

## CHAPTER TWO

### *The Burzynski Wars*

The Burzynski wars started in a small lab in communist Poland circa 1967. Stanislaw Burzynski (Stash, or Stan, as he is known to his friends) was a medical student. During a routine lab project, Stash made a simple observation. He noticed that the blood of cancer patients lacked certain types of amino acids and peptides, which are normally found in healthy patients.

Interesting, he thought, and perhaps important. He had no idea at the time that this single small finding would consume the next forty years of his life, put him in harm's way of numerous governmental entities, and lead him on a collision course with the scientific establishment and the church of the medical orthodoxy.

#### *First, a Fable*

During the Middle Ages, there was a king who had a Jewish court jester named Mendel. Unfortunately, Mendel had a roving eye and had an affair with the queen. The king found out, summoned Mendel, and ordered his execution.

As they were taking him away, Mendel turned and yelled out, "King, King, you can't execute me; I have a wonderful and unique talent that will make you famous throughout the world."

"And what, pray tell, is that talent?" asked the king.

Mendel replied, "King, I can teach your horse to fly."

The king started to laugh and waved him off.

The jester said, "No, verily, I can teach your horse to fly, and you will be the most famous king in the world if you allow me to do it."

The king was intrigued and asked the jester, "What do you need to make my horse fly?"

Mendel said that he needed a paddock, a house, an assistant, and a woman to keep him company.

The king asked him why he needed all that.

The jester said it was a hard job, and these things would help him concentrate because it would take him two years to teach the king's horse to fly.

"Two years," the king said. "That seems like a very long time."

Mendel then said, "Look, your kingship, I've done this before, and I'm telling you, it takes two years."

The king thought about it for awhile and said, "Okay, Mr. Jester. I'm going to give you everything you asked for, but at the end of the two years, if my horse isn't flying, I will torture you mercilessly, and you will wish that you had been put to death today."

As the king's guards took Mendel away to find his new woman and locate a house, Yankel, the assistant jester, came up to Mendel and said, "Mendel, what in God's name have you done? You know you can't teach the king's horse to fly. In two years, the king will surely do what he says and put you to a horrible death."

Mendel gave Yankel a grin and said, "You know, Yankel, a lot can happen in two years. The king could die of natural causes. I could die of natural causes. The horse could die of natural causes, or I might teach the horse to fly. For now, we'll let the future take care of itself. See you at six for dinner at my new house."