

PSA: PEOPLE SEEKING ANSWERS

Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities

Wednesday, 5th July 2017 / 7 pm

Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities

Leibniz-Hall, Markgrafenstraße 38, 10117 Berlin

Please register until 28th June at: www.bbaw.de/ablin

Every year, more than a million men in the USA undergo, with associated risks, painful needle biopsies for prostate cancer, and upward of 100,000 have radical prostatectomies, often resulting in crippling side effects, such as incontinence, impotence and psychological trauma. But the shocking fact is most of these men would never have died of this common form of cancer, which frequently grows so slow that it never even leaves the prostate. How did we get to a point where so many unnecessary tests and surgeries are being done resulting in a multibillion-dollar industry?

The unsavory extrapolation of the "science" of the PSA test beyond its capabilities to serve as a harbinger for the recurrence of prostate cancer for: I) the purpose of screening asymptomatic men for prostate cancer and II) a medical community too quick to biopsy and treat, were the initiating events. These events followed by clever marketing of PSA test manufacturers; the media, through high-profile political, entertainment and professional sports figures "get tested, get diagnosed, get treated" and well-intended but ill-informed urologists, screening proliferated to a "fever which would not disgrace a medieval inquisition". The consequence systematically devastated the quality of life of millions of American men and their families, and depleted our healthcare system of precious resources at an annual cost of \$3 billion for a test that cannot do what it is purposed to do. Most assuredly the widely known principle in medicine: *Primum non nocere* (First do no harm) was lost in the tsunami of manipulating science for personal and financial gain. The answer of how we got to the present "the almighty bloody dollar" becomes clear. Nonetheless, it is instructive, lest history repeats itself, we look at the facts – pro and con of PSA screening as they developed the past almost 50 years.



Sherry Young / Dreamstime.com

Welcome

Annette Grüters-Kieslich

Vice-President, Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities

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Richard J. Ablin

University of Arizona, College of Medicine / Arizona Cancer Center and BIO5 Institute, Tucson

Richard J. Ablin

Professor Richard J. Ablin discovered prostate-specific antigen (PSA) in 1970, which led to the development of the PSA test. A pioneer of cryosurgery and the concept of "cryoimmunotherapy" for the treatment of cancer, he has extensive experience in cancer research, particularly the development and progression of cancer. Cited in several biographical references, Richard J. Ablin has been an invited speaker at numerous national and international meetings; has contributed numerous articles to professional journals and texts; is co-editor of the book series "Cancer Metastasis – Biology and Treatment" and serves on the editorial board of several journals.

Further Information:

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How to get there:

S-Bahn: Friedrichstraße / U2: Hausvogteiplatz
or Stadtmittel / U6: Französische Straße or
Stadtmittel