

Her 2, The Making of Herceptin, a Revolutionary Treatment for Breast Cancer

Written by Robert Bazell

Reviewed by Mary-Ellen Burns, breast cancer survivor

If you are interested in learning about Herceptin, the breast cancer treatment that's been in the news lately, but you need it in layman's terms, pick up this book. Author Robert Bazell, award-winning science news correspondent, presents a clear, detailed account of the research, development, testing and marketing of Herceptin. This "smart" drug targets a protein called Her-2/neu which is over-produced in 25 to 30 percent of breast cancer tumors. He manages to present the scientific milestones and accomplishments in understandable terms while imparting the passion and drive of those people in and out of the laboratory who worked so hard to get Herceptin where it is today.

As a history buff and Herceptin-user, I enjoyed the book immensely. The brave patients who participated in the trials, the doctors and researchers who pursued the possibilities and the fundraisers and activists who gave their support to the dream make this quite an inspiring story. I would like to thank Dr. Dennis Slamon, who never gave up on Herceptin, and all those involved in the roller coaster ride.

Her 2, The Making of Herceptin, a Revolutionary Treatment for Breast Cancer is available in the Breast Cancer Resource Center Resource Library.