

Medicine, which in those days was receiving large grants for its pioneering research in anesthesiology and heart transplants. Some of the money also funded research on peptides effects on the brain and memory. Baylor had some of the best equipment in the world for chromatography. Burzynski's expertise was welcomed, and he worked out an agreement where he was allowed to spend half his time working on the peptides he'd discovered.

With a more sophisticated laboratory, Burzynski now was able to break the substances down even more precisely into 119 different molecules. The nearby MD Anderson Cancer Center had just begun receiving huge infusions of federal funding, and Burzynski managed to work out an arrangement with colleagues there, so he could test the peptides on cancer cells grown in labs. Sure enough, they found a few that shrunk tumors, and began publishing the results in medical journals.

In these early years of research he met his wife, Barbara, a fellow Polish immigrant and medical doctor. They have been inseparable since, and occupy side-by-side offices to this day.

When President Nixon announced a "war on cancer" Burzynski applied for a grant from the National Cancer Institute, and with the help of influential allies at MD Anderson, his research was funded from 1974-1977. His understanding of the substances was refined, and he saw anti-cancer properties with some, while eliminating others. An experiment on breast cancer cells produced very

promising results, and then he found a few peptides that seemed to work on every kind of cancer cell they encountered. He and his colleagues continued to publish results and were becoming convinced that the body had a biochemical defense system. A small group of polypeptides seemed to act as controllers that could simply turn off the malignant growth of cancer cells. Burzynski dubbed them antineoplastons because "neoplasia," the Greek word meaning "new growth," was the technical term for cancer.

Dr. Burzynski's now been working with antineoplastons for more than three decades, with unheard of rates of success treating all kinds of cancer, reversing some of the nastiest kinds and advanced cases.

Burzynski was excited that it was time to start trying antineoplastons on people, but he soon encountered major obstacles. Two hospitals would not grant him permission to conduct a trial on humans, and his time was consumed filing paperwork and trying to work out legal issues. Meanwhile, internal politics at Baylor caused some high level personnel changes, and his projects were suddenly out of favor. At this critical juncture, Marian Mazur, a Polish scientist who had helped Burzynski in their homeland, suddenly turned up in Houston and stayed at his

house. Mazur suggested that if his treatment was good, income from patients alone would support the work. Just a year earlier Burzynski would never have dreamed of going into business for himself, especially since in Poland academics despised business people. However, after a hospital finally did agree to sanction Burzynski's trial, he struck out on his own with only \$5000, a pittance compared to the funding he'd been receiving, which was necessary to do the extensive research.

Human urine was the only source for the necessary peptides, so Burzynski collected it from the hospital and several other sources where friends helped him out. Churches, seminaries, and convents in the Polish-American Catholic community contributed, and even the Texas prison system. About 10 gallons for each patient for each day of treatment was needed to get the necessary peptides. The majority of his first trial of 22 patients achieved either significant tumor reduction or stabilization. Four saw their tumors completely dissipate.

Burzynski garnered some national and international attention with the papers he continued to publish. Mass spectrometry was becoming more widely available in the early 1980s, making it possible for Burzynski to begin the difficult work of synthesizing the peptides so they could be manufactured instead of extracted from urine. He began patenting the antineoplastons in 1984. At first it was all funded by Burzynski's part time job in a private practice and loans he secured. As

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