

HIGHLY SPECIFIC BIOCHEMICAL MARKER FOUND IN BREAST CANCER. A protein identical to prostate-specific antigen (PSA) was recently found to be produced in approximately 30% of female breast tumors in a collaborative study at the Jefferson Cancer Center (Jefferson Medical College; Philadelphia, PA), the University of Toronto, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and Toronto Hospital. The presence of PSA in breast tumors holds promise as an additional biochemical marker for breast cancer prognosis. It may also determine whether breast cancer has disseminated through a patient's body and can potentially monitor a patient's response to treatment.

Preliminary evidence suggests that the expression of PSA is a relatively good prognostic indicator. "Breast tumors which produce the protein have much better outcomes than

tumors which do not produce it," says Eleftherios Diamandis, M.D., deputy chair of the University of Toronto's department of clinical biochemistry. "It is only when tumor cells lose their ability to produce PSA that they become more aggressive."