

## Chapter 5

# IS THERE A CORRELATION BETWEEN ECONOMIC CRISIS AND CANCER? A DILEMMA OF CRISIS-CANCER CYCLE

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### Introduction

*Crises* are social, political, economic and environmental forces that have increasingly gained in importance. Likewise, crises have the potential to cause damage by creating sudden changes. Crises generating widespread and systematic damage with this detrimental potential can also be a significant driving force affecting structural alteration, growth, and innovation. Furthermore, crises can make institutions better, they can alter society and the how the ecosystem functions. They can weaken economic stability and change beliefs. Given these aspects, it is very important to understanding the meaning and the effects of crises (Sellnow&Seeger, 2014). Another significant subject for the present day is cancer. It is one of the biggest problems with health ranking high among the causes of death and second only to cardiovascular diseases in terms of morbidity. In particular, cancer when diagnosed later can result in organ failure and death. It is a main reason of organ damage, especially death in delayed cases, and is likely to settle into first place in the near future. Cancer, which reduces life expectancy, particularly when diagnosed late, is very expensive to treat and subjects both the patient and his / her relatives to psychological pressure. Cancer is also very important in terms of its detrimental effects on the economy. In the fight against cancer, it is imperative to be organized (Saltık, 2013). "In 2017, 1,688,780 new cancer cases and 600,920 cancer deaths are projected to occur in the United States" representing about 1,650 deaths per day (Siegel, Miller & Jemal, 2017). "In 2018, an estimated 1,735,350 new cases of cancer will be diagnosed in the United States and 609,640 people will die from the disease" (National Cancer Institute, a), "which translates to about 1,670 deaths per day. Cancer is the second most common cause of death in the US, exceeded only by heart disease" (National Cancer Institute, b).

The American Cancer Society predicts that by 2030, this global burden will result in "21.7 million new cancer cases and 13 million cancer deaths". Apart from this dreadful view on the global scale, the economic dimension of cancer is increasing in importance day by day. Although there are no precise data due to the irregularity of records and notifications, accordingly the World Health Organization, the whole an-

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of cancer are not kept regularly and the registration centers are not notified; therefore, the real figures are likely much higher than the data. In 2030, the numbers of new cancer cases and deaths are expected to rise to 21.6 billion and 13 million, respectively. This study adds a new cause to the known causes of this debilitating or fatal disease, which is a very important problem for economies due to the resultant loss of workforce and production in addition to diagnosis and treatment costs. According to this study, there is a cycle between *crisis* and *cancer*. Economic crises result in unemployment, poverty, loss of labor, and loss of income. These changes in the macroeconomic environment, which cause a decline in the socio-economic status of the individual, lead to anxiety, stress, a weakening of the immune system, and a shortening of telomers, resulting in cancer. Some studies on specific phases of the "**Crisis-Cancer Cycle**," as expressed by this work, which establishes a relationship between crisis and cancer, offer genetic evidence but this cycle needs more empirical research. Cancer places a heavy economic burden on humanity and the global economy. Rather than carrying this burden, it will be more "*affordable*" in terms of the necessary costs to prevent economic crises that trigger illness in *the cycle of crisis-cancer*. Taking some simple economic precautions will prevent a significant portion of the disease. Scientists are now paying close attention to the fact that 30%-50% of cancer cases can be prevented. Policies that will be developed in a coordinated manner around the world need to consider this cycle. The consequences of this and future work are important in the development of policies to prevent cancer and reduce the burden on the economy. The aim of this study, which is prepared within the framework of the interdisciplinary approach and which contributes to the addition of new factors to the causes of cancer, is to draw attention to the Crisis-Cancer Cycle and to create a point of departure for future empirical studies. From this point of view, this work is a contribution.

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