



# BREAST CANCER

rates are increasing worldwide. Each year 180,000 women, in the US alone, are diagnosed with breast cancer and more than 44,000 of those, die of the disease. Around 15,000 women diagnosed with breast cancer, die each year in the UK. Breast cancer rates among NZ women are just as frightful. Only 50 years ago the incidence for a woman's lifetime risk was 1 in 20, now it is a dramatic 1 in 8. This rate continues to climb at 1 per cent per year.\*

As the medical miracles of a cancer cure become more of a mirage, and the unprecedented spectacle of medical bumbblings such as the Gisborne smear debacle continue, we wonder, what next? Pouring more millions into 'research for a cure' is patently a waste. What are we really doing to stem this rising plague?

## Thermography of the breast can detect abnormality from 8-10 years before mammography can detect a mass.

We have, for instance the Breast Cancer Awareness Month together with improvements in surgery and treatment, but it seems this is not working either. For instance, the motto of the Breast Cancer Awareness Month is, "Early detection is your best protection." Yet the National Cancer Institute (NCI) stated in 1995 that, "Breast cancer is simply not a preventable disease." They went on in 1997 to say, "There are no practical ways to prevent breast cancer - only early detection." Hence the mammogram must be our first line of defence.

I firmly believe this is nonsense and that not only environmental toxins and hormone-disrupting chemicals, still pouring into our environment, are to blame for breast cancer, but to some degree, so is X-ray mammography. As early as 1977 Dr Irwin Bross had become an outspoken critic of mammography, calling it a "disastrous mistake" that would "produce the worst ... epidemic of cancer in medical history."<sup>(1)</sup> At a meeting of the NCI, Bross accused the American cancer Society of subjecting a quarter of a million women to X-ray dosages equivalent "to death warrants with a 15-year delay in the execution."<sup>(2)</sup>

Few folk realise the mastermind behind Breast Cancer Awareness Month was our old friend the pharmaceutical giant Zeneca ... now AstraZeneca. This is the company manufacturing the controversial breast cancer drug Tamoxifen, which grosses \$500 million US dollars a year, and is suspected to cause, among others, endometrial cancer.<sup>(3)</sup> They do not advertise of course that they also manufacture pesticides such as Acetochlor (a well-known carcinogen) which, yes you've guessed it, almost certainly causes breast cancer, together with a whole host of other nasties in the herbicide-fungicide range.

When it comes to tackling the industries producing all of this muck, there is an ominous silence from the Breast Cancer Awareness programmes, and even more so from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and governments. Men like Professor Samuel Epstein have spent their lives fighting this battle. Tight-lipped environmental scientists struggle to hide the

## The Deception of Detection

by Robert Anderson, PhD