

Northridge, CA Dec 12, 2011

*Media contact:*

*Carmen Ramos Chandler*

*carmen.chandler@csun.edu*

*818-667-2130*



### ***Ominous Warning!***

***Antioxidants, supplements,***

***polyphenols, and natural***

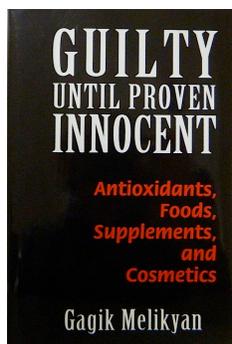
***compounds can be dangerous***

***to humans***

California State University - Northridge Professor Gagik Melikyan warns that many natural supplements and so called healthy foods like green tea and red wine, can actually contribute to cancer, not prevent it ([www.csun.edu/gmelikyan](http://www.csun.edu/gmelikyan)). He also goes on to state that consumers are getting hormones without knowing it.

In his new, award-winning book, “**Guilty Until Proven Innocent: Antioxidants, Foods, Supplements, and Cosmetics**,” Dr. Melikyan tells us that green and black tea contains a large number of compounds and several are known to generate hydrogen peroxide, which is an oxidizing agent, which can be very destructive to DNA.

He challenges the consensus, by saying that resveratrol from red wine is dangerous to human body. He goes against the flow by requiring that polyphenolic antioxidants should not be sold to the general public.



Melikyan’s book covers dangers in such every day products as green tea, red wine, coffee, sunscreen, hair color and cosmetics—all of which involve chemical compounds that are structurally similar to known organics that have been linked to cancer and other serious diseases. “The natural items you’re taking are made of tens, if not hundreds, of different chemical compounds,” he said. “Just because it says it’s natural does not mean it’s not dangerous.”

Melikyan said he wrote “Guilty Until Proven Innocent,” which is available through Amazon, with the layman in mind. “My concern is that people might be exploiting the public’s ignorance of a purely scientific issue, so I have written my book in the easiest terms possible so that the general public with no scientific background can understand it,” he said.

In red wine when digested, the resveratrol can actually be oxidized into carcinogenic compounds, and can also have an estrogenic activity. This is the same type of action that is used in Hormone Replacement Therapy. (HRT) It has been shown to increase the incidence of breast cancer. Also many cosmetics contain substances that act as the hormone estrogen, and the public is completely unaware of this!

Professor Melikyan goes on to say that consumers are being fed bad information, and it is to their detriment to continue using these “natural” and “safe” products. “We need to contact our legislators and have them create new laws to protect us and make manufacturers prove the safety of their products. There is a high price that we are paying for what might appear to be safe, but in reality is very harmful to the human body,” said Melikyan.

“When a drug is approved by the Food and Drug Administration, it has gone through years of studies to ensure that it is safe before it is ever sold to the public,” Melikyan said. “Even after it’s on the shelf, there are follow-up studies to make sure that it does not pose a danger.”

“The problems arise when you don’t call the chemical compounds involved a ‘drug,’ but call them ‘food,’ or a ‘supplement’ or an ‘antioxidant,’ ” he said. “There is no one properly testing those products. An unsuspecting consumer doesn’t even realize that foods, supplements or antioxidants can cause harm to his/her body.”

*Dr. Gagik Melikyan is a Professor of Chemistry at California State University - Northridge in Los Angeles. He is an internationally recognized expert in the field of radical chemistry ([www.csun.edu/gmelikyan](http://www.csun.edu/gmelikyan)). Being a highly cited author, his research has culminated in numerous papers, reviews, and book chapters. Melikyan’s interest in cancer was triggered by the interaction with cancer patients, and he set his sights on developing a new generation of organic compounds able to slow down tumor growth and kill cancer cells "without significant damage to a human body."*

*A devoted educator, Dr. Melikyan has educated and trained a generation of professionals in the fields of chemistry, biology, and medicine. He has delivered numerous presentations for the general public, and also has been the editor of the on-line educational newsletter. His work has been widely covered in the media, including the CBS channel. As an expert, for many years he is involved in protecting the American public from harmful chemicals and environmental pollutants.*