

Oncology | Review

Energy Dynamics in Breast Cancer: Fields, Hormones & the Menstrual Cycle

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INTRODUCTION

Since the late 19th century medical scientists have conceived breast cancer as a local disease originating at the cellular level despite a large and growing body of evidence to the contrary. This collective belief has decisively influenced how breast cancer is diagnosed and treated.

The radical mastectomy, introduced by American surgeon William Halsted in the 1880s, was regarded as the therapeutic gold standard for nearly a century until it was shown to have no impact on outcomes [1-3]. Surgical removal of cancerous breast tissue nonetheless remains a key part of therapy even though risk/benefit questions continue to surface [4-6] and studies document adverse outcomes such as 'surgical wounding' in which excision of potentially curable tumors at the wrong time of the menstrual cycle triggers explosive disease [7-15].

In 1896 English physician George Beatson discovered that oophorectomy in women with breast cancer (BC) led to disease regression. In the ensuing decades BC increasingly became conceived as a hormonally-mediated disease [16-18]. Many studies confirm that estrogen levels are increased in BC. Molecular therapies targeting estrogen now form the cornerstone of treatment [19-26]. While they induce remission in a high percentage of women, not uncommonly disease recurs months, years, even decades later and is often refractory to treatment.

Mammography, introduced in the 1960s, is routinely used to diagnose BC but its effectiveness, which hinges on early detection, is hotly debated [27-31]. Its public health impact in terms of reducing mortality is marginal [32, 33] (**Figure 1**). One large meta-analysis found that mortality was 'generally reduced' but effects were not statistically significant and magnitudes small [34]. Overdiagnosis of early

cancers, which is said to occur in the 15-50% range, is a major shortcoming [35, 36]. One study examining usage patterns found that adherence to recommended guidelines was 'disappointingly low'

[37]. And whether diagnosed early or late in the course of disease a woman's only options remain surgery and hormonal therapies.

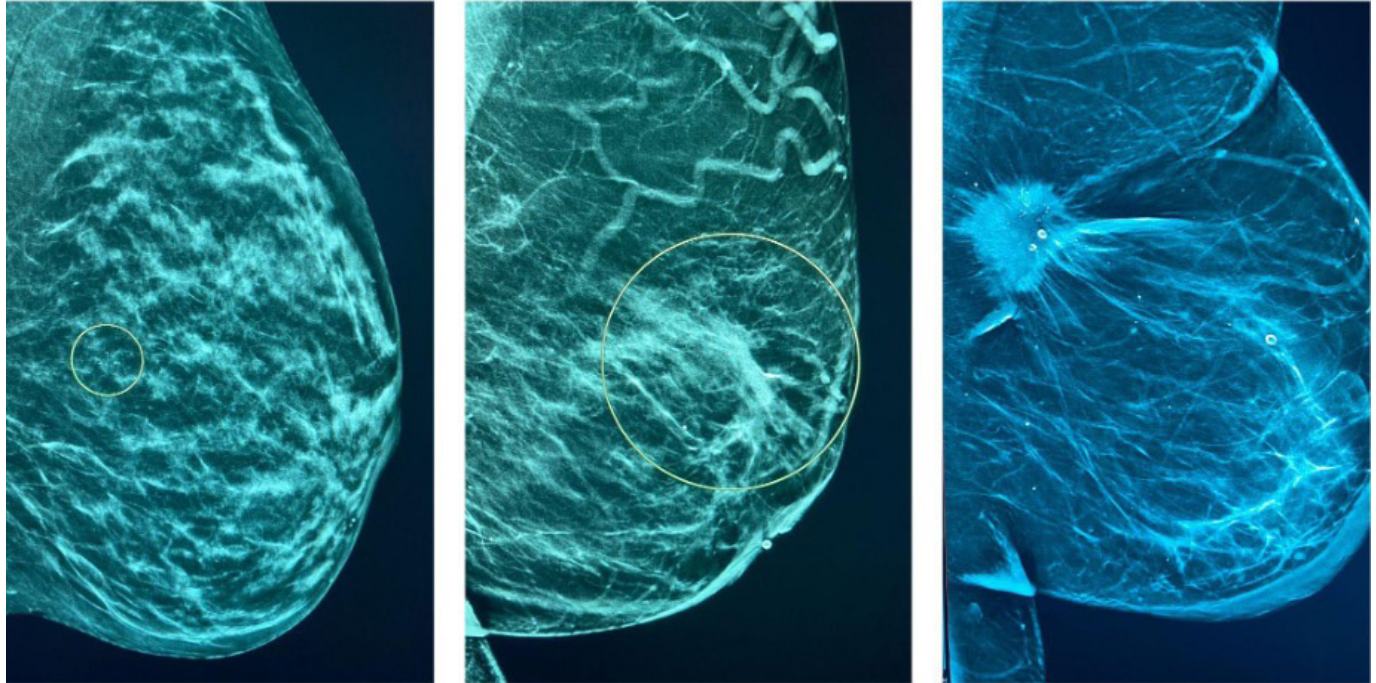


Figure 1. Mammographic images of breast cancer: ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS) (left); invasive ductal carcinoma (middle & right).

Genetic screening for BC susceptibility genes, the so-called BRCA1 and BRCA2 variants, was introduced in the 1990s to detect the pre-cancer state but this too hasn't gone quite according to plan. Less than 10% of women diagnosed with BC have these hereditary markers while 80-85% of women have no familial history [38-40]. In ensuing decades no fewer than two dozen other BC susceptibility genes ranging from high- to low-penetrance have been found. Researchers continue to investigate their role in BC oncogenesis [41-46]. Once such genes are detected a woman's options are vigilant mammographic screening, bilateral mastectomy, or chemoprevention with anti-estrogens [47].

Evidence indicates that from the onset BC is not an isolated cellular event but a systemic disorder. A

1987 Danish study of 110 medicolegal autopsies of young and middle-aged women found BC in 20%. Nearly half had multicentric or bilateral lesions [48]. Women with BC are at risk for secondary tumors: the incidence of synchronous bilateral BC is ~1-2% while metachronous BC occurs in ~5-6% [49, 50] **(Figure 2)**. Multiple studies support the notion of a pre-neoplastic spectrum in BC [51, 55]. Women with mammographically dense breasts are not only at increased risk for BC but ovarian cancer as well [56-61]. Same applies to women with BRCA-positive status [62-66]. BC survivors have increased risk for second primary cancers including uterine, lung, colon, pancreas, melanoma, leukemia, lymphoma and others [67-76].

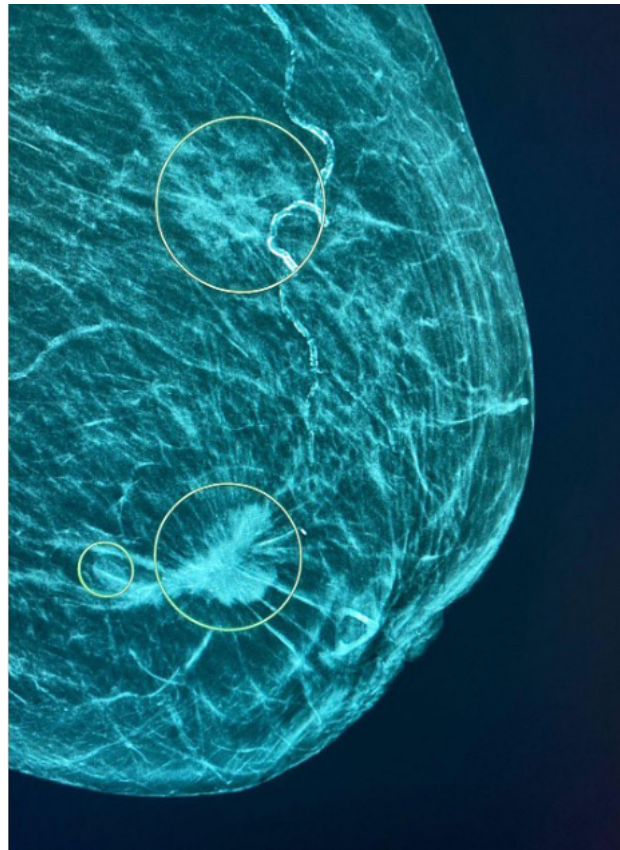


Figure 2. Multicentric breast cancer.

The prevalence of BC has increased steadily in recent decades and it is now the most commonly diagnosed cancer in the world [77-81]. In 2020 there were about 2.3 million new cases globally. It is the leading cause of cancer mortality in women. Cumulative risk is 12-13%, meaning that about 1 in 8 women will develop BC in their lifetimes. Large global variations exist with rates ranging from $<40/10^5$ women in various Asian and African locales to $>80/10^5$ in North America, Australia and Europe [82]. BC rates are expected to climb with up to 3 million new cases/year and 1 million deaths/year by 2040.

BC has consistently been linked to western lifestyles, reproductive habits and environmental factors [83-85]. One study found a six-fold gradient in BC risk related to migration patterns. Asian women born in the US had a 60% higher risk than those born in

Asia. Those who emigrated from urban areas in Asia had a 30% higher risk than those who came from rural areas; migrants who had lived in the US for over a decade had an 80% greater risk than more recent émigrés [86].

Provocative evidence implicates a relationship between BC and light-at-night exposure [87-91]. Nocturnal light exposure inhibits secretion of the pineal hormone melatonin which plays a role in replenishing the metabolism. This led scientist Richard Stevens to advance the 'melatonin hypothesis' imputing that nocturnal light exposure promotes BC development [92, 93]. Once again, hormonal interactions seem to play a mediating role in BC oncogenesis.

But other lifestyle factors come into play. Research consistently finds links between obesity and BC [94,

95]. Studies also show associations between BC and the metabolic syndrome, a cluster of alterations including obesity, insulin resistance, dyslipidemia, hypertension, and hyperglycemia [96-103]. The metabolic syndrome is associated with higher incidence of BC, more aggressive tumor subtypes and poorer outcomes. Such findings suggest that metabolic factors play a key role in BC origination.

Breast thermography has been in use since the 1960s to diagnose BC but due to its purported low specificity was largely abandoned in favor of mammography. But its ability to detect tumors, on the other hand, is rather high [104-106]. One study found that only 28% of noncancerous breasts had thermographic abnormalities versus 65-88% of cancerous breasts [107]. Another found that in women with questionable thermal abnormalities one-third developed BC within five years [108]. Women with BC have characteristic disturbances in their menstrual cycle heat rhythms and some researchers have suggested using such deviations to detect the pre-cancerous state [109-114]. An early step in the neoplastic transformation of breast tissue is acquisition of blood supply once again tying BC into the metabolism [115-118].

BC was described in the 2nd century AD by Roman physician Galen who called it *karkinos*, meaning 'crab', from which the term carcinoma derives. Galen was the first to describe the existence of a blood-borne energy field generated by the motions of the heart that formed the basis of his humoral system of medicine. His doctrine *omnia incipit in sanguine* held that all bodily functions originate in the blood. Galen regarded BC as a metabolic disorder arising from an excess of the humor known as black bile, which translates to our modern concept of acid. He cautioned against surgical excision of early breast tumors noting that 'any attempt at removal will irritate the cancer still more and kill the patient faster' [119].

This article explores the dynamics of BC which, in the end, originates in the deterioration of the blood-borne energy field in conjunction with a well-chronicled nest of hormonal disturbances related to the menstrual cycle. These imbalances, in turn, trigger excessive proliferation of cells in the face of insufficient energy to effect their transformation into functional breast elements. BC is not a disease of cells but of disordered transformation of cells into tissues. And its causes are neither cellular nor genetic but 'epigenetic' [120-122], a causal layer increasingly invoked by scientists which, as we will see, is nothing other than the organizing field that directs organismic growth and development.

CANCER HALLMARKS

In 2000 Hanrahan and Weinberg published their acclaimed 'Hallmarks of Cancer' in which they attempt to integrate the nest of known cellular and systemic disturbances into a coherent framework that encompasses the core functional attributes of all cancers [123]. Their 'hallmarks' provide a set of principles around which further attempts to understand cancer dynamics now constellate. The original list of six hallmarks continues to expand and evolve [124-129]. We will use it as a means by which to conceptualize BC oncogenesis with the proviso that, while a laudatory work-in-progress, it is more descriptive than explanatory. In turn new hallmarks will be introduced into the mix (**Figure 3**).



Figure 3. Hallmarks of Cancer

Implicit in their formulation is that cancer is more than just proliferation of cells but, rather, a complex set of interactions between various cell lines that compose cancerous tissue. They place emphasis on extracellular dynamics and the 'tumor microenvironment' [130, 131] which is recognized to play a key role in BC [132-139]. As this nexus of mutually sustaining interactions evolves toward the cancer state, tissues acquire a series of hallmark attributes which allow them to establish and maintain a unique functional niche and express typical neoplastic behaviors.

The most conspicuous attribute of cancer cells is their ability to continuously replicate and proliferate. A myriad of branching molecular pathways modulates cell mitotic cycles and growth through 'mitogenic signaling'. Such pathways are well-documented in

BC [140-146]. Not only are pro-mitotic signals in the tumor microenvironment enhanced but there is active suppression of mechanisms that would counteract cellular proliferation.

In addition to increased proliferation, processes involving organized cell death, i.e., apoptosis, are disrupted. The monthly menstrual flow, for example, is an orchestrated functional event that resets the clock, so to speak, in order for a new cycle of cellular generation to occur. Programmed cell death is an integral part of the menstrual cycle [147-152]. Such apoptotic cycles are hormonally regulated [153-156]. Disturbances in apoptosis are a hallmark of BC [157-159]. One of the most common genetic defects in BC is silencing of the tumor suppressor p53 gene which orchestrates cellular apoptosis, DNA repair, cell-cycle arrest and angiogenesis [160-166].

Another hallmark is 'replicative immortality'. During the course of oncogenesis cancer cells acquire the potential to propagate in an almost unrestricted fashion. This capacity contrasts starkly with normal cells which undergo only a limited number of propagational cycles. Such 'planned obsolescence' is enforced at the gene level by an enzyme known as DNA telomerase which adds telomere repeat sequences onto the terminal segments of DNA so that it can be accurately read during transcription [167, 168]. DNA telomerase levels normally diminish during both human and cellular aging but, paradoxically, are elevated in cancer states leading to sustained replication and so-called immortalization [169-172]. Telomerase levels are higher in women with BC compared to those without malignancy [173-178].

But increased proliferation and replicative immortality would not be possible without a more fundamental element, cancer stem cells (CSCs), the *sine qua non* of malignancy which are the drivers of BC [179-185]. CSCs are highly plastic cells which, through asymmetric division, replicate not only themselves and their 'stemness' but produce daughter cells which differentiate into all the various lineages that compose cancerous tissue. CSCs, *uber-plastic*, not only give rise to primary tumors but are behind tumor recurrence, invasion, metastasis, and chemo-resistance [186-189]. Their adaptability accounts for cancer cell heterogeneity as well as the hallmark of 'genetic instability'. By the same token CSCs may enter the dormant state and remain quiescent for extended periods of time [190-194].

It is apparent to many that genetic causal theories cannot explain such cancer-related behaviors and thus researchers increasingly invoke epigenetic causes, which implies a distinct causal layer 'above' the gene ensemble [195-203]. Epigenetic dysregulation is central to BC oncogenesis [204-208]. The altered gene functions that characterize the various hallmarks are clearly adaptive responses

to extant cellular or systemic conditions. But what regulates such adaptations?

The most compelling evidence in favor of a distinct epigenetic causal layer concerns DNA methylation, a reversible modification of chromosomal architecture that determines which gene functions are expressed and which are silenced. DNA methylation, a genome-wide regulatory process, is the basis for preservation of genomic stability [209-218]. For much of the 20th century cancer was believed to be the result of mutations in gene structure but disruption of DNA methylation is now recognized to account for most cases – including in BC [219-230]. Inactivation of tumor-suppressor genes or induction of 'oncogenes' is related to hyper- and/or hypomethylation of various gene regions. Once again, we are led to question the nature of this regulatory process. To gain better perspective we must briefly examine how the science of genetics came into being.

What we now call genetics was originally subsumed under the discipline of embryology, the 'queen of the sciences' according to Aristotle, and now generally known as developmental biology. During the closing decades of the 19th century there was awakening interest in embryology undoubtedly spawned by Darwin's Theory of Evolution and it became subject to experimental investigation.

German embryologist Wilhelm Roux argued that during cell division there was asymmetric parceling of genetic material to daughter cells and on this basis advanced his 'mosaic theory' holding that each cell in the early embryo was pre-programmed to differentiate along certain lines. With successive divisions each daughter cell received a different allotment of genetic material. Growth and development thus were little more than differentiation. It is now known that all cells receive the same chromosomal allotment and that different groups of genes are turned 'on' and 'off' depending

on the intended function of various cell lines. Once again this imputes some kind of organized gene-regulatory function.

In the 1890s, Hans Driesch separated fertilized sea-urchin eggs at the four-cell stage and upon development found that each cell had formed a complete, albeit smaller, organism which refuted Roux's mosaic theory. Driesch, observing that embryogenesis was predetermined and directed toward a fixed end or *telos*, argued for the existence of an organizing entity distinct from the cellular layer. In early development all cells possess the same undifferentiated potential, what Driesch called 'potency', and undergo stepwise transformation as the organismic blueprint seats itself into the proliferating mass of cells.

In the early decades of the 20th century German embryologist Hans Spemann performed experiments, recounted in *Embryonic Development and Induction* (1936) which added to Driesch's work. When he transplanted undifferentiated embryonic cells from one region to another the translocated cells differentiated according to the new area into which they were placed. Spemann thus concluded that the cells were influenced by the surrounding milieu and that morphogenesis must be orchestrated from outside the cell. From this he deduced the existence of an 'induction field'.

Within years of Spemann's induction field, two other embryologists, Russian Alexander Gurwitsch and Austrian Paul Weiss, advanced similar ideas. Gurwitsch, who published an embryologic atlas in 1907, began using the field concept as early as 1912 and articulated a mature field theory in the 1940s. Development became conceived as a coming-into-being governed by a meta-cellular organizing principle operating through the embryonic field. In 1923 Weiss advanced the concept of a 'determination field', which he popularized in his textbook *Principles of Development* (1939).

These developments are in accord with the writings of Aristotle, first biologist and embryologist, who argued that in order to explain morphogenesis a minimum of three distinct causal layers must be invoked: material causes, corresponding to the gene level, which determine whether an individual is a blue-eyed woman or a brown-eyed man; efficient causes, the layer of flowing fluids which provide the energetic means by which such transformations occur; and formal causes, the life principle, aka soul, responsible for the functional attributes peculiar to all members of a given species.

Against this background, American embryologist Thomas Morgan, now regarded as the father of modern genetics, forcefully inveighed against developmental field theories in his 1934 work *Embryology and Genetics*. Most biologists, he claimed, 'are not so much impressed by the idea that there is a principle of life as they are by the great variety of phenomena shown by living things'. It would seem 'premature and pretentious', he went on, 'to discuss some imaginary ideal property of life' (Figure 4).

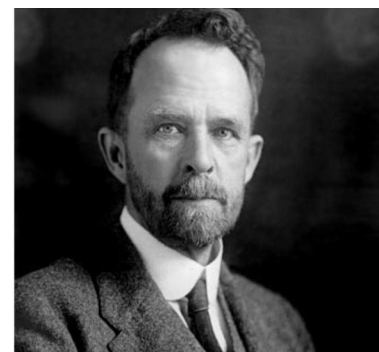


Figure 4. Thomas Hunt Morgan: early proponent of the primacy of genetics in development.

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In one of the most circular propositions ever advanced in science Morgan argued that 'acceptance

of such a principle would seem to make it hardly worthwhile to use the experimental method to study development'. Referring to such ideas as 'mysticism' he cautioned that 'it would seem better to table these metaphysical questions'. Genetics, he wrote, 'has become so interwoven with that of experimental embryology that the two can now to some extent be told as a single story'. This marks the origins of the scientific discipline we know as genetics.

After Watson and Crick's 1953 discovery of the structure of DNA and Crick's 1957 articulation of his 'Central Dogma', imputing the primacy of DNA and nuclear mechanisms, we observe emergence of a strict genetic determinism at which point genetics became less science than ideology. Geneticists augured a future replete with genetic engineering and elimination of disease which, to date, has yet to transpire. In *The Century of the Gene* (2000) physicist Evelyn Fox Keller remarks on the 'ever-widening gaps' between geneticists' assumptions and the actual data that emerged from experiments. 'It seems evident', she writes, 'that the primacy of the gene as the core explanatory concept of biological structure and function is more a feature of the twentieth century than it will be of the twenty-first'. Modern genetics, it seems, is theoretically threadbare.

In 1981 English biologist Rupert Sheldrake published *A New Science of Life: The Hypothesis of Formative Causation*, a thorough exposition of evidence and set of arguments in support of the field concept. Sheldrake was excoriated, vilified, and ridiculed by the science community. The mainstream science journal *Nature* called his book 'the best candidate for burning there has been in many years'. Fifteen years later biologists Gerry Webster and Brian Goodwin advanced similar ideas in *Form and Transformation: Generative and Relational Principles in Biology* (1996) which was also brushed aside. In each case the science community failed to meet the

primary criterion that drives all scientific knowledge formation: falsification of hypotheses. Denial and ridicule do not equate to refutation.

Scientists seemed undeterred even by admonitions from within their own circle. In *Genes, Dreams And Realities* (1971) Nobel laureate Macfarlane Burnet attempts to quell the misguided fervor claiming that 'too much sensational material was being written about the future significance for medicine of discoveries in molecular biology'. He predicted this endeavor was destined to fail. A half-century on his comments seems prophetic.

The recourse by scientists to epigenetics increasingly points toward the primacy of metabolic factors in determining gene expression [231-240]. A great deal of attention has been focused on the role of mitochondria in the epigenetic orchestration of the genome [241-251]. And equally, metabolic factors are now recognized to play a key role in shaping the tumor microenvironment [252-260].

This makes sense from Aristotle's 'three-tier' perspective: energy metabolism forms the efficient means by which the 'upper' formal causal layer integrates into 'lower' cell processes. Sheldrake claims this occurs on the basis of 'morphogenic resonance', which implies the presence of a resonance field. Sheldrake's surmise is spot on: the field arises in the blood in accordance with Galen's humoral thesis and is generated by hormonal fluctuations thereby creating a complex oscillatory structure which, definitionally, constitutes a resonance field. BC is a 'mosaic' not in the sense of Roux's theory of gene inheritance but because affected tissues have fallen out of relationship with the developmental field.

ENERGY DYNAMICS

One of the most compelling (and overlooked) arguments in favor of an organized energy field in the body was advanced by Swedish radiologist Björn

Nordenström in his pioneering work *Biologically Closed Electric Circuits: Clinical, Experimental and Theoretical Evidence for an Additional Circulatory System* (1983). In the 40 years since its publication clinical and laboratory evidence roundly supports his assertions.

During biopsy procedures Nordenström measured electrical potentials and found voltage differences between tumors and surrounding tissues that were often related to the degree of differentiation or invasiveness of the tumor. Curiously, at the outer margins of tumors he frequently measured electropositive potentials which, upon advancing the needle more deeply, reverted to electronegativity. Potentials fluctuated in accordance internal conditions such as necrosis and vascularity.

Nordenström deduced that metabolic activity involves voltage fluctuations, 'waves of slowly changing potential', which likely account for electrical variances between normal and cancerous tissues. Tumor metabolism generates 'redox potentials' resulting in charge accumulations that alter relations between cancers and their surrounding environment. Such polarizations, he intuited, account for the structural modifications of cancer tissue suggesting that such fields possess a 'morphogenetic capacity'. Nordenström advanced the concept of a second circulatory system composed of the flow of electrical currents, i.e., a 'biologically closed electric circuit', but left unaddressed its origins.

One of the most significant and unanticipated turn of events in 20th century experimental medicine occurred in the 1980s around the time Nordenström's work was published. For most of the 20th century scientists conceived the heart to function in the manner of a mechanical pump, with blood propelled forward through the arteries during the systolic phase of the cardiac cycle. The diastolic phase of the cycle, on the other hand, was said to represent a period of passive relaxation.

In the early 1980s physiologists discovered negative intraventricular pressures, i.e., a suction force, in the early diastolic phase indicating that diastole was not a time of passive relaxation but, instead, a period during which blood was actively drawn forward through the veins into the ventricular chamber [261-264]. A handful of studies later found the presence of spiral flow currents in arteries and veins which can only be explained on the basis of a suctional force [265-267].

In an earlier paper I show that in its cycles of contraction and dilation the heart generates an electromagnetic field which gives rise to both diastolic expansion and the suctional force [268]. In a series of later papers I show that deterioration of this field is the primary cause of diseases like chronic heart failure and chronic kidney disease [269], neurodegenerative disorders like Alzheimer's [270], autoimmune disease [271], seizure disorders [272], and the metabolic syndrome [273]. For over a century it has been recognized that the heart and blood contain large iron stores and, while iron's role in various chemical reactions has been extensively detailed, there has been little consideration as to whether it might play a more fundamental role in the body's energy economy.

Equally the question arises as to the function served by nerves that course over the surface of the heart. Cardiologists claim these nerves cause the heart to contract but is this correct? Galen observed in animal experiments that when the heart was cut out and placed in a fluid bath it continued to dilate and contract, what is now called cardiac automaticity. Transplanted hearts continue to function even as nerve conduction has been interrupted.

What happens during systolic contraction of the ventricle is identical to what happens during the induction of an external magnetic field by electrification of ferrous objects. As the ventricle contracts and iron stores are brought into closer

apposition iron nuclei in heart muscle align and precess synchronously on the basis of field interactions. Electrical potentials in the nerves induce formation of a three-dimensional magnetic field in the heart muscle leading to ventricular expansion, which occurs on the basis of repulsion. By the same token, all nerves, i.e., Nordenström's 'second circulation', derive their flow currents from the extracellular fluid (ECF) space in accordance with Galen's doctrine of *omnia incipit in sanguine*. One need only recall that in cardiac arrest all nervous system functions immediately cease.

Nordenström's 'double circulation' explains two more cancer hallmarks: tumor angiogenesis and invasion of nerves. Like other tissues, cancers require a nutrient and energetic source. A sentinel event in their development is acquisition of blood supply, effected by various molecular signaling factors and known as the 'angiogenic switch' [274-283]. Consistent with defective morphogenesis, tumor blood vessels display erratic capillary growth, tortuous, irregularly branching vessels with fluctuating diameters resulting in dysregulated blood flow, leaky vessels, microhemorrhages and enhanced tendency for tumor necrosis [284].

In recent decades the contribution of nerves to the progression of cancers has become widely recognized. Cancers release various 'neurotrophic factors' that induce growth of nerves into the tumor microenvironment while, at the same time, nerve currents promote cancer cell proliferation and dissemination [285-293]. Over a century ago embryologists, observing that nerves were vital for development of embryonic structures as well as limb regeneration and healing, coined the term 'trophic nerves' implicating them in morphogenesis [294-297]. High nerve density in BC tumors and/or perineural invasion are associated with poor outcomes and high recurrence rates [298-300] (Figure 5).

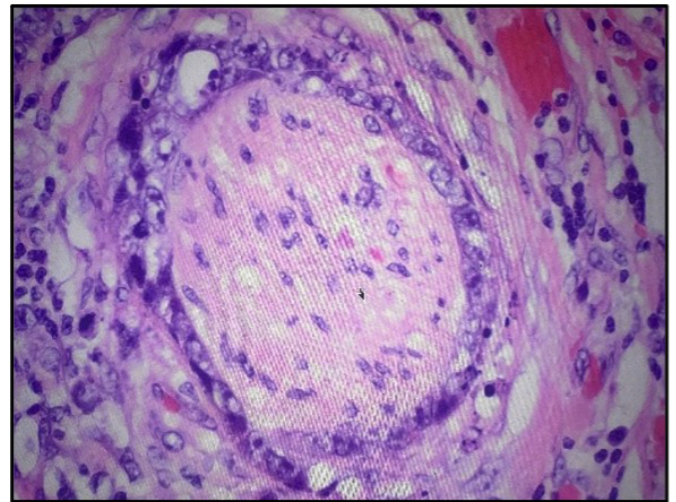


Figure 5. H & E stained image of perineural invasion in invasive ductal BC. A ring of cuboidal epithelial cells with intensely dark blue (basophilic) nuclei encircle a peripheral nerve with faintly pink (eosinophilic) cytoplasm.

https://instagram.com/pathweb/p/CwUINzERqak/?img_index=1

In one experiment intended to demonstrate the effects of electric fields in water Nordenström packed a U-shaped glass tube with cotton wool in its lower curved portion to simulate capillary resistance (Figure 6). Both limbs of the tube were filled with water and metallic electrodes connected to a DC power source were placed on each side. After a variable period, depending on the strength of the voltage currents, he observed differential water levels in the two limbs of the tube with the left (cathodic) side higher than the right (anodic) pole. What is at play here?

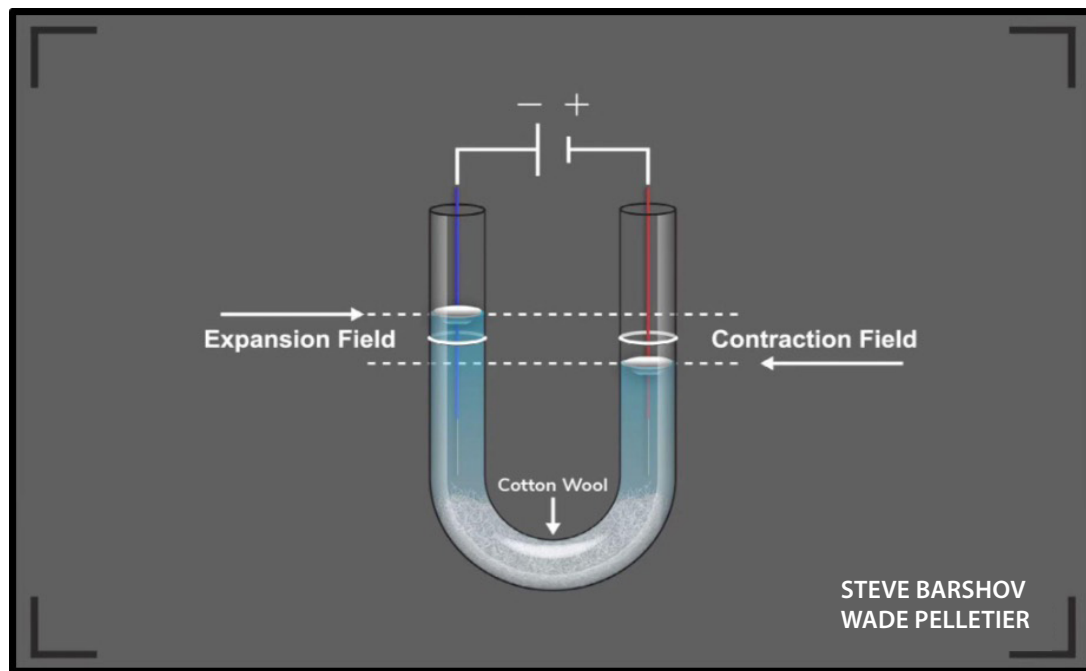


Figure 6. Nordenström's electrolytic decomposition of water.

At the cathodic terminal hydrogen gas is released into the air leaving an excess of negatively-charged (alkaline) hydroxyl ions (OH^-) in the fluid medium while at the anode oxygen is released resulting in an excess of positively-charged (acidic) hydronium ions (H_3O^+). Water's ability to undergo electrolytic decomposition and dissociate into ionic species with opposing charge is related to its 'dielectric polarizability' but this does not explain the fluid levels. Differential movements of water between the two poles are equally untenable: OH^- at the cathode would theoretically be drawn toward the positively-charged anode while H_3O^+ at the anode would migrate toward the cathode. At some point in between the two species would recombine resulting in no net movement of water.

The spatial reorganization of water is a field-mediated effect. Electrical currents streaming through the electrode at the cathode generate a magnetic field around the wire causing expansion of water effected by negatively-charged ions. Conversely, currents drawn out the water at the anodic pole induce contraction of the surrounding

fluid medium thereby causing its level in the tube to drop. When one says that water is polarizable, it means that electricity causes the expansionary magnetic and contractionary fields to separate and repel each other. This same field effect can be observed in the periodic waxing and waning of the oceanic tides.

Since the time of Newton scientists have attempted to explain tidal fluctuations on the basis of gravity but as evidence accumulates this hypothesis seems less likely. High tides occur when the moon is directly overhead (0°) and at 180° on the opposite side of the globe while low tides occur simultaneously at 90° and 270° . Clearly two forces, one expansionary and the other contractionary, are necessary to explain tidal phenomena.

If gravity were the sole determinant, then why don't large freshwater bodies like the Great Lakes exhibit tidal movements? How does gravity explain the synchronous tidally-induced fluctuations in voltage potentials in rivers upstream to large saltwater bodies, or tide-related variations in tree stem

diameters, leaf movements and root growth [301-313]? The gravity hypothesis is wrong. These diverse phenomena are explainable only on the basis of distortions in the geomagnetic field induced by overhead passage of the moon (which itself is laden with iron). Such considerations will be developed in greater depth and detail in a subsequent piece on the nature of tidal phenomena (**Figure 7**).

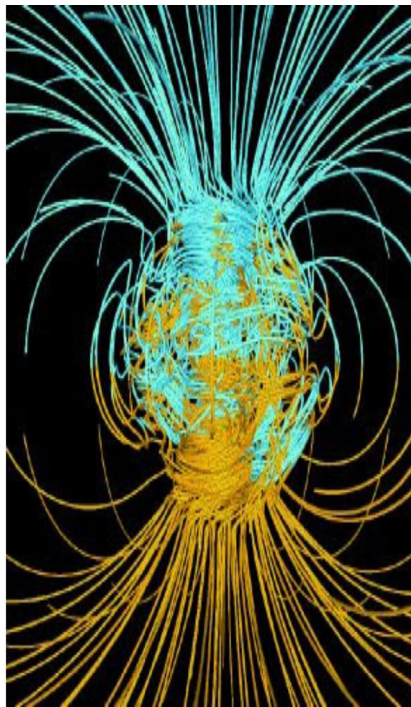


Figure 7. Glatzmaier-Roberts simulation of the earth's magnetic field.

<https://www.sdsc.edu/pub/envision/v16.1/geo.html>

If one accepts the existence of an organized electromagnetic field in the human body and, by the same token, recognizes the primacy of the geomagnetic field in organizing global tidal dynamics, it is not a great leap to recognize an interrelation between the two: whenever two magnets come into apposition the two fields unite

and become one. Just as compasses spontaneously align themselves to the surrounding field anywhere across the globe so too must iron in living bodies be similarly affected. It cannot be otherwise.

The same can be said concerning the developmental field: given that it confers upon individuals' functional attributes that define the species, so too must it be globally distributed and, in some manner, inhere within the geomagnetic field, which amounts to the interpenetration of Aristotle's formal and efficient causal layers. In the ancient world this collective entity was referred to as the 'world soul', and on this basis the planet was regarded as a living entity [314]. This concept, aka the 'great chain of being', held sway for over 2,000 years until it was arbitrarily discarded by scientists in the 18th century as they sought to reinterpret natural phenomena from a 'rational' point-of-view [315].

Concerning the nature of water, we are led to reconsider ancient views. In the Earth, Water, Air, Fire (EWAF) cosmology, advanced by Empedocles around 450 BC, energetic interactions between the Four Elements transpire in top-down fashion: Fire (sun), gives rise to light and heat; Air, aka *pneuma* meaning 'energy', corresponds to the geomagnetic field and possesses attributes we now ascribe to a complex resonance field. Resonance seems to be subsumed under ancient notions of 'sympathy'. Excitations induced in Air by Fire are directly transmitted to Water, the energetic intermediary between Air and Earth. Such vertical causality forms the basis for magnetic resonance imaging (MRI): radiofrequency pulses induce field deformations in tissue water which, upon pulse termination, reverts to its original state. MR images are made possible by only water's ability to undergo resonance (**Figure 8**).

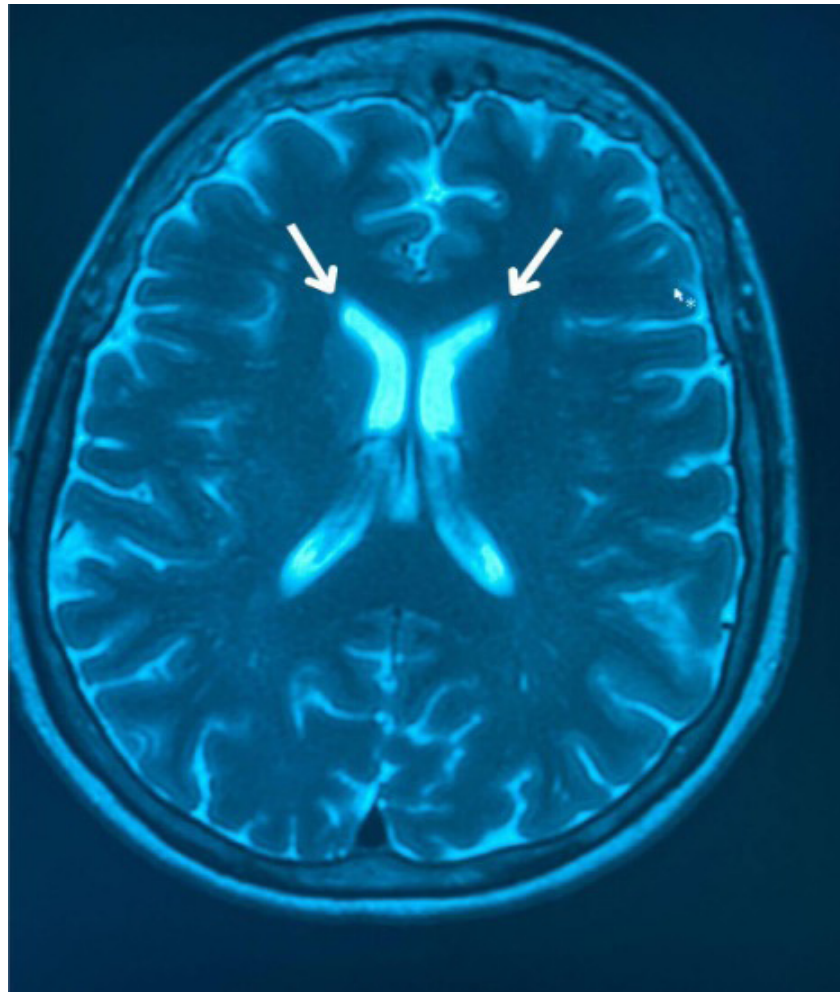


Figure 8. T2-weighted MR image of the brain demonstrating water's ability to undergo resonance. Bright signal (arrows) represents cerebrospinal fluid in the lateral ventricles.

Since the early 1800s scientists have sought to define water on a chemical basis despite recognition of dozens of anomalous properties that defy explanation. Recent works like Gerald Pollack's *The Fourth Phase of Water* (2013) and Hasok Chang's *Is Water H₂O?* (2012) raise serious doubts regarding this proposition and suggest a fundamental reappraisal is needed. Is water a distinct element? As we will see, its ability to undergo energetic transformations plays a key role not just in BC but in all cancers. Given similarities in ionic composition between seawater and water in the ECF space it might be better conceived as the 'ocean within'.

WARBURG METABOLISM

We now consider what is increasingly recognized as a primary cancer hallmark: altered energy metabolism. Most scientists regard it as a cellular disturbance due to reprogramming of genes or mitochondrial dysfunction [316-324], while others ascribe it to epigenetic factors [325-330]. All these answers are correct but not for stated reasons. Oncogenesis begins 'upstream' in the ECF space with insufficient energy delivery to cells which impairs mitochondrial metabolism thereby altering gene function. The dynamics are similar to Nordenström's experimental induction of field effects in the test

tube. Recognizing water's central role in such events necessitates reconsideration of ideas concerning the tumor microenvironment.

In the 1920s, German scientist Otto Warburg found altered glucose metabolism in cancer cells characterized by increased lactic acid production, aka 'aerobic glycolysis' [331, 332]. Even in the presence of sufficient oxygen cancer cells seem

prone to use such alternate pathways despite up to 19-fold lower ATP production when compared to mitochondrial oxidative phosphorylation. This metabolic switch is associated with host of well-described cancer-related abnormalities and forms the basis for fludeoxyglucose-18 (FDG-18) positron emission tomography (PET) widely used in cancer staging [333-335] (**Figure 9**).

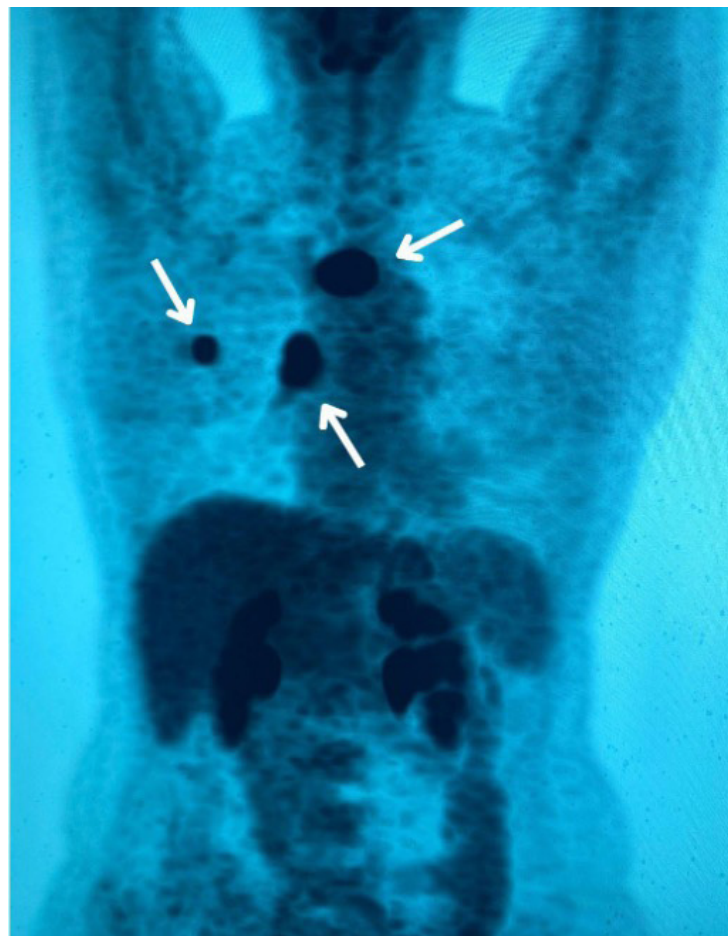


Figure 9. Warburg metabolism in breast cancer. FDG-18 PET image with avid uptake of radiolabeled glucose by primary breast tumor (left arrow). Lower arrow represents metastatic spread to right hilum while upper arrow represents sternal metastasis. (Courtesy of Cynthia M. Wheeler, MD)

Not only does tumor metabolism generate acid in the microenvironment [336-340], explaining Nordenström's finding of positive voltage potentials at the outer margins of tumors, but is at play in other cancer phenomena such as impaired iron metabolism [341-347], cellular crowding due to loss of magnetic field strength, i.e., zeta potentials, at the outer cell membrane [348-359], inflammation [360-370], and, most significantly, cellular dedifferentiation with emergence of cancer stem cells [371-380]. Warburg metabolism is a primary feature of embryonic stem cells suggesting that as organisms evolve from unicellular to multicellular forms, i.e., from purely proliferative to possession of higher adaptive functions, cells change their metabolic repertoire – once again implicating the developmental field.

The 'severely polarized extracellular acidity' in the tumor microenvironment, i.e., the black bile state, is recognized to be a primary driver of oncogenesis [381, 382]. Acidic ECF is said to influence expression of up to 150 different genes associated with functions like angiogenesis, cell proliferation and tissue remodeling [383]. In addition to enhancing tumor cell motility, invasiveness, and metastasis, the acidic milieu inhibits activation and proliferation of immune cells thus engendering the hallmark of 'evading immune destruction' [384-396]. Based on water's electrical polarizability we would situate such events at the anodic pole which contains an excess of H_3O^+ and deficient O_2 . This can only be secondary to impairment of the magnetic field which implicates iron metabolism.

Iron plays a central role inside cells based on its capacity to accept and donate electrons and thereby influence cellular energetic pathways. Iron, concentrated in mitochondria, effects synthesis of substances that mediate enzyme function and redox reactions [397-399]. Although the chemical basis of iron metabolism is well described there has been little discussion as to its involvement in

generation of an intracellular magnetic field. When mitochondria function optimally their pH is in the 7-8 range corresponding to the cathodic pole of the 'biologically closed electric circuit'. Coincident to this is generation of an outwardly-directed (electronegative) field, aka the zeta potential, by which cells repel one another and thereby maintain circulation through the ECF space. Such expansion fields are mediated via water.

As energy flow through the ECF space diminishes and mitochondrial metabolism shifts toward the anodic pole, iron is oxidized, cells become less electronegative and the field contracts. This, in turn, leads to loss of zeta potentials, compromise of the ECF space and cellular crowding, another characteristic histologic feature of cancer (**Figure 10**). Impaired iron flux leads to intracellular accumulation of free radicals, i.e., oxidative stress, that degrade organelles and biomolecules including DNA [400, 401]. Many papers detail the role of iron in tumorigenesis, including BC, but it has yet to be cited as a hallmark [402-420]. Defective iron-directed energy metabolism and loss of zeta potentials must now be added to the ever-growing list. Disruption of tissue architecture related to deterioration of the magnetic field underscores its intertwined relation with the developmental field, i.e., the conjoined nature of Aristotle's efficient and formal causal layers.

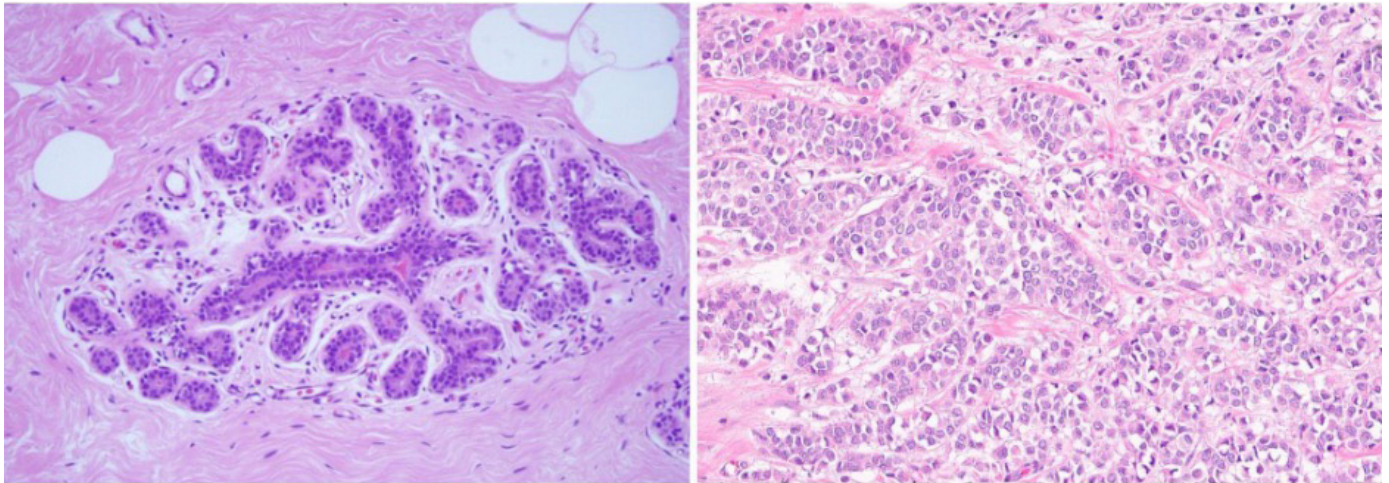


Figure 10. Image on left depicts normal lobular breast anatomy. Image on right showing cellular crowding and loss of normal lobular architecture in breast cancer related to Warburg metabolism, acidification of the ECF compartment and loss of magnetic field strength.

Normal-- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK567766/figure/article-35923.image.f1/>

Carcinoma-- www.pathologyoutlines.com

Altered mitochondrial metabolism is responsible for yet another cancer hallmark: inflammation [421-424]. The relation between chronic 'smoldering' inflammation, oxidative stress, and cancer is well recognized [425]. In the 2nd century Galen advanced the doctrine of *functio laesa* stating that inflammation is associated with loss of normal physiologic function [426]. Cancer-related inflammation triggers cellular proliferation and angiogenesis while impairing immune function and promoting resistance to drug therapies [427-443]. Inflammation is a hallmark feature of BC [444-451]. But cancer-related inflammation is no different than that associated with any other chronic disease and is secondary to insufficient energy generation in the blood [452-455].

Such derangements set the stage for what must be regarded as the 'main event' of oncogenesis: emergence of cancer stem cells. Stem cells mark a reversion to a primitive ontogenetic state defined not only by Warburg metabolism but absence of higher adaptive functions beyond proliferation.

Stem cells can be regarded as having fallen out of relationship with the developmental field and set free to pursue their own random telos at the expense of the organism. In an Aristotelian sense the ensemble of functions expressed by normal cells must, as Spemann's experiments attest, originate in the 'external' field and be secondarily imposed on otherwise amorphous aggregates of cells.

In the case of BC, stem cells possess an unlimited capacity to respond to evolving conditions in the microenvironment and adapt their program accordingly. They propagate, develop signaling pathways in support of clonal expansion or, when conditions are not optimal, enter a variable dormant phase [456-466]. BC tissues are heterogenous, comprising multiple genetically diverse cell lines that form an integrated ecosystem [467]. Tumors often possess up to 20 different clonal subtypes organized into a smaller number of 'super-clones' all of which derive from a reservoir of stem cell precursors [468-478] (**Figure 11**). This constitutes an 'insurgency of clones' which gives rise to a ceaselessly evolving

mosaic [479, 480]. The genetic signatures of metastatic lesions, for example, are usually quite distinct from that of primary tumors [481-485]. All of this supports the primacy of the developmental

field and its dominion over all cellular process. We must therefore inquire more deeply into the nature of such field dynamics.

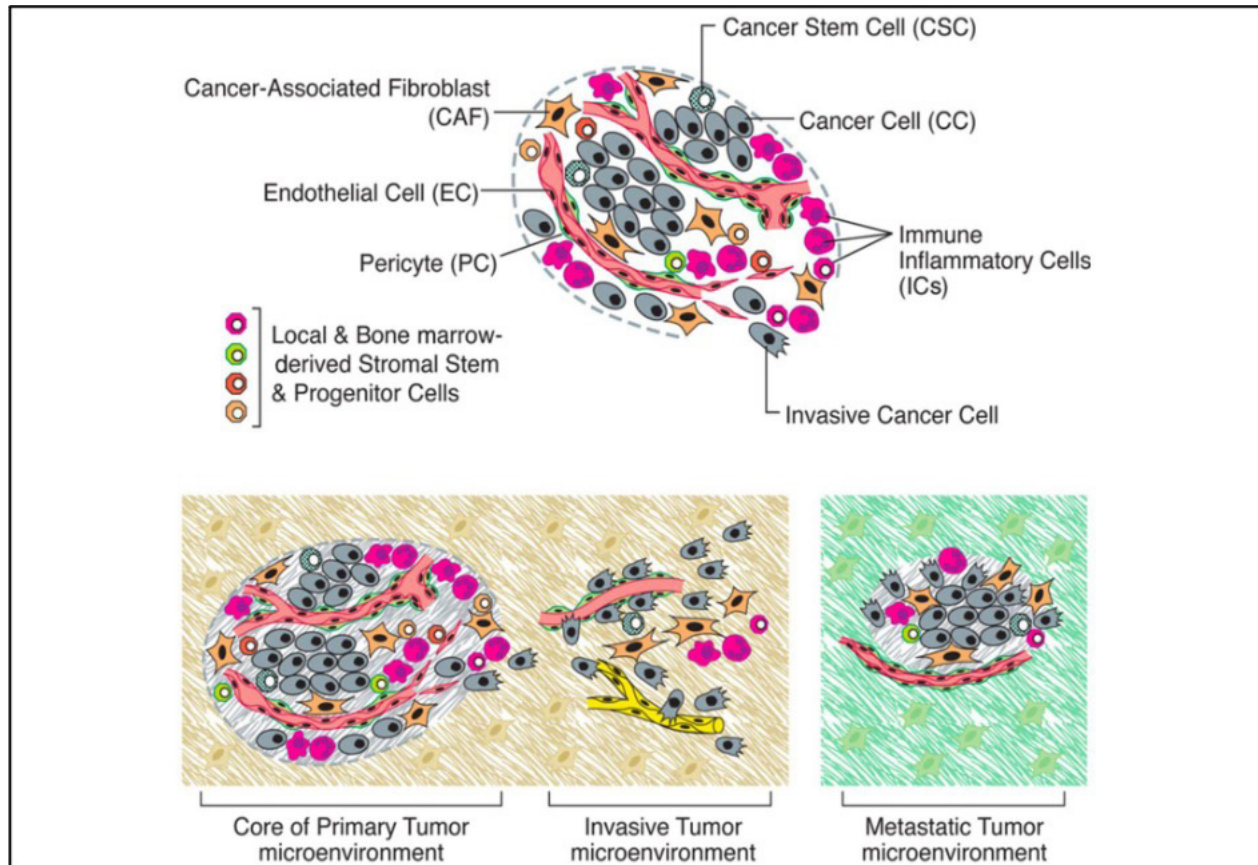


Figure 11. Cancer as a complex set of interactions between genetically distinct cell lines that establish their own self-sustaining niche based on the Warburg state.

(From: *Hallmarks of Cancer: the next generation*. Hanrahan D, Weinberg RA)

THREEFOLD TURNING CYCLES

For over a half-century chronobiologists have studied relationships between BC, the menstrual cycle, and conditions in the natural environment related to daily and seasonal fluctuations of light, heat and dark induced by the Earth's daily rotation about its axis, precessional movements in its annual orbit around the sun, and exposure to light in the external environment induced by artificial

illumination. Not only do such dynamics influence both the sleep/wake and menstrual cycles but also play into the developmental origins of BC.

Regarding the menstrual cycle there is general consensus that the circalunar rhythm is the primary driver of reproductive functions in a wide spectrum of terrestrial and marine organisms but debate continues as to whether lunar or tidal influences dominate [486-506]. Given the conjoined

geomagnetic and developmental field and its relationship to both lunar and tidal oscillations the answer is both and neither: menstrual functions occur synchronously in relation to fluctuations in the field. The lunar and tidal periodicities are clearly less impactful than the metabolic and endocrine interactions that compose the cycle.

We have established that BC is associated with disturbances in the relationship between cells and the developmental field. We are less concerned with a detailed step-by-step account of the menstrual cycle or the role played by the various hormones that mediate this special function but, rather, simply to highlight key relationships in the field and the metabolic consequences that ensue when its orderly progression is disrupted. By the same token, given that up to two-thirds of women with BC are postmenopausal we must examine its energetic basis which, ultimately, takes origin in the disturbed circadian hormonal milieu. Before we attempt this, we must revisit Empedocles' EWAF framework and examine the nature of resonance and energy transmission, i.e., sympathy.

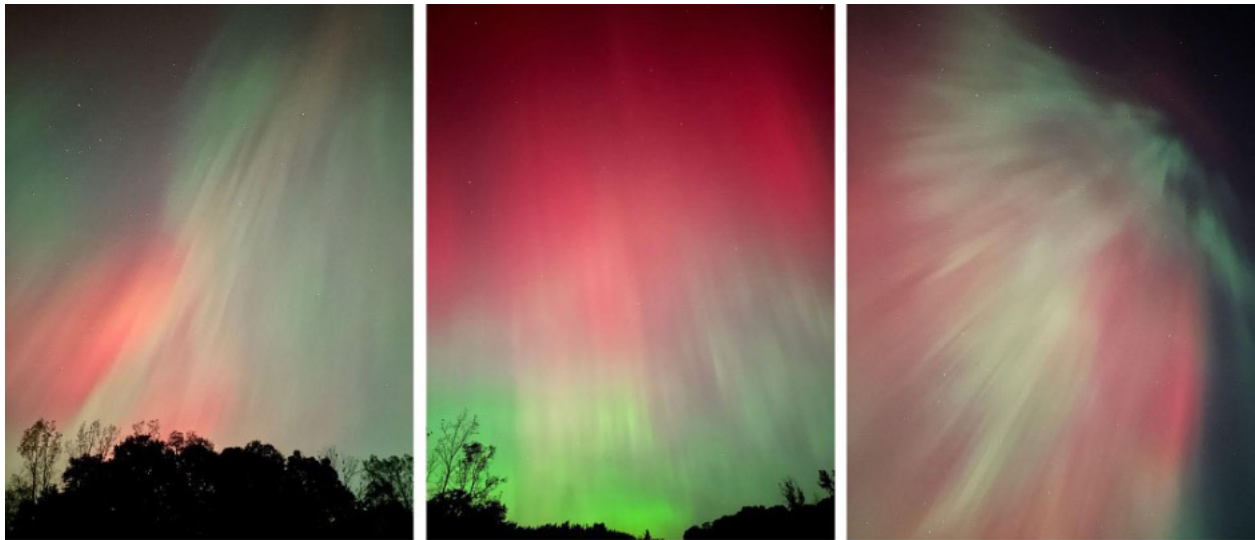
Conventional wisdom holds that light originates in the sun and 'travels' through space to illuminate earth. Based on similar logic we assume that fire is composed of heat and light. But it is more accurate to say that heat and light arise from an interaction *between* Fire Air or, more precisely, *between* radiofrequency (RF) waves and the geomagnetic field. This forms the very basis of resonance. In the case of heat the relationship is obvious: during daylight hours as the atmosphere is 'excited' heat is released thus raising ambient temperatures. As the resonant state of water in a pan on the stove increases once again heat is emitted. The relationship between the resonance field and light however is not so intuitive as it is generally assumed that light travels through space but is this accurate?

The basis for this belief lies in the fact that as we gaze into the sky, we observe the sun aglow and thereby conclude that light is transmitted from one point to another. But equally one could argue that longitudinally directed RF waves passing through space generate light along their path via resonance. And upon reaching earth they set the atmosphere aglow on the same basis. In images of the earth taken from space it is immersed in complete darkness (**Figure 12**). If light actually traveled from the sun to the earth, it should illuminate the entire solar system like a grand stadium. Similarly, solar storm activity generates RF waves that, upon reaching earth at night, give rise to the Northern Lights (**Figure 13**). How to explain such celestial occurrences? We must assume that light and heat are emission phenomena. This concept will be addressed in an upcoming article on the nature of light.



Figure 12. Illuminated earth against the dark background of open space. Suggests light as an atmospheric emission phenomenon arising from an interaction between solar RF waves and the geomagnetic field.

https://eoimages.gsfc.nasa.gov/images/imagerecords/0/885/modis_wonderglobe_lrg.jpg

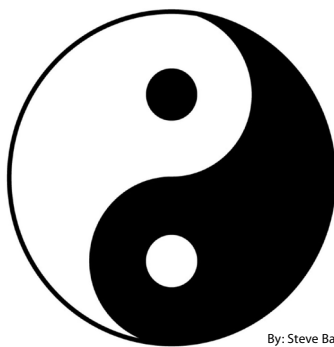


Elise M. Thorp

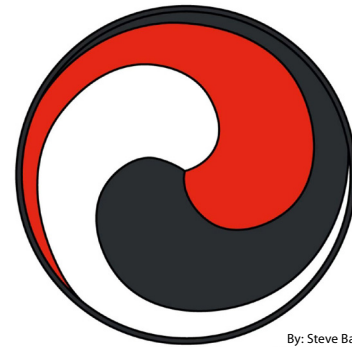
Figure 13. Northern Lights (*Aurora Borealis*) October 10, 2024, Williamston, Michigan. Images reveal pulsatile oscillatory patterns with shifting color displays substantiating light as an emission phenomenon originating in the geomagnetic resonance field.

Based on resonance dynamics involving the flow and transmission of energy we identify three primary oscillational states, i.e., light, heat, and dark, which, from a temporal perspective, constitute what we will call the *threefold turning cycles*. Ancient Chinese cosmology immortalized the light/dark dynamic in the yin-yang (*taijitu*) symbol as distinct oscillational states that transition back and forth on the basis of planetary rotation (**Figure 14**).

A third oscillator, heat, observed in both daily and seasonal rhythms, must be added to the mix. Like light and dark, heat fluctuates between higher, i.e., 'hot,' and lower, 'cold,' energy states. In both daily and seasonal rhythms light and heat dissipate during the dark phase. Far from being simply the absence of light or heat the dark phase is a distinct oscillational state that constitutes a period of equilibration and restoration (**Figure 15**).



By: Steve Barshov & Wade Pelletier



By: Steve Barshov & Wade Pelletier

Figure 14. Chinese taijitu symbol depicting the primary oscillational dynamics between light and dark.

Figure 15. Threefold turning cycles as oscillational interactions between light, heat and dark which represent periods of energy release followed by obligatory repletion phase.

Energy dynamics in the body are driven entirely by the threefold turning cycles. We may regard the daily light and heat phases, which occur during the waking state, as periods of active energy release while the dark-driven sleep phase is a recovery period. The menstrual cycle is organized along similar lines but extends over the lunar month. In each case the dark recovery phase is governed by a single hormone, melatonin, which mediates the transition in large measure by dissipation of body heat. We can conceive melatonin as the dark/cool principle in the body. In BC and other chronic diseases disruption of the nightly melatonin rhythm impairs the blood-borne metabolic field thus giving rise to a condition the ancients called 'insufficient cooling' [507].

The threefold turning cycles originate in interactions between the brain and cardiovascular system. The brain mediates light/dark relationships between the external environment and body. It is said to possess a 'biological clock' in the hypothalamus which governs sleep/wake cycles. Given that such cycles are highly variable from person to person it is obvious that this 'clock' is not strictly entrained to the environment but generates its own internal rhythms. But neither is it entirely independent: appropriately timed external light pulses alter daily sleep/wake patterns as well as the length of the menstrual cycle [508-521]. Nocturnal light pulses affect core body temperature by impairing heat dissipation thereby delaying or 'phase-shifting' sleep onset [522-529]. Such circadian effects are mediated by stimulating or inhibiting release of cortisol and melatonin from the pituitary and pineal glands [530-538].

According to chronobiologists, upon awakening light enters through the eyes and travels along nerve pathways to the hypothalamus which, in turn, suppresses secretion of melatonin by the pineal gland and relays signals to the pituitary gland triggering release of cortisol by the adrenal glands

[539-543]. The hypothalamus also induces release of thyroid stimulating hormone by the pituitary which causes secretion of thyroid hormone (TH) initiating the heat phase of the cycle [544-548]. TH acts by enhancing cardiac function and increasing thermogenesis [549-553] which in large measure forms the basis of the daily body heat rhythm [554-558]. In the ancient system of natural correspondences, the heart was regarded as the 'sun of the microcosm' as William Harvey succinctly describes it in *On the Motions of the Heart* (1628) [559].

The daily threefold turning cycle is completed around darkfall as light recedes and melatonin is released into the circulation by the pineal gland. Discovered in 1958 melatonin is ubiquitous in animals, plants and even bacteria indicating its primordial role in mediating biological energy dynamics. Synthesized in virtually all cells of the body it circulates in the blood and ECF compartments. The amount of melatonin released by the pineal is but a fraction of that produced elsewhere in the body [560-572].

One of its prime effects at the organismic level is induction of vasodilation and heat dissipation which plays a pivotal role in sleep onset [573-588]. Beyond this it is endowed with a virtual litany of functions: acting in 'non-enzymatic' manner it possesses broad anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidant properties, acts as a free radical scavenger, improves mitochondrial function, induces gene expression via DNA methylation, enhances DNA repair, and the beat goes on and on [589-606].

But how does all of this transpire without increasing energy flow into cells? Based on Nordenström's test tube model this amounts to shifting cell physiology from the anode back toward the cathode. And given that this happens in organisms without beating hearts one can only assume that melatonin alters the resonance structure of cell water thereby

importing energy from the geomagnetic field into the fluid compartment. What other mechanism suffices?

Wakefulness is highly energy intensive. During the transition from sleep there is widespread cortical activation as EEG frequencies shift from low to high ranges which seems to be modulated by the catabolic 'stress' hormone cortisol. The morning cortisol surge is associated with heightened perceptual discrimination and frontal executive functions which appear to occur on the basis of regional alterations in EEG activity and energy disposition in the CNS [607-611]. In conjunction with this resting heart rate often increases by 10-20 beats/minute to provide heightened current flow into the nervous system [612-615].

In a series of insightful studies Van Cauter shows that sleep disruption adversely impacts glucose metabolism and insulin resistance inducing a 'pre-diabetic state' that promotes weight gain and obesity [616-623]. These conditions, in turn, are secondary to impaired mitochondrial function [624-629]. And herein lies the link between the metabolic syndrome (MetS), postmenopausal BC, and deterioration of the dark phase of the threefold turning cycles.

In a recent piece I show that every single aspect of MetS is a consequence of deterioration of the blood-borne energy field [630]. Hormonal alterations in MetS include elevated cortisol levels [631-636], resistance to the actions of thyroid hormone [637-643], and deficient melatonin secretion [644-650]

which, collectively, implicate the threefold turning cycles. We should also take stock of similarities between MetS and BC: both are defined by inflammation, mitochondrial dysfunction, and oxidative stress. Similarly, studies describe links between BC and impaired thyroid function [651-655]. Given such shared attributes it is hardly surprising that BC is more common among women w/ MetS [656-666].

Melatonin supplementation in MetS improves glucose metabolism and insulin resistance [667-674], mitochondrial function [675-688], inflammatory markers [689-699], as well as associated conditions like non-alcoholic fatty liver [700-703] and polycystic ovary syndrome [704-707]. Once again, all of these energy-dependent actions must shift cellular metabolism toward the cathodic pole. From where else would this energy transfer originate *other* than the fluid compartment? And by what means *other* than resonance?

At the cellular level cancer begins with alterations between opposing light- and dark-mediated physiologic pathways. Such imbalances, in turn, drive the evolution of two hallmarks: sustained proliferation and replicative immortality. Through the aegis of the hypothalamic-pituitary axis, estrogen production is stimulated in breast tissue triggering cell mitosis [708-714]. This in turn plays into the well-recognized association between mammographically dense breasts and BC [715-722]. A recent large epidemiological study suggests that breast density and BMI interact 'synergistically' to increase postmenopausal BC risk [723] (**Figure 16**).

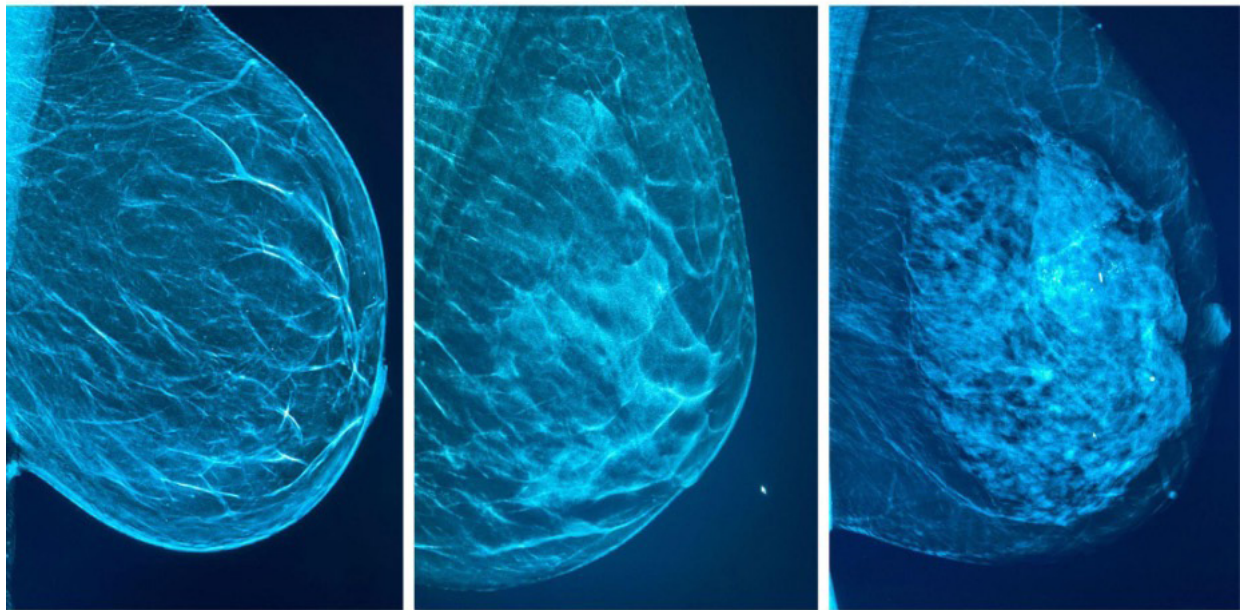


Figure 16. Variations in mammographic breast density reflect the hormonal milieu of the monthly menstrual cycle with highly dense breasts (far right) related to heightened estrogenic stimulation.

Elevated blood estrogen levels in postmenopausal women are associated with heightened BC risk [724-735]. Inside cells estrogen levels may be 15-25X higher than in the blood [736-739]. In breast tissue estrogen has pro-oxidative effects related to its impact on cellular replication which is an energy-dependent process [740-745]. Sustained cellular division promotes mitochondrial dysfunction, a shift toward the anodic pole and acid-generating pathways which, ultimately, culminates in the 'metabolic switch' and reversion to Warburg metabolism.

Increased estrogenic activity leads to down-regulation of uncoupling proteins (UCPs), functional elements along the inner mitochondrial membrane, a primary source of body heat [746]. Thermogenesis augments metabolic efficiency as well as reducing oxidative stress and generation of reactive oxygen species [747-752]. Estrogenic modulation of UCPs translates functionally into impairment of the heat field and resistance to TH [753-759]. UCP dysfunction and blunted thermogenesis, characteristic of obesity and MetS, are associated with increased

inflammation-promoting white adipose tissue (WAT) and diminished mitochondria-laden brown adipose tissue (BAT) [760-769]. WAT inflammation is also a feature of BC [770-773]. Melatonin stimulates conversion of WAT to BAT enhancing thermogenesis [774-777].

Disturbed UCP function has been linked with transition to the Warburg state and tumor aggressiveness [778-780]. A key juncture appears to involve the cortisol receptor on cell membranes which induces what is known as the epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition (EMT) [781, 782]. EMT is a normal part of morphogenesis and wound healing. In cancer, EMT initiates dedifferentiation toward more primitive stem cell lines which, in turn, engender hallmarks like intratumoral heterogeneity, invasiveness, and metastasis [783-790]. It is associated with loss of function of the BRCA1 gene [791-794]. EMT seems to demarcate the point at which functional breast tissue falls out of relationship with the developmental field and begins to assert its own gene-driven survival agenda.

Melatonin, the dark/cool principle, opposes the estrogen- and cortisol-mediated effects and shifts metabolism toward the cathodic pole. Melatonin's 'oncostatic' properties lie in its ability to decrease cellular proliferation and induce apoptosis in tumor cell lines [795-802]. It directly reduces hypothalamic-pituitary activity [803-807] and down-regulates aromatase and sulfatase, two key enzymes involved in estrogen synthesis [808-816]. As anti-estrogenic drugs like the selective estrogen receptor modulators also induce apoptosis in BC cells it is likely that melatonin, via enzymatic inhibition, triggers apoptosis by shifting current flow away from estrogen-mediated pathways [817-821]. It seems intuitively inescapable that such energetic transformations originate in the water compartment and involve the developmental field. Any other mechanism invokes Einstein's 'spooky action at a distance'.

Postmenopausal BC and MetS share another light-dark imbalance: not only is melatonin release impaired but such women are often vitamin D deficient [822-829]. Up to two-thirds of women with BC have low blood vitamin D levels and tumors tend to be more aggressive with worse overall survival compared to women with normal vitamin D levels [830-835]. Women with normal vitamin D levels also have decreased breast density [836-840]. Vitamin D, like melatonin, blocks estrogen synthesis and promotes tumor cell apoptosis [841, 842]. Thus, as others point out, women with BC not only tend to have excessive nocturnal light exposure but insufficient sunlight exposure during the daylight period [843-845]. It would seem that what the wakeful state draws from the blood in terms of energy is offset by influx of energy through the skin in the form of vitamin D. Such vertically-mediated energy transmission must involve the ECF compartment beneath the skin as Empedocles' EWF framework would imply.

BREAST CANCER & THE MENSTRUAL CYCLE

In the 1990s chronobiology emerged as a central factor in BC oncogenesis after studies found an increased incidence of BC in airline cabin attendants [846-857]. Rapid air travel across multiple time zones induced alterations in cortisol and melatonin rhythms, sleep-wake patterns, and desynchronization of body heat rhythms which persisted for up to 5 days after women returned home [858-860]. Earlier studies found that menstrual cycle abnormalities were common among stewardesses [861, 862]. Various studies also documented heightened BC risk in women engaged in night shift work [863-870].

Night shift work has been linked to weight gain, diabetes, heart disease, stroke, and various cancers [871-880]. These effects involve the developmental field and play into two other hallmarks: epigenetic dysregulation and genetic instability. Disruption of the circadian time structure is associated with altered gene expression in cells throughout the body including DNA repair genes [881-884]. Once again disturbances in the cortisol-melatonin axis, reproductive hormones and daily heat rhythms loom large [885-894]. Individuals who develop intolerance to shiftwork often have diminished amplitude of their daily heat rhythm which may undergo internal desynchronization with the sleep-wake cycle or even become free-floating [895-898]. All of this ties into the ubiquitous light-at-night issue.

It is now firmly established that artificial light-at-night is a major contributor to the expanding global burden of chronic disease. It is associated with MetS, diabetes, obesity, as well as breast, prostate, lung and colorectal cancers [899-912]. Given that up to 80% of the world population is exposed to artificial light-at-night on a regular basis it is a serious public health concern [913-915]. Artificial light-at-night, like smoking, is potentially carcinogenic. The fundamental disturbance, increasingly, seems

to hinge on disruption of the nocturnal melatonin rhythm. Richard Stevens' melatonin hypothesis is affirmed. But how does this impact the relationship with the developmental field?

The orthodox account of hormonal interactions between the brain and its 'target' organs is based on a linear sequential mechanism: alterations in environmental light/dark patterns cause the hypothalamus to release factors that stimulate the pituitary gland to secrete messenger substances which then induce organs like the adrenals, thyroid, ovaries, or breasts to synthesize and secrete hormones such as cortisol, TH, estrogen, progesterone etc. But this is not quite accurate.

All the hormonal principals mediating circadian and menstrual cycle functions, including melatonin, are released in pulsatile fashion and it seems that oscillatory patterns determine how effects are mediated. Researchers describe a complex 'temporal endocrine structure' that fluctuates based on 'feedback loops' between a host of 'internal and external stimuli' implicating an elaborate resonance structure [916-926]. Gonadotropin releasing hormone (GnRH), for example, triggers release of either LH or FSH by the pituitary solely on the basis of pulse frequency and amplitude and this plays into various disorders of the menstrual cycle [927-935]. A given hormone may not elicit the same effects at different times of the cycle [936].

In one study transition from dim to bright light in the morning induced an 'immediate' elevation of cortisol levels [937]. Another found that morning exposure to light resulted in an 'immediate' secretion of LH and FSH into the blood along with fluctuations in pulse frequency and amplitude [938]. Yet another found that in normally cycling women nocturnal light exposure triggered simultaneous changes in blood LH, FSH and melatonin levels [939]. And as melatonin levels decrease upon nocturnal light

exposure cortisol levels rise as one would expect based on the taijitu dynamic [940].

It is often overlooked that melatonin, GnRH, the various pituitary intermediaries, and every circadian and menstrual cycle hormone are present in the blood *all the time* and their plasma concentrations are constantly changing with respect to one another. This impossibly complex oscillatory structure represents the resonant medium through which interactions with the developmental field take place. This substantiates the primacy of the blood-borne energy field as well as Galen's *omnia incipit in sanguine* doctrine. So how does melatonin impact the menstrual cycle?

Melatonin regulates reproductive cycles in a wide range of species including humans [941-948]. Acting on the ovary it stimulates granulosa cell function which induces estrogen synthesis and the development of eggs in follicles [949-953]. After ovulation it promotes progesterone synthesis by the corpus luteum and maturation of oocytes [954-960]. It delays oocyte aging and prolongs the fertile window [961-963]. It supports angiogenesis throughout the cycle [964-973]. But melatonin *isn't* the menstrual cycle. It is only the darkness of the theater through which the performance unfolds. It acts by enhancing mitochondrial function, reducing oxidative stress, and shifting metabolism back toward the cathodic pole [974-982]. Plain and simple.

Women living in the far northern reaches of the globe often stop menstruating during the dark phase of the yearly cycle coincident with surging melatonin levels only to have their cycles return in the spring as light and estrogen levels increase [983, 984]. Clearly two principles – light and dark – are involved and must be present in some prescribed balance. How could such effects transpire other than by altering the resonance structure of the

blood and ECF compartment? No spooky action at a distance is needed.

The biphasic menstrual cycle body temperature rhythm, first described in the late 19th century, has been used for over a century to predict ovulation [985]. During the follicular (estrogenic) phase

core body temperature slowly rises until shortly before ovulation at which time it dips by up to 0.5°F. Afterward progesterone secretion by the corpus luteum increases sharply and basal body temperature rises by up to 1°F or more until menstruation at which time it again drops (Figure 17).

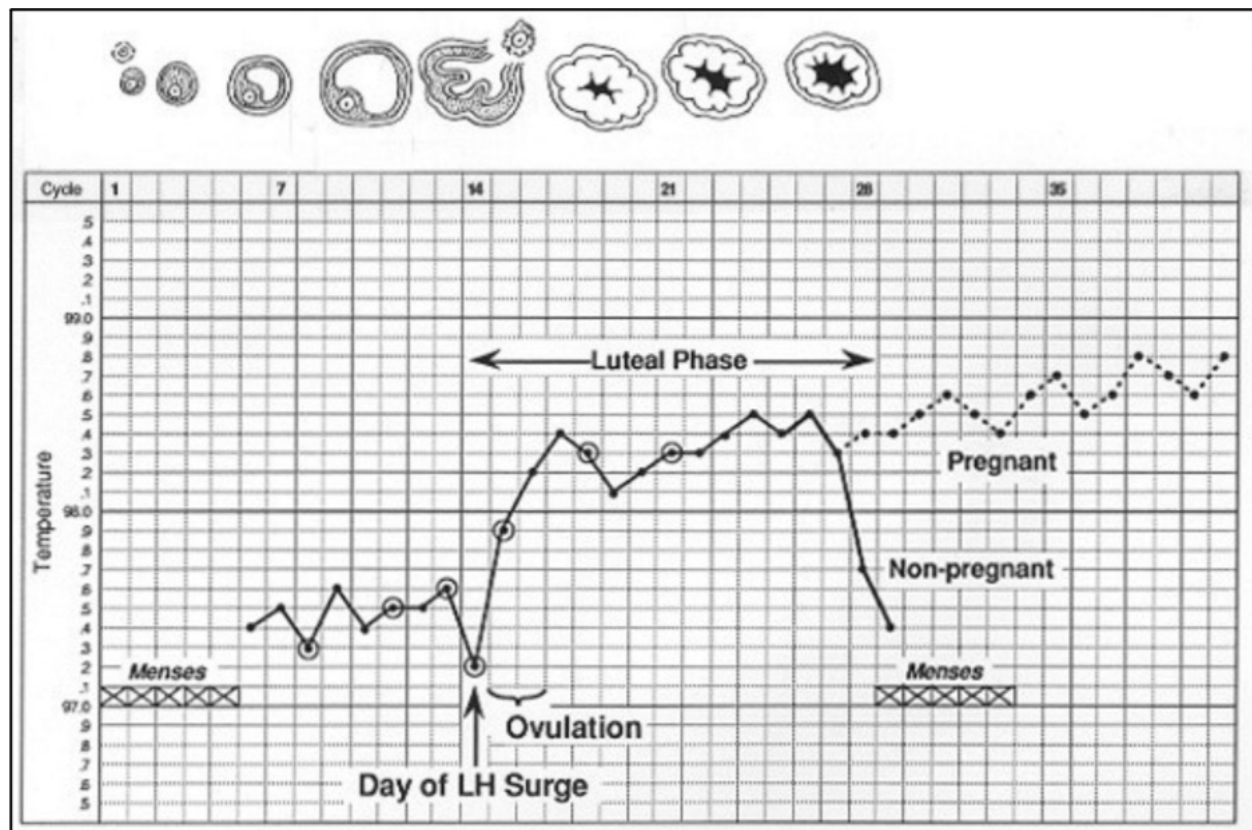


Figure 17. The monthly biphasic menstrual cycle body heat rhythm.

<https://www.uwmedicine.org/sites/stevie/files/2018-11/Basal-Body-Temperature-Chart.pdf>

Research over the past 5 decades indicates that impaired corpus luteal function plays into BC oncogenesis [986-996]. A 1974 study raised concerns that ‘persistent estrogenic stimulation, in the absence of an adequate progestational phase, may provide a hormonal setting in the mammary gland favorable to the development of carcinoma’ [997]. One study tracking infertile women over three decades found a 5-fold increase in BC in those with low progesterone levels [998].

Since then luteal phase insufficiency has been a recurrent motif in BC research circles though scientists remain divided as to its basis.

In the 1990s scientists began tracking breast skin temperatures with a wearable ‘chronobra’ they described as an ‘internal bioassay’ of breast vascularity [999-1001]. Over 20 years of monitoring in a range of women including BC survivors and non-survivors, they found ‘striking’

heat rhythm variations during the luteal phase. Instead of biphasic cycles women with BC had monophasic monthly heat patterns with higher average temperatures and lower oscillational amplitude. BC non-survivors had higher breast skin temperatures consistent with insufficient cooling and an abnormal progesterone-associated metabolic state [1002-1009]. Researchers claim this method has 90% sensitivity. Given this why would a woman even consider mammography?

Such findings are in accord with other lines of evidence. It is said that estrogen has pro-oxidative effects while progesterone reduces oxidative stress but this is hard to reconcile with its known proliferative effects on breast tissue [1010-1014]. Is it really progesterone that is anti-oxidative [1015-1018]? As progesterone levels surge following ovulation there is a corresponding rise in melatonin prompting questions as to the origins of luteal phase insufficiency [1019-1022]. Increased melatonin should stimulate thermogenesis and likely induces the post-ovulatory rise in basal body temperature. Decreased melatonin would explain both defective thermogenesis and deficient progesterone. Similar dynamics seem to play into hormone receptor status in BC.

For years oncologists have used the presence or absence of hormonal receptors on the surface of BC cells not only as a means to gauge prognosis but in directing therapy [1023-1027]. Tumors with estrogen (ER+) and progesterone (PR+) receptors, usually more differentiated and less aggressive, are responsive to hormonal therapies and carry a better prognosis. Tumors lacking receptors, i.e., ER- and PR-, on the other hand, tend to grow more rapidly and are resistant to hormonal therapies. Triple-negative BC, even more aggressive and with worse outcomes, is both ER- and PR- and lacks the HER2 receptor [1028, 1029]. Receptor status likely represents an approximate indicator of when during the menstrual cycle tumor cells fell out of

relationship with the developmental field.

Serum melatonin concentrations and/or the presence of melatonin receptors are higher in tumors with more favorable prognosis, i.e., ER+ and PR+, and decrease in 'stage-dependent' fashion as they become more aggressive and trend toward receptor negativity with lowest levels in triple-negative tumors [1030-1037]. Melatonin levels correlate with tumor size [1038]. And black women with TNBC, who are 30% more likely to die from the disease than white women with the same diagnosis, not only have lower vitamin D levels but are more likely to have decreased blood melatonin and receptor levels [1039].

Regarding its effects vis à vis the cancer hallmarks, as others point out, we find that melatonin plays a key role in each and every case [1040]. And increasingly its actions are thought to be mediated at the epigenetic level [1041]. Calling it a 'full-service anti-cancer agent', Russell Reiter, grand guru of melatonin research with hundreds of published articles, argues that it regulates epigenetic influences in BC and points to effects on DNA methylation, gene induction, cell cycle modulation, and circadian rhythm regulation. Such diverse actions 'suggest that what is being observed are merely epiphenomena of an underlying more fundamental action of melatonin that remains to be disclosed' [1042, 1043].

It would seem that melatonin, as primary mediator of energy metabolism and efficient causes in living bodies, represents the means by which the 'epigenetic landscape' is biologically translated, finally offering a comprehensive explanation for experimental phenomena described by early 20th century embryologists. This, in turn, substantiates the developmental/morphogenic field and Aristotle's layer of formal causes. Breast cancer is not a local cellular or molecular disorder as our 20th century scientists long believed.

EPILOGUE

Our deliberations affirm Galen's designation of BC as a metabolic disorder arising from a disturbed nexus of relations in the blood-borne energy field. Scientists spent the last century teasing apart and analyzing the complex maze of molecular pathways, chasing elusive genetic phantoms, and erecting a monumental edifice of fact-based structural knowledge which, we now realize, corresponds to that layer of relations Aristotle classified as material causes. And none of their mainstay therapies directed toward BC meaningfully impact energy dynamics in the tumor microenvironment, i.e., the ECF compartment. BC survivors remain at heightened risk for recurrence as well as a multitude of second primary cancers.

Ultimately scientists' failure to clarify what 'metabolism' actually represents, to have recognized the primacy of the energetic field, or to have integrated decades of research regarding the epigenetic determinants of BC, i.e., the efficient and formal causal layers, led to the present grave epistemic crisis, one which science historian

Thomas Kuhn had earlier referred to as a 'paradigm collapse'. BC will forever be remembered as the disease that killed the cellular and molecular science paradigm.

The very ideas that would have enabled scientists to escape their conceptual labyrinth, namely Aristotle's hierarchical causal account of the life principle, Galen's omnia incipit in sanguine doctrine, Empedocles' EWF framework, and the notion of the world soul, had been summarily rejected by early scientists at the onset of their centuries-long odyssey. We may regard these ancient concepts as the ultimate context in which the multitude of orphan facts, gleaned through decades of tedious piecemeal experimental research, can now finally find repose.

Given that the genetic hypothesis has failed to deliver on its promises, and that during the 20th century the developmental field concept continued to resurface and seems to hold the answer to many lingering questions, it is now incumbent upon our scientists to explain why it doesn't suit their fancy and to provide a credible refutation of evidence presented herein.

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