

Prevention of Skin Cancer

Cancer Prevention – Cancer Causes

Volume 3

Prevention of Skin Cancer

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Contents

Contributors	vii
Acknowledgements	ix
Preface	xi
The scope of the book	1
David J. Hill, Ph.D.; J. Mark Elwood, M.D., D.Sc.; and Dallas R. English, Ph.D.	
Who gets skin cancer: individual risk factors	3
J. Mark Elwood, M.D., D.Sc.	
Solar and ultraviolet radiation	21
Peter Gies, Ph.D.; Colin Roy, Ph.D.; and Petra Udelhofen, Ph.D. (deceased)	
Stratospheric ozone depletion, UV exposure and skin cancer: a scenario analysis	55
Harry Slaper, Ph.D.; and Frank R. de Gruijl, Ph.D.	
Descriptive epidemiology of skin cancer	73
Gianluca Severi, Ph.D.; and Dallas R. English, Ph.D.	

How sun exposure causes skin cancer: an epidemiological perspective	89
Bruce K. Armstrong M.B., B.S., D.Phil.	
The role of genetics in the prevention of skin cancer	117
David Whiteman, B.Med.Sc.; M.B., B.S. (Hons), Ph.D.; and Rachel Neale, Ph.D.	
Sunscreens: can they prevent skin cancer?	141
Richard P. Gallagher, F.A.C.E., M.A.; Tim K. Lee, Ph.D.; and Chris D. Bajdik, Ph.D	
Issues about solarium	157
Philippe Autier, M.D., M.P.H.	
Animal models of ultraviolet radiation-induced skin cancer	177
Vivienne E. Reeve, Ph.D.; and Ronald D. Ley, Ph.D.	
Skin cancer induction by UV radiation: molecular UV targets and quantitative risk models	195
Frank R. de Gruijl, Ph.D.; and Harry Slaper, Ph.D.	
Patterns and causes of sun exposing and sun protecting behavior	211
Suzanne Dobbinson, M.Sc., Ph.D.; and David J. Hill, Ph.D.	
What can be done to reduce personal ultraviolet radiation exposure?	241
Brian L. Diffey, D.Sc., Ph.D.	
Impact of intervention strategies to reduce UVR exposure	259
Karen Glanz, Ph.D., M.P.H.; Mona Saraiya, M.P.H., M.D.; and Peter Briss, M.D.	
Skin cancer prevention: an economic perspective	295
Rob Carter, Grad.Dip.Pop.Health, B.A.(Hons), M.A.S., Ph.D.	
Conclusions	319
David J. Hill, Ph.D.; J. Mark Elwood, M.D., D.Sc.; and Dallas R. English, Ph.D.	
Index	325

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We are grateful to our colleagues who contributed to this volume, whose participation makes it a unique contribution to the prevention of skin cancer.

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Preface

Our series Cancer Prevention - Cancer Control continues to address the causes and prevention of cancer. In this volume, Hill, Elwood, and English bring together a rich resource summarizing the state of science underpinning the primary prevention of skin cancer. While skin cancer causes an increasing burden, particularly in populations of European origin, our understanding of the role of sun exposure together with the genetic components of skin cancer continues to grow. Given the emphasis on evidence-based medicine and public health prevention efforts, it is noteworthy that, although we can all access the same evidence base, countries around the world have had remarkably different responses to the application of this knowledge to prevent skin cancer. The outstanding contribution of the Australian public health community to the scientific understanding of skin cancer etiology and the translation of this knowledge into national prevention efforts uniquely positions the editors to compile this volume focused on the primary prevention of skin cancer. In so doing they draw on an international team of authors to present a “state of the science” summary of skin cancer prevention and to identify those areas where uncertainty remains.

To achieve successful prevention of cancer we must translate our scientific knowledge base into effective prevention programs. This book offers the reader keen insights into the depth of our understanding of etiologic pathways for skin cancer. This etiologic science base is complemented by rigorous prevention science placing emphasis on the social context for effective and sustained prevention efforts. Examples set forth in this book are noteworthy for their success in reduction of skin cancer

risk, but they will also serve as a model for other cancer prevention programs. This book, like the series in general, should help bring this evidence to the broader prevention community.

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