

## Introduction I: American Cancer Society Research Workshop on Cancer and Nutrition

John Laszlo<sup>1</sup>

*Research Department, American Cancer Society, Atlanta, Georgia 30329*

The American public is seeking sound information about the relationship between diet and causes of illness. Because of its major role in providing public information about cancer, the American Cancer Society is attempting to respond to this responsibility by providing ever more authoritative information about the importance of diet in cancer etiology. Clearly, the subject matter is difficult and often controversial, and advice necessarily is therefore based on imperfect information. Fortunately, what we know about the basic principles of diet and cancer fit in so well with other aspects of health as it relates to the prevention of major illnesses, such as cardiovascular disease, that very substantial dietary guidelines can and

have been developed. The American Cancer Society would like to see further advances in our knowledge of these relationships. Such advances will only come through research studies. We recognize that such studies may lead to useful clues for the reduction of cancer risk.

The Planning Committee for this workshop assembled an excellent program to help strengthen the methodology for obtaining meaningful information of this type. We are most grateful to Dr. Edward Bresnick and his colleagues for taking on this challenge on our behalf, because it will be a boon to future researchers. The study of nutrition and cancer cuts across many disciplines, and a research proposal can be strong in several major areas of science and yet be seriously flawed on one critical point. The workshop participants tried to address these types of issues. The American Cancer Society is grateful for their thoughtful and scholarly suggestions.

---

<sup>1</sup> Presented at the American Cancer Society Research Workshop on Cancer and Nutrition, July 13 and 14, 1992, Atlanta, GA.