

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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CANCER ANSWERS: READER-FRIENDLY BOOK
PROVIDES CLEAR, CONCISE INFORMATION ABOUT CANCER

DALLAS — September 22, 1993 — *Cancer*. The very word is frightening. A diagnosis can be even more so, especially for people who don't understand some basic facts about the nature of the disease.

Now there's a book that presents those facts in readable lay language. The author of *Cancer Answers: Encouraging Answers to 25 Questions You Were Afraid to Ask*, Dr. Errol C. Friedberg, professor and chairman of pathology at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, hopes his book will help allay some of the fear of cancer.

"I want to demystify this seemingly unpredictable and overwhelming disease with straight talk about its true nature and consequences," Friedberg said. "I want to provide clear, nontechnical answers to the questions most often asked by cancer patients, former patients, their families and friends."

Friedberg is an internationally recognized cancer researcher and holder of the Senator Betty and Dr. Andy Andujar Distinguished Chairmanship of Pathology. He also is a fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists in London.

In his book, which is free of hard-to-understand terminology, Friedberg starts at the beginning with the basic question: What is cancer? From there, he takes the reader on an informational journey addressing other topics such as the early symptoms of cancer, the differences between cancer and a tumor, and distinctions among carcinoma, sarcoma, leukemia and lymphoma.

Friedberg also addresses the question of genetic predisposition to cancer. Question 16 in the book is "Can one be born with an increased risk of getting cancer?" Friedberg says, "Yes, one can." As an example, he tells of people susceptible to skin cancer because their bodies cannot repair DNA in skin cells

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damaged by sunlight. This congenital defect is known as xeroderma pigmentosum.

Throughout the book Friedberg addresses standard and alternative cancer treatments, the chances of survival, why cancer treatments don't always work, the future of cancer treatment, and the connection between cancer and one's emotional state. Finally, Friedberg offers an extensive list of resources to get more information about cancer, a definition of terms and suggested reading material.

"I want to offer clear and simple information to readers without trivializing their great concerns about cancer," said Friedberg, who received the Order of the Golden Sword from the California Division of the American Cancer Society. He is a member of the American Cancer Society's Council for Research and Clinical Investigation Awards.

Friedberg is managing editor of *Mutation Research: DNA Repair*. He is on the editorial boards of the journals *Experimental and Toxicologic Pathology*, *Mutagenesis*, *Cancer Research* and *International Journal of Oncology*.

His book, *Cancer Answers*, is published by W.H. Freeman and Co. and has been released in the United States and England.

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