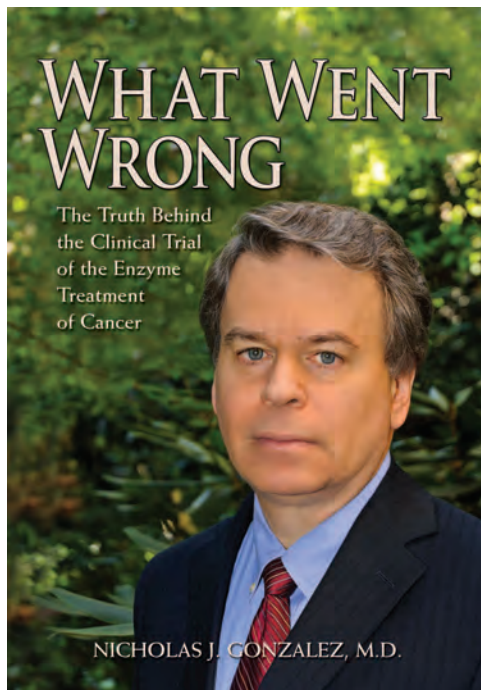




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Foreword to *What Went Wrong*
by Sarah Ann Cooper
Survivor of Pancreatic Cancer



Publisher's note: In 1998, Dr. Nicholas J. Gonzalez received approval from the National Cancer Institute for a large-scale clinical trial of his nutritional approach in patients diagnosed with inoperable pancreatic cancer. Unfortunately, from the onset of the project, serious problems in the design, implementation, and supervision on the part of the academic scientists and physicians assigned to the project at Columbia University Medical Center, the National Cancer Institute, and the National Institutes of Health undermined any chance this would be a fair and legitimate evaluation of the Gonzalez regimen. In his book *What Went Wrong: The Truth Behind the Clinical Trial of the Enzyme Treatment of Cancer*, Dr. Gonzalez sets the record straight and documents the serious mismanagement of this clinical study that led ultimately to meaningless data and years of work—and government funding—wasted.

Sarah Ann Cooper, a patient of Dr. Linda Isaacs, Dr. Gonzalez's colleague, has written the first of two Fore-

words for *What Went Wrong*. Diagnosed with aggressive pancreatic adenocarcinoma in February 2001, Ms. Cooper actually applied to be part of the clinical study, but was turned away by the Principal Investigator at Columbia. She underwent no conventional treatment, not even surgery, and subsequently pursued the Gonzalez treatment as a private patient of Dr. Isaacs. Now more than 11 years since her diagnosis, she is alive, well, and active with her large family and in her church.

Ms. Cooper is an extraordinary example of success with the Gonzalez therapy, a patient who faced a terrible prognosis with a disease that usually kills within months. But with determination, she took on the challenge, pursued her treatment, and ultimately prevailed. Her story, movingly told in her Foreword, is an example of pure courage in the face of terrible odds.

What Went Wrong: The Truth Behind the Clinical Trial of the Enzyme Treatment of Cancer by Nicholas J. Gonzalez, M.D. Original edition. 7 x 10, 600 pages with references. ISBN 978-0-9821965-3-3. \$39.95. Available from Amazon.com and at www.newspringpress.com. Available to libraries from Quality Books, Inc., qbibooks.com or 800.323.4241. Book Copyright © Nicholas J. Gonzalez; Foreword © Sarah Ann Cooper. Used with permission.

Foreword

If I had not been on the Isaacs/Gonzalez protocol for the past 11 years, I would not be here today to tell my story. In December 2000 a mass was found in my pancreas during a CAT scan of my abdomen. In February of 2001, a biopsy by Kaiser and confirmed at the Mayo Clinic diagnosed the 3.2 cm tumor in the head of my pancreas as a carcinoma, better known as pancreatic cancer. I was sent to three surgeons all of whom wanted to perform a surgery called a Whipple operation. After hearing the extent of organs to be removed, I questioned the common sense of having surgery at all. I insisted on a complete explanation of why this was necessary and the prognosis of quality of life and life expectancy, both of which were bleak—so bleak that the prognosis was 3 to 6 months without surgery and only 15 to 18 months with surgery and chemo. I scheduled surgery twice and cancelled each time. I read everything on the Internet from the AMA, the National Cancer Institute and every site involving cancer. I wrote to the AMA and the NCI to receive literature. Bookstores became my friend as I read everything about cancer. I delved into the medical disease publications and books written by medical doctors and alternative medicine practitioners. I felt good and wanted better odds than the surgeons were giving me. I declined surgery.

While researching the cause of cancer and some of the alternative ways of treatment, I started on various herbs, vitamins, minerals and lots of prayer. Then I heard about a clinical trial which did not involve some participants tak-

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ing a placebo. The trial used only natural methods to treat cancer. On further investigation, I learned the trial was only allowing persons with pancreatic cancer to participate. This was possibly done because of the short life expectancy of a diagnosis of this cancer.

After further checking, I contacted the office of Dr. Linda Isaacs and Dr. Nicholas Gonzalez where I was given the contact information for Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, a Dr. Chabot. After a brief phone interview by Dr. Chabot's nurse, she sent me the packet to fill out to see if I qualified for the trial. I also had to get medical records from Kaiser to forward with the packet. After receiving my packet, Columbia called and informed me I qualified for the trial. I was to go to New York and meet with Dr. Chabot and then with Dr. Gonzalez or Dr. Isaacs to discuss the trial protocol. I immediately started securing my finances to make the trip; my sister-in-law gave me a ticket and I made my hotel reservations. I was ecstatic. At last there was hope and a chance to live a quality life. I realized the regimen of 150 plus pills, the coffee enemas, the diet and cleanses would change my life. However at least I would have a chance at life and a quality of life while I fought this battle. We were ready to start. Or so I thought!

Upon arrival in New York City, my first meeting was with Dr. Isaacs. She went over the basic segments of the protocol to be sure I understood it would not be an easy regimen. She was very professional and explained how we would work by phone. Then she asked if I had been able to get my doctor at Kaiser to agree to take periodic blood tests and monitor me. I confirmed my wonderful primary care physician had agreed to do that and send any reports to their office for their perusal. I was scared not because I had chosen this route but because I knew it would be a strict and time-consuming commitment, a commitment I was more than willing to make. The surgery option was not a consideration. I had refused surgery with three surgeons and was on alternative supplements already to try to prolong my life.

My next visit was with Dr. Chabot at Columbia-Presbyterian. The nurse there showed me into a small office. She explained she would go over my paperwork, and then I would be given the final approval by Dr. Chabot. We were zipping along when she asked the fatal question. "Mrs. Cooper, now why are you unable to have surgery?"

I honestly replied, "I can have surgery, however, I have chosen not to."

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She immediately stated she would have to discuss this with Dr. Chabot. I waited and soon Dr. Chabot entered the room. Sitting across the desk from me, he said there was no way I could be in the trial since I could have surgery. I was shocked and tried to explain that it was my decision not to have surgery. I would not agree to surgery, chemotherapy, or radiation, now or ever. I was crying when I told him it was my life. I should be able to choose the treatment I felt was best for me. I met all the criteria for the trial and wanted desperately to be in the program. I had completed all the requirements and flown to New York at my expense anticipating starting the program. I tried to explain, I understood the decision I was making since my sister and niece had died of cancer. I left the building not understanding what had just happened and in a state of frozen disbelief. To say I was shocked and upset is an understatement. I was crushed. Hope had been wrung out of me. Nothing remained but darkness.

Returning to my hotel, I fell on the bed and cried. I knew I would not reconsider the Whipple surgery. I feared I would not be able to read and investigate enough alternative ways before becoming bedridden. However, I was convinced that I would pursue that avenue as long as I was able. Just then the phone rang. It was Dr. Isaacs. She had been called by Dr. Chabot's office and was so concerned about me. I felt she was surprised and disappointed in the latest developments also. After I told her I was still not going to go the only route approved by the medical profession, she asked me to come to her office if I was interested in being treated off trial. She explained that it would be at my expense however she would take her fees into consideration for all ongoing consultations.

The cab couldn't get me there fast enough. She spent two hours explaining in detail the procedures, even taping them for my future reference. Instructions were given on my diet, how to obtain the supplements from a supplier in California and sheets on when to take them, and the procedure for the cleanses and the coffee enemas. She informed me to call any time I needed to and she would return the call that day. For 11 years, she has kept that promise and has continued to look over my latest tests from Kaiser. I was blessed with three dedicated doctors, my primary care giver at Kaiser who worked with me in my pursuit of an alternative way to handle my disease, and Dr. Gonzalez and Dr. Isaacs, truly wonderful doctors who stayed with me, always researching any questions or concerns I encountered on my journey. It is a shame that doctors aren't taught in medical school to keep an open mind regarding other options

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to curing disease. Surgeons and MDs should be open to investigating new alternative treatments with a fair and inquiring mind. Compassion is part of the Hippocratic Oath. When any group takes the attitude that they know what's best for someone else and exert power over that person to get the decision they want, they are tyrants and should reconsider who gave them this right.

I can say without any hesitation that without Dr. Gonzalez and Dr. Isaacs and the protocol they presented to the world, I would not have seen my only granddaughter Sarah, named after me, born or celebrated my 50th wedding anniversary. Neither would I have experienced any of the other joys life has brought me in the last 11 years with my three children, three grandsons and granddaughter. Nor would there have been the joy of family Christmases, eleven birthdays each, for all of us to celebrate and seeing my eldest grandson graduate from high school. My future looks great! I continue to teach a health and wellness class which I started 5 years ago at my church. Also I am writing a book about my journey to give others hope and an inquiring mind. And with God's blessing, I will live to see my great-grandchildren arrive in this wonderful world. Let me not end this without giving thanks to God and the Holy Spirit for leading me with His knowledge and guidance. For without it, I would not be here today.

Dr. Nick Gonzalez and Dr. Linda Isaacs are to be applauded for their courage and perseverance. They are honorable physicians and I hope our world will see more of this kind of dedication and willingness to explore other options in combating cancer.

Sarah Ann Cooper
February 2012