Shorts

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Burzynski, the Movie

The US medical establishment has a long history of discrediting promising alternative therapies that compete with its own sanctioned practices, and ending the careers of doctors using them. Doctors who treat environmental illness and chronic Lyme disease risk losing their medical licenses if their protocols trigger insurance company complaints to a state medical board. Doctors who treat cancer patients with something other than accepted chemotherapy or radiation are dismissed as quacks. Their therapies are "tested" in research studies that are designed to fail. If you think that I am overstating the tyranny of the US medical establishment, you need to see the 2010 documentary *Burzynski, the Movie*. And if you think that a single doctor cannot survive, even triumph, against an onslaught from medical and government bodies, you need to see this film.

Burzynski, the Movie is a hard-hitting, referenced documentary about government tactics to end the medical practice of Stanislaw Burzynski, MD, PhD, and gain access to his patented antineoplaston treatment. The film was written, directed, and produced by Eric Merola. Burzynski discovered antineoplastons, peptides that turn on tumor suppressor genes and turn off oncogenes, in healthy people during the 1970s. The peptides are virtually absent in people with cancer. Upon immigrating to Texas from his native Poland, he began researching the possibility of using the peptides to treat cancer. Eventually, he went into private practice. At the time, Texas law allowed him, as a licensed doctor, to use his experimental treatment on his cancer patients. While antineoplaston therapy does not cure all patients, it has a much better record, even with difficult cancers (e.g., anaplastic astrocytoma and glioma), than conventional treatment; and it does not cause damaging side effects. Antineoplastons have demonstrated safety and efficacy in phase II, FDA-supervised clinical trials. Phase III trials, the final phase before marketing, will start in 2010, if funding is found.

Even though no patients made a complaint, the Texas Medical Board began investigating Burzynski in 1984. Over the next 14 years, the doctor faced several more investigations by the Texas Medical Board, at least four federal grand jury investigations instigated by the FDA, a sabotaged clinical trial by the National Cancer Institute, and the US Department of Health and Human Services' attempt to acquire patent rights to Burzynski's already-patented therapy.

Filmmaker Merola spent three years researching these events. He used patient interviews and records, legal documents, taped videos of congressional hearings, media coverage, and interviews with Burzynski himself to tell the struggles. How Burzynski's treatment and the clinic have survived is an inspiring story.

Burzynski, the Movie is available at www.burzynskimovie.com and Amazon.com. Trailers and clips can be found on YouTube.

Low-Level Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Carbon monoxide (CO) at low levels can contribute to chemical sensitivity and cause hypersensitive sensory responses, a condition that toxicologist Albert Donnay, MHS, calls MUSES Syndrome (multi-sensory sensitivity). The burning of any organic fuel – oil, wood, gas, coal, even cigarettes and electric stoves in self-cleaning mode – produces carbon monoxide. In addition, the human body produces CO when stressed by heat, light, sound, odors, electromagnetic fields, infection, physical trauma, and mental or psychological disturbance.

Carbon monoxide's lethal proclivity for binding to hemoglobin, thereby preventing tissue oxygenation, is well known. A build-up of car exhaust in a closed garage or gas from an unlit pilot light can kill. Low levels of the gas, however, have less-recognized metabolic effects. CO acts as a neurotransmitter that affects learning, memory, and long-acting adaptation to sensory stimuli (producing acute sensitivity to odors, sounds, taste, light, and touch). It also activates nitric oxide synthase, which makes nitric oxide (NO). Symptoms of carbon monoxide exposure include headache, fatigue, weakness, muscle pain, cramps, nausea, vomiting, upset stomach, diarrhea, confusion, memory loss, dizziness, chest pain, rapid heartbeat, and shallow or difficulty breathing. These symptoms tend to "wax and wane" according to environmental exposure and endogenous production of the gas.