

BREAST CANCER

The Second Biennial Louisiana Cancer Conference

NEW ORLEANS, JANUARY 22-23, 1958

Edited by

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Sponsored by the

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY, LOUISIANA DIVISION, INC.

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PREFACE

BREAST CANCER IS A UNIQUE MALIGNANCY IN MANY WAYS. EVEN UNTREATED, approximately 20 per cent of cancer patients live five or more years while still bearing the malignancy. Following surgery, metastatic foci sometimes lie dormant for many years and then spring to life and vigorous growth. It would thus appear that breast cancer is a disease whose methods of progression are protean—it can grow inexorably and kill rapidly; it can progress slowly and indolently until the patient dies of some other cause; or it can proceed with alternating periods of rapid growth and indolence.

This unusual cancer also has many interesting and different factors in its onset. In the laboratory mouse a viral agent (the so-called “milk agent”) interacts with hormonal and genetic factors to raise the incidence of breast cancer. While there is no concrete evidence of such a viral agent in man, there are a number of uncommon aspects of its epidemiology. Also, in striking contrast, increasing parity raises the incidence of this tumor in the laboratory mouse while it significantly decreases its incidence in women.

Furthermore, breast cancer in its advanced form shows an impressive response to changes in the hormonal internal environment. Breast cancer has been called “estrogen dependent” in some phases of its growth pattern, a phenomenon said to account for this responsiveness. Whether or not this is true, breast cancer shares with prostatic cancer the distinction of showing frequent tumor regression following castration or hormone administration.

Thus it is necessary to add to the experience of the pathologist, surgeon, and physician that of the endocrinologist, radiologist, epidemiologist, biochemist, zoologist, virologist, and psychiatrist. We feel fortunate to have had distinguished representatives of each of these disciplines at the Second Biennial Louisiana Cancer Conference.

The Symposium which this book represents was organized as the Second Biennial Louisiana Cancer Conference under the aegis of the American Cancer Society, Louisiana Division, Inc. The committee which was responsible for the Symposium consisted of G. John Buddingh, M.D., Manuel Garcia, M.D., E. T. Kremenz, M.D., Rudolph J. Muelling, Jr., M.D., J. D. Rives, M.D., Albert Segaloff, M.D. (Chairman), Ambrose H. Storck, M.D., Charles Watkins, M.D., and Marian M. Simmons.

An attempt was made to cover all important facets of the problem and to have formal presentations and free discussion as a forum for new ideas. All of this is included in this book.

The sessions were held in the auditoria of Tulane University School of Medicine and the Louisiana State University School of Medicine. We want to express our thanks to both of these institutions for their courteous cooperation and gracious hospitality.

We would also like to thank the participants for their excellent presentations and their stimulating contributions to the discussions; Mrs. Marian M. Simmons, of the Louisiana Division, for assistance in all of the arrangements; Mrs. Margaret C. Flower and Mrs. Ann Segaloff for yeoman service in typing and assistance in editing the volume; and Mrs. Joyselyn Shambley and Miss Glenda Hebert for their help with the large volume of correspondence in arranging the meeting.

ALBERT SEGALOFF

New Orleans, La.
January, 1958

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