

Bodai's Bio



Ernie Bodai, M.D. was born in Budapest, Hungary in 1951. He and his family lived in a bomb shelter for nearly a year, before they managed to escape during the Hungarian Revolution in 1957. Following immigration to the United States, Dr. Bodai received his B.A and M.S. degrees from the University of California, Los Angeles. He received his M.D. degree from the University of California, Davis in 1977, where he currently serves as Clinical Professor of Surgery. Dr. Bodai served as Chief of Surgery, Kaiser Permanente, Sacramento for 15 years and today directs the Breast Health Center at the Kaiser Permanente Sacramento, which has been recognized, nationally as a “Center of Excellence”. He has authored over 250 medical articles and has published 5 books, 4 of which focus on cancer. He holds a number of medical device patents, is a member of numerous prestigious surgical societies and is the recipient of many national awards. He serves as a board member or medical director of several companies including Sontek Medical, B&B Medical, Liv International, and Nutracea, an international leader in the development of nutraceuticals.

After treating thousands of patients with breast cancer he became frustrated at the pace of funding for research. **In a remarkable one-man lobbying effort he was able to convince Congress and the U.S. Postal Service in 1998 to issue the Breast Cancer Research Stamp (BCRS) – the first-ever stamp in U.S. history that sells at more than face value (currently 45 cents) with the surplus amount donated directly to breast cancer research.** Over 900 million stamps have been sold, raising over \$70 million for crucial research, and it is the best-selling stamp in the U.S.

Dr. Bodai is currently introducing the first-ever “global stamp” to raise awareness and earn funding to conquer the disease worldwide. To date, the countries that have already either issued their own stamps, or are about to, include **Hungary, the Philippines, Belize, Nicaragua and Kenya. Israel** will issue the Stamp in 2009, as will **Romania**. The newest country in the world, **Kosovo**, will issue the stamp in October 2008 to coincide with not only the 10th anniversary of the BCRS, but also their first **“Breast Cancer Awareness Month”** Walk/Run, and the establishment of the Balkans Breast Cancer Initiative with Kosovo as its Headquarters.