

“Lying to the American public  
wasn't part of my job description.”

Ralph W. Moss, PhD

# SECOND OPINION

LAETRILE AT SLOAN-KETTERING



“SECOND OPINION” DIRECTED BY ERIC MEROLA  
EDITED BY ERIC MEROLA AND JON BARRATT MUSIC BY PETER VENNE  
FEATURING RALPH W. MOSS, PhD AND ALEC PRUCHNICKI, MD AND ROBERT GOOD, MD AND DR. KANEMATSU SUGIURA  
AND LEWIS THOMAS, MD AND CHESTER STOCK, MD AND LLOYD OLD, MD AND MARTHA, BEN & MELISSA MOSS

[www.secondopinionfilm.com](http://www.secondopinionfilm.com)

## SECOND OPINION: LAETRILE AT SLOAN-KETTERING

### Logline:

The story of a science writer working in Public Relations at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center who risked everything by blowing the whistle on a massive cover-up involving a promising cancer therapy that was being tested at the Center.



### Synopsis:

The launch of the War On Cancer in the early 1970s set the stage for a massive influx of new ideas in fighting the disease of cancer. Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, America's leading cancer research center at the time, was assigned the task of testing one of the most "quackish" of all "quack remedies" in an effort to curb the public's "false hope" in the alleged therapy.

Ralph Moss PhD, a young and eager science writer, was hired by Sloan-Kettering's public relations department in 1974, to help brief the American public on the center's contribution to the War On Cancer. Shortly after starting his position, Moss befriended one of the center's oldest and leading research scientists, Dr Kanematsu Sugiura—an original co-founder of chemotherapy.

While meeting with this iconic scientist to pen a biography on his extensive 60-year career at Sloan-Kettering, Moss discovered that Sugiura had been studying this "quack remedy" in laboratory mice for nearly 2 years, and with unexpectedly positive results. Shocked and bewildered, Moss reported back to his superiors what he had discovered, only to be met with backlash and denial from Sloan-Kettering's leaders on what their own leading scientist had found.

Fueled by respect and admiration for Sugiura—Ralph Moss spent over four years in his attempts to publicize the truth about Sugiura's findings. And after all diplomatic approaches failed, Moss lived a double life, working as a loyal employee at Sloan-Kettering while also recruiting his fellow employees to help anonymously leak this information to the American people—through a newly formed underground organization they called—"Second Opinion".

## **SECOND OPINION: LAETRILE AT SLOAN-KETTERING**

Eric Merola, Director & Producer - Bio

Eric Merola is an internationally award-winning documentary film director.

Before starting his career in documentary films, Eric began as a motions graphics designer and animator after founding “Merola Productions” and was commissioned by various clients including Fuel TV, WE Network, The Speed Channel, and Rolling Stone’s Matt Taibbi. He was also employed as an animation director for FlickerLab in New York City, where he worked on projects for Comedy Central and A&E.

In 2007, while directing an animated sequence for Michael Moore’s feature documentary, “Capitalism: A Love Story”, Eric began production on his first documentary, BURZYNSKI, which garnered widespread distribution and won numerous international awards including “Best Documentary of 2011” on The Documentary Channel, two “Audience Awards” at the HumanDoc Film Festival in Warsaw and the “Humanitarian Vision Award” at the Newport Beach Film Festival. This film also received favorable reviews from various press including The Los Angeles Times and Variety, and granted Mr. Merola a guest appearance on The Dr. Oz Show.

Eric has since released a sequel to BURZYNSKI in 2013, which garnered even larger world-wide distribution. While working on this sequel, he was also shooting and directing his third documentary, SECOND OPINION: LAETRILE AT SLOAN-KETTERING.

## **SECOND OPINION: LAETRILE AT SLOAN-KETTERING**

About Ralph W. Moss, PhD:

Ralph W. Moss, PhD was a founding advisor to the National Institutes of Health's Office of Alternative Medicine (now the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine, NCCAM) and to the NIH Cancer Advisory Panel on Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAP-CAM). He has been a member of the Advisory Editorial Board of the PDQ System of the National Cancer Institute (NCI). He is a board member of the Cancer Prevention Coalition and is or has been an advisor to Breast Cancer Action, the Susan J. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, Life Extension Foundation, RAND Corporation and the Medline-listed journal, *Alternative Therapies in Health and Medicine*. He has served as an ad hoc reviewer for scientific organizations, including the Czech Academy of Sciences, *Current Oncology*, *Tumor Biology*, the *Journal of Research in Medical Science*, and the *International Journal of Cancer*.

As a medical writer, Moss has written 15 books on questions relating to cancer research and treatment. Moss is a graduate of New York University (BA, cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, 1965) and Stanford University (MA, 1973, PhD, 1974, Classics). The former science writer and assistant director of public affairs at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York (1974-1977), for the past 35 years Moss has independently evaluated the claims of conventional and non-conventional cancer treatments.

Moss is noted for his critical acumen on cancer-related topics and has been listed in *Marquis Who's Who in America*, *Who's Who in the World*, *Who's Who in HealthCare*, etc.

His articles and scientific communications have appeared in *The Lancet*, the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, *New Scientist*, *Immunobiology*, *Anticancer Research*, *Genetic Engineering News*, *Research in Complementary Medicine*, the *Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine*, and *Integrative Cancer Therapies (SAGE)*, of which he is Corresponding Editor. His op-ed "Patents Over Patients" appeared in the *New York Times*.

Moss has been an invited lecturer at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, Howard University Medical School, the University of Arizona Medical Center, the Department of Energy, American Cancer Society, Penn State Hershey Medical Center and many other universities, medical schools and societies in the US and abroad. In 2005 he led the History of Science Seminar at the National Library of Medicine (NLM) in Bethesda, MD. He has also received lifetime achievement awards from the American College for the Advancement of Medicine, Cancer Control Society, National Foundation for Alternative Medicine, Wellness Forum, and Center for Advancement in Cancer Education.

## **SECOND OPINION: LAETRILE AT SLOAN-KETTERING**

About the production:

**SECOND OPINION** was shot over the course of a year in various locations, including the historical Aldrich House in Providence, RI, New York City, and State College, PA.

This documentary is the film Eric Merola has always wanted to make. The hero of our story, Ralph W. Moss, PhD, wrote a book entitled “The Cancer Industry”, which covers many of the experiences he describes in **SECOND OPINION**. Merola read the book back in 2007, and was so taken by Moss' story, that it inspired him to direct his first documentary.

Learning from the process of shooting two documentaries himself, Merola decided to step up the production quality on **SECOND OPINION** by hiring some of the industry's top DPs and musical talent. And since all of his previous films had been self-funded, the financial success of the first two documentaries allowed Merola the ability to create his first top notch, well-funded film—**SECOND OPINION**.

The story of **SECOND OPINION** is one of a whistle-blower who followed his conscience instead of his paycheck to do what he believed was morally right. It could have been about any subject, but the fact that it pertains to an unmarketable cancer therapy that was testing positively within the confines of America's largest cancer research institution at the time, and then was forced to be suppressed for profit reasons by the highest levels of government, makes for a very timely and relevant story in a time of ever-increasing corruption and secrecy by both industry and government.

## **SECOND OPINION: LAETRILE AT SLOAN-KETTERING**

Primary credits:

Written, directed and produced by Eric Merola

Director of Photography: Doug Jenson, William Turnley, and Erik Forssell

Camera Operators: Doug Jenson, Richard Bogosian, William Turnley, Alex Corn, Rich Buonagurio, Jed Hernandez, and Damian Apunte.

Lighting/Grip: Doug Jenson, Richard Bogosian, William Turnley, and Guillermo Luna

Sound: Robert Poss, Michel Tyabji

Edited by Eric Merola and Jon Barratt

Music by Peter Venne

Cartoons by Tom Meyer

Motion graphics and design by Eric Merola

On screen appearances:

Ralph W. Moss, PhD - the story's hero, successful book author, and former tenure advisor of the National Institute's of Health Office of Alternative Medicine.

Alex Pruchnicki, MD - The only non-anonymous member of "Second Opinion".

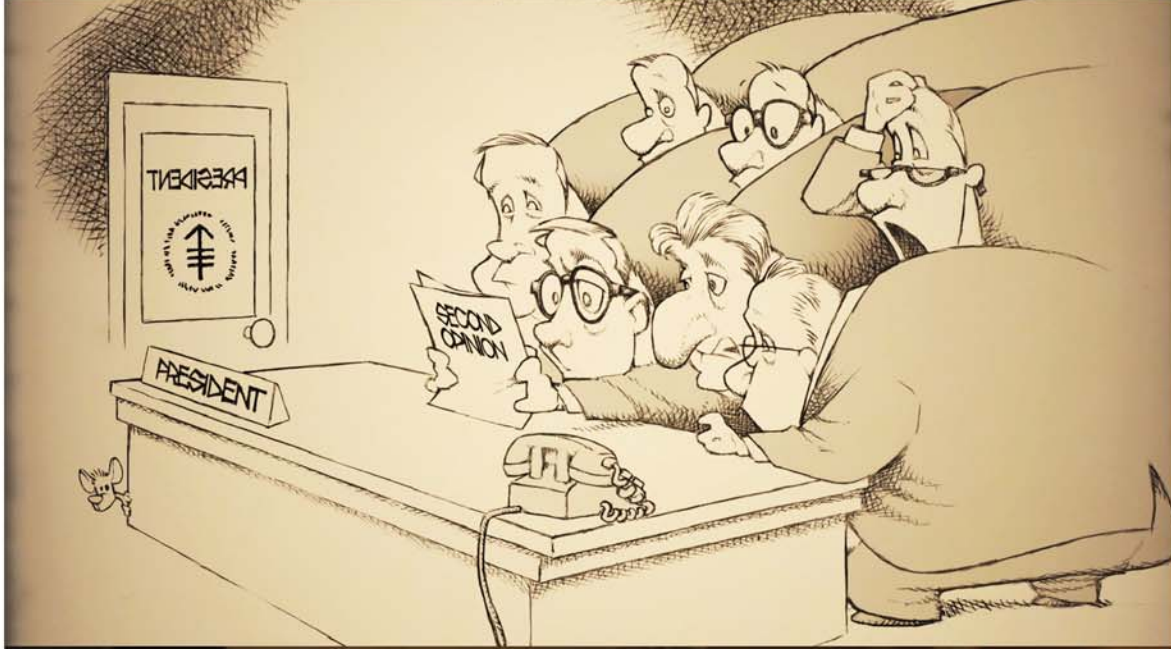
Martha Moss - Ralph's wife

Ben Moss - Ralph's son

Melissa Beattie-Moss - Ralph's daughter

Archival footage from NBC and CBS featuring Dr. Kanematsu Sugiura, Robert Good MD, Lewis Thomas MD, Chester Stock MD, and Lloyd Old MD.

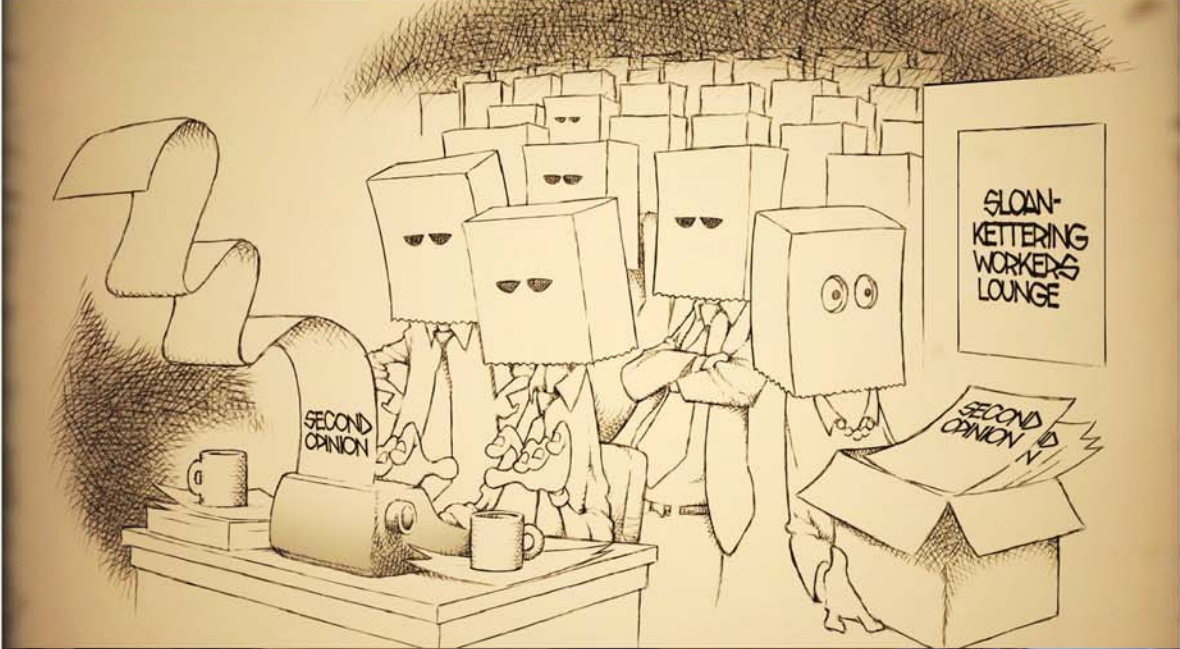
Ralph W. Moss, PhD



Alec Pruchnicki, MD



Ben Moss



Martha Moss

