

Contents

Dedication vii

Foreword ix

Preface xi

Acknowledgments xv

Contents xvii

Abbreviations xix

Part I: The Basics

1. The Illusion of Certainty 3

2. Cause and Effect vs. Risk Factors 15

3. Reframing the Debate..... 31

**4. Assessing Human Health Risks from Environmental
Contaminants 37**

5. The Sources of Uncertainty..... 53

Part II: Case Studies

6. Vioxx™ and Heart Attacks..... 73

7. Prostate Cancer Screening 77

8. Elevated Cholesterol: A Primary Risk Factor
for Heart Disease? 83

9. Statins, Cholesterol, and Coronary Heart Disease 93

10. Colorectal Cancer Screening 105

11. Health Effects of Smoking..... 109

12. Chlorination of Drinking Water and Health Risks 117

13. Exposure to Residential Radon and the Risk of Lung Cancer ... 127

14. Ecological Risk Assessment..... 133

15. Asian Oysters in the Chesapeake Bay 141

16. Chromium and Sediment Toxicity 153

Part III: Perspectives

17. The Physician’s and Patient’s Perspective 167

18. Acceptable Health Benefits and Risks 189

Appendices

Appendix A: A Brief Primer on Statistical Approaches
for Quantifying Uncertainty 203

Appendix B: Two Clinical Studies that Evaluated Blood Serum
Cholesterol as a Risk Factor for Coronary Heart Disease (CHD) 209

Appendix C: Glossary 213

References..... 219

Index..... 233

About the Authors 241