The authors highlight nine misconceptions (each misconception noted below is discussed in a separate chapter) about pollution, pesticides, and the prevalence of cancer, showing that:

- Cancer rates are not soaring in either Canada or the United States.
- Synthetic chemicals at levels found in the environment have not been shown to be an important cause of cancer.
- Reducing pesticide residues is not an effective way to prevent cancer.
- Potential cancer hazards are not primarily the result of human exposures to synthetic chemicals.
- The toxicology of the synthetic chemicals is not different from that of natural chemicals which make up 99.99% of chemical exposure.
- High dose animal cancer tests do not provide enough information to assess human cancer risks at the usual levels of exposure.
- Synthetic chemicals do not pose greater carcinogenic cancers than natural chemicals.
- Pesticides and other synthetic chemicals at levels found in the environment are not likely to be significant in disrupting human hormones.
- The current regulatory policy of low, hypothetical risks is not effective in advancing public health.

In the brochure describing the book, Ken Green, chief scientist and director of the Risk and Environment Policy Centre at the Fraser Institute, says "The ever-longer life expectancies and ever-healthier lives enjoyed by people in developed countries is evidence that technological development and economic freedom are wellsprings of health and safety. Yet the constant drumbeat of alarmism about risk blurs people's understanding; denies them the ability to make lifestyle choices that would best reduce their personal risk; and leads them to support poor allocation of scarce public health resources." This book discusses many of these misconceptions and provides a rational discussion of risk.

Misconceptions About the Causes of Cancer is the third publication in The Fraser Institute's Risk Controversy Series, the purpose of which is to promote good policy, based on sound science and sound economics.

In my opinion, it is an excellent, rational analysis of cancer risk as posed by natural as well as synthetic chemicals.

G.F. Bennett

doi: 10.1016/j.jhazmat.2003.09.001

Remediation of Chlorinated and Recalcitrant Compounds 2002 (Proceedings of the Third International Conference, 20–23 May 2002, Monterey, CA)
Arun R. Gavaskar and Abraham S.C. Chen (Eds.); Battelle Memorial Institute, Columbus, OH 2002, CD-ROM, ISBN 1-57477-132-9 (US$ 350.00)

Comprised of 321 separate papers presented to 1450 attendees at the conference held in Monterey, CA, in 2002, this computerized record of the conference proceedings contains a tremendous amount of information. I can only guess how many volumes of the Journal of Hazardous Materials it would take to publish all these papers. The number would not be inconsequential. The CD-ROM is an efficient way of recording and disseminating this vital information.

The papers are grouped into three major sections, each with several subgroups. The details are as follows (the descriptions of the contents of each subgroup are provided by the editors):

- Section 1 (remediation project planning and site characterization):
  - design and modeling of remediation projects;
  - data management tools;
  - risk-based corrective action;
  - characterization of fractured bedrock sites;
  - characterization of DNAPL source zones;
  - characterization of recalcitrant contamination.

These chapters "discuss regulatory interactions (e.g., risk-based corrective action) and describe approaches for design and modeling of remediation projects, selection and use of data management tools, and site characterization methods for a wide range of media and contaminants, determination of achievable cleanup goals, and remedy selection and design."

- Section 2 (remediation technologies):
  - permeable barriers;
  - biological remediation approaches;
  - chemical-based remediation techniques;
  - natural attenuation;
  - physical removal techniques;
  - technology selection;
  - thermal treatment technologies;
  - other innovative technologies.

"Contains information on selection from the spectrum of remediation technologies—physical, biological, chemical, thermal, natural attenuation, and—combined and methods of delivering the chosen treatment and monitoring progress."

- Section 3 (post-remediation strategies):
  - site closure;
  - long-term modeling.

"Presents to accomplish the monitoring necessary to determine the achievement of short-term performance endpoints that meet regulatory and economic goals. Also addressed, are design and implementation of short-term exit strategies and long-term monitoring projects."

Provided in the appendix are an author list and the key word list. Each of these lists has virtual links to the reference papers via Adobe Acrobat's search function (the disk contains information on installing this program with the aforementioned search feature).

The disk, as noted above, contains a massive amount of information and its form represents (at least to me) a new era of technology information presentation.

Gary F. Bennett

doi:10.1016/j.jhazmat.2003.09.006