. He left Poland hastily and the military police showed up at his home hours later. He carried just \$20 and documentation about the peptides, arriving in New York in the fall of 1970.

Developing Antineoplastons

Upon arriving in the United States, Burzynski quickly landed a job in Houston at Baylor College of

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