



In the News

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RECOGNIZING CANCER SURVIVORS

On Sunday, June 2, 1996, more than 600 communities throughout the United States will hold celebrations of life as part of the ninth annual National Cancer Survivor's Day,[®] the world's largest cancer survivor event. The day is a time to recognize the nation's more than 10 million cancer survivors, to focus attention on the issues of survivorship, and to acknowledge those professionals dedicated to cancer treatment, research, and support services. To find out how to start a National Cancer Survivor's Day in your area, call 615-794-3006.

U.S. Postmaster General Marvin Runyon announced that 100 million breast cancer stamps will go on sale nationwide on June 15 as part of a public service campaign to raise awareness for breast cancer.



Also taking place in June is the National Race for the Cure, which raises money to fund breast cancer research, education, treatment, and screenings. This year's race will take place in Washington, D.C., on June 15, 1996.

The U.S. Postal Service has teamed up with the National Race for the Cure to announce the release of a Breast Cancer Awareness stamp. The stamp's release on June 15 kicks off a four-month national community outreach and public service campaign by the Postal Service that will include providing breast health information and mammography screenings at neighborhood post offices and other community locations in their service areas.

A key partner in the national campaign is the Susan G. Komen Foundation, founder of the Race for the Cure series. The Postal Service will use Komen's 1-800-I'M-AWARE help line in its outreach campaign.

BMT VIDEO AVAILABLE

Odyssey—The Road Less Travelled By is an hour-long video provided as an educational service of the Medical & Professional Education Department of Glaxo Wellcome Inc. The video includes intelligent, compassionate interviews with patients, their families, their treatment teams, and researchers and explores the bone marrow transplantation process and its effectiveness. To order, please contact the Glaxo Wellcome Educational Resource Center at 1-800-824-2896.

PHARMACEUTICAL UPDATE

The risk of endometrial and other cancers in women taking tamoxifen (Nolvadex, Zeneca Pharmaceuticals) for breast cancer may have been blown out of proportion by the press, according to V. Craig Jordan, M.D., of the Robert H. Lurie Cancer Center at Northwestern University Medical School in Chicago, speaking March 13 at the Annual International Breast Cancer Conference in Miami Beach, Fla. The benefits of adjuvant tamoxifen therapy far outweigh concerns, Jordan believes. These include a 40 percent decrease in breast cancer recurrence, reduced circulating cholesterol, fewer heart attacks, and maintenance of bone density.

Studies of tamoxifen given in small doses over a relatively short period of time confirmed that tamoxifen does not cause endometrial cancer but may act as a fuel for pre-existing carcinoma. The press has distorted the facts, said Jordan, in portraying tamoxifen as causing high grade, late stage endometrial cancer. One study showed that just 13 women out of 1,000 given 40 mg/m² a day of tamoxifen (twice the normal dose) developed endometrial cancer, and 80 percent of that was early stage disease.

In other news, aromatase inhibitors have become an increasingly effective treatment for postmenopausal women with advanced breast cancer, according to Trevor J. Powles, M.D., of the Royal Marsden Hospital in London. He also presented at the Miami meeting. One of the most recently developed of these compounds is Arimidex (anastrozole, Zeneca Pharmaceuticals), approved in January for advanced postmenopausal breast cancer that has progressed beyond therapy with tamoxifen. ■