



# IMAGINE CONTINUUM CENTER

## Lobbying – Big Pharma (way) at the top:

<http://www.opensecrets.org/lobby/indusclient.php?id=H04&year=a>

The ROI of lobbying dollars for drug companies is 77,500% and the next closest is 22,000% for corporate tax breaks. <http://www.zerohedge.com/news/2013-03-11/who-spends-most-dollars-lobbying-washington-dc>

**Pharma - \$124,832,898    Gun lobby \$1,795,000**

<http://www.opensecrets.org/lobby/clientsum.php?id=D000000082>

**OPINION: Big Pharma's stranglehold on Washington ...** "The huge sum of money our nation's drug makers lavish on Congress each year begs the question, what are they seeking in return? Surely it has something to do with the fact that our nation's legislators turn a blind eye as pharmaceutical companies engage in predatory pricing practices while enjoying exclusive rights to manufacture drugs for 20 years or more. All at the same time that drug costs and drug price inflation are among of the main drivers of health care costs for individuals and families and threaten the fiscal health of our public health care programs." Former CIGNA executive-turned-whistleblower Wendell Potter writes about the health care industry and the ongoing battle for health reform. <http://www.publicintegrity.org/2013/02/11/12175/opinion-big-pharmas-stranglehold-washington>

**'Pharma industry has a deep culture of corruption'** Excerpt: "Now widely reported by international press, **Ranbaxy**, the maker of generic Lipitor to millions of Americans and pioneer in India's generic medicines revolution, paid damages to the tune of \$500 million to settle on corporate fraud related to unethical production of medicines that compromised on quality."

*"This appears to be the business plan. It appears to be, you do whatever you have to do, and you know that eventually you will pay fines, but you will pay the fines and still make a lot more."* **ERIC G. CAMPBELL**, a professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School, on conflicts of interest between doctors and the drug industry.

**A Drug Trial's Frayed Promise** <http://buff.ly/1JVhYJF> - evidence that "evidence" comes in (some # of) shades of gray **A Drug Trial's Frayed Promise** [nytimes.com](http://nytimes.com) **A study of the drug Seroquel XR for patients with borderline personality disorder exposes the tangled mess of interests for academics and universities involved in clinical t...**

"The University of Minnesota's clinical trial practices are now under intense scrutiny. In February, a [panel](#) of outside experts excoriated the university for failing to properly oversee clinical trials and for



paying inadequate attention to the protection of vulnerable subjects. The review, commissioned by the university after years of criticism of its research practices, singled out Dr. Schulz and his department of psychiatry, describing “a culture of fear” that pervaded the department.

## **F.D.A. Nominee Califf's Ties to Drug Makers Worry Some**

By SABRINA TAVERNISE

Dr. Robert Califf, a cardiologist and renowned clinical researcher, has deeper ties to the pharmaceutical industry than any F.D.A. commissioner in recent memory.

## **Paid to Promote Eye Drug, and Prescribing It Widely**

By KATIE THOMAS and RACHEL ABRAMS

Half of the 20 doctors who received the most money from Genentech to promote its drug Lucentis in 2013 were among the highest users of the drug in 2012, a federal database shows.

## **2 Valeant Dermatology Drugs Lead Steep Price Increases, Study Finds**

By ANDREW POLLACK

The study found that prices for 19 brand-name dermatology drugs increased about 400 percent in the last six years, but two of Valeant's increases were the biggest.

▪Turing Refuses to Lower List Price of Toxoplasmosis Drug

## **When Crime Pays: J&J's Drug Risperdal**

By NICHOLAS KRISTOF

Marketing the antipsychotic got Johnson & Johnson a criminal record, big settlement costs and penalties - and bigger profits

## **Turn the Volume Down on Drug Ads**

By THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Consumers should be skeptical of prescription drug advertisements.

## **A Tax-Cutting Move That Pfizer Can Hardly Resist**

By JEFF SOMMER

The drug maker's latest move toward shifting its legal tax headquarters abroad has drawn scorn from politicians, but it's a shareholder-friendly tactic.

## **Using Doctors With Troubled Pasts to Market a Painkiller**

By KATIE THOMAS

Five of the 20 physicians who received the most money from Insys, maker of Subsys, a powerful painkiller, recently faced legal or disciplinary action.



**Alzheimer's:** Excerpted from an article below: "I recently returned from the Middle East only to learn that my Father had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's. **When I went to visit him he was non-ambulatory, non-communicative, and wasting away. I immediately started him on a coconut oil and PS supplement treatment. Today, he's able to walk and communicate ...** I'm hoping to bring him home in the near future. The floor nurses are all amazed and recommending this protocol for their family and friends suffering from age induced dementia or Alzheimer's disease. **I have yet to have the physician ask me "what are you giving him that has produced such marked improvement."** Pretty much says it all right there ... the pharmacy tyrants have it locked down hard."

*(I believe to dismiss these voluminous reports as anecdotal, when the drug companies have the money to run the HUGELY expensive trials and – like what happened with Candace Pert's Peptide-T – those who have natural drugs get denied funding, is a set up to marginalize a threat to pharmaceuticals.)*

**David L. Katz, MD, MPH President, American College of Lifestyle Medicine** (David L. Katz, MD, MPH, FACPM, FACP is the founding director of Yale University's Prevention Research Center; President of the American College of Lifestyle Medicine; Editor-in-Chief of the journal, Childhood Obesity; Chief Science Officer for NuVal LLC; and director of the Integrative Medicine Center at Griffin Hospital. A clinician, researcher, author, inventor, journalist, and media personality, Dr. Katz is the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions, including an honorary doctoral degree; widely supported nominations for the position of U.S. Surgeon General; recognition by Greatist.com as one of the 100 most influential people in health and fitness in the world for the past 3 years):

**[Industry-Funded Research: Conflict or Confluence?](#)** Posted August 20, 2015

"The great [public health imbroglio](#) disclosed over recent weeks, in which widely, highly-regarded scientists were found to be running on Coca-Cola funding to enlighten the world about calories and energy balance, continues to reverberate through all forms of media. You have no doubt encountered a bounty of..." [Read Post](#)

More posts by Katz: [Sugar and Saturated Fat: Feeding the Parasites of Science](#),



# IMAGINE CONTINUUM CENTER



## Weight loss drugs: the wrong answer to the obesity problem

1 JUN 2015 Weight loss **drugs are not the solution** to achieve sustainable weight loss and improve overall health

Here's from an MD (David Gorski) who doesn't like Katz and provides an expected argument, summed up: "In other words, just because there are problems with drug development and how big pharma handles drug trials does not mean that the pseudoscientific methods of CAM and integrative medicine "work." Just because, as Dr. Katz demonstrates, a purified drug (coenzyme Q10) might be effective in preventing death from congestive heart failure and that the clinical trials that failed to find a benefit a decade ago were small, that doesn't mean "integrative medicine" is valid, nor does it mean that herbalism works."

**HOWEVER**, despite Gorski's assertion (and attempts to marginalize and discredit by using terms like "pseudoscience"), there have been "robust" findings as recently as 2013:

## *CoQ10 Proven Benefits In Heart Failure*

### *Patients*

April 2014

By Bradley Tompkins



# CONTINUUM CENTER



The *European Journal of Heart Failure* has published data from one of the most robust studies to date on **coenzyme Q10**.

This **ten year** study conclusively showed that CoQ10 supplementation significantly improves survival for even the most severe **heart failure** patients while radically reducing incidences of hospitalization.<sup>1</sup>

This new study shows that CoQ10 supplementation can restore deficient CoQ10 levels in patients with moderate-to-severe heart failure, extend lifespan, and improve quality of life.<sup>1</sup>

The compelling results from this 10-year-long study found that patients who took **100 mg** of CoQ10 three times daily were...

- Significantly less likely to die from heart failure,
- Less than half as likely to die from *any* cause at all, and
- Half as likely to have a major adverse cardiac event during the study period, compared with control subjects.<sup>1</sup>

After only three months of supplementation, the researchers detected a trend towards reduced levels of a blood marker of heart failure severity that is released from over-worked heart muscle cells.<sup>1,2</sup> At two years, significantly more treated patients had improved measurements of heart function than did placebo recipients.<sup>1</sup>

Several of the studies demonstrated an improvement in cardiac functional status, as determined by the New York Heart Association, reducing patients' class levels of heart failure by an average of 0.5 compared with placebo.<sup>11,18,19</sup> This means that heart failure patients could move from a strict Class II with limitations on physical activity to a class I-II with fewer or even no limitations resulting in substantial improvements in quality of life.

Other studies over the past 15 years or so showed small but significant improvements in objective measures of heart function, such as **ejection fraction** (the proportion of blood



# IMAGINE CONTINUUM CENTER

pumped out of the heart with each beat), **stroke volume** (volume of blood pumped with each beat), and **cardiac output** (total amount of blood pumped per minute).<sup>14,20</sup>

But it wasn't until mid-**2013** that results were published from the first comprehensive, double-blind, multi-center study demonstrating the dramatic, life-saving impact of CoQ10 supplementation in patients with **chronic heart failure**.

But the study's main endpoint measurement was the most dramatic indicator of success. Only **14%** of patients in the supplemented group had a major adverse cardiac event (defined as unplanned hospitalization for worsening heart failure, death from a cardiovascular cause, urgent heart transplantation, or artificial mechanical heart support), while **25%** of those in the placebo group had a major cardiac event.<sup>1</sup> In statistical terms, that produced a "hazard ratio" of **2.0**—meaning ***the untreated patients had twice the risk of a major cardiac event!***

Compared with control patients, those taking CoQ10 experienced significantly fewer cardiovascular deaths and hospitalizations for worsening heart failure. The difference in death rate from all causes between the CoQ10 and placebo groups was striking. Subjects on placebo had *twice* the rate of death compared to those taking CoQ10.<sup>1</sup> And, unlike most drug studies, there were significantly fewer adverse events in the supplemented group than in the placebo group.

## [U.S. to Force Drug Firms to Report Money Paid to Doctors](#)

By ROBERT PEAR

To head off medical conflicts of interest, the companies would be required to disclose what they pay doctors for research, consulting, speaking, travel and entertainment.

## **Valeant's Drug Price Strategy Enriches It, but Infuriates Patients and Lawmakers**

By ANDREW POLLACK and SABRINA TAVERNISE

A pharmaceutical company buys old drugs and increases the price multifold, a profitable business model that is drawing anger and making the traditional drug industry nervous.

## **Antidepressant Paxil Is Unsafe for Teenagers, New Analysis Says**

By BENEDICT CAREY

The study reverses an earlier conclusion that caused a long-running dispute, and **opens the way for journals to post multiple interpretations of the same experiment**

## [OxyContin Is Not for Kids](#)

By PETER SHUMLIN



# IMAGINE CONTINUUM CENTER

The F.D.A.'s misguided approval of a powerful opiate for young people will make the fight against painkiller addiction even harder.

reveals how a **pharmaceutical company can influence the treatment of a medical condition.**

## **Shire, Maker of Binge-Eating Drug Vyvanse, First Marketed the Disease**

By KATIE THOMAS

The strategy for a new drug to treat binge-eating disorder



## **Don't Trade Away Our Health**

By JOSEPH E. STIGLITZ

The efforts to raise drug prices in the so-called Trans-Pacific Partnership take us in the wrong direction.

[John Springer](#)

ForcePro

Well, good luck to you all in Canada. The pharmacy industry has got the AMA in its pocket as well as the FDA ... it's a lock, a done deal. We have health insurance reps dictating medical practice which is tantamount to practicing medicine without a license and that's illegal ... but never prosecuted.

The TV commercials for prescribed medications are hysterically funny. First there is an "Everything will be fine if you take \_\_\_\_" followed by a laundry list of potential side effects that are worse than the illness the drug is prescribed for. Absolute laugh riot.

I recently returned from the Middle East only to learn that my Father had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's. When I went to visit him he was non-ambulatory, non-communicative, and wasting away. I immediately started him on a coconut oil and PS supplement treatment. Today, he's able to walk and communicate ... I'm hoping to bring him home in the near future. The floor nurses are all amazed and recommending this protocol for their family and friends suffering from age induced dementia or Alzheimer's disease. I have yet to have the physician ask me "what are you giving him that has produced such marked improvement." Pretty much says it all right there ... the pharmacy tyrants have it locked down hard.

**The feds finally make a move on soaring drug prices** [Fiscal Times](#)





# IMAGINE CONTINUUM CENTER

Eric Pianin 18 hrs ago <http://www.msn.com/en-us/money/markets/the-feds-finally-make-a-move-on-soaring-drug-prices/ar-AAfw3Sw?li=AAa0dzB&ocid=iehp>

Federal and state prosecutors delivered an unmistakable shot across the bow of the U.S. pharmaceutical industry this week amid mounting concern that soaring drug prices are posing risks to the health of many Americans and blowing a hole in the budgets of federal and state health care programs.

Two of the worst offenders, Valeant Pharmaceuticals International and Turing Pharmaceuticals, were presented with subpoenas or letters by prosecutors investigating their pricing practices and other aspects of how they do business.

During a Senate hearing last summer, Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-MO) questioned former Valeant CFO Howard Schiller about the company's February 2015 decision to increase the price per vial of Isuprel, a drug used to treat cardiac arrest, from \$215 to \$1,346. That same month, Valeant boosted the price of the Nitropress, a blood pressure medicine, from \$257 to \$805 per vial.

Last month, Hillary Clinton called out Turing for boosting the cost of Daraprim, an older drug used to treat infections, from \$13.50 to \$750 a pill. Donald Trump called the company's 32-year-old CEO, Martin Shkreli, a "spoiled brat."

Now the eye-popping markups in the price of both old and new drugs is drawing intense interest from federal and state prosecutors. The controversy is turning into a perfect storm for the drug industry, with both politicians and state and federal prosecutors demanding justification for their drug pricing policies.

"I think what's happened is that some of these companies ... in a remarkable feat of poor political timing stuck their heads way, way out of the foxhole and raised prices seemingly unaware that we're in the midst of a presidential election where there's a lot more sensitivity about all of these things," Joseph Antos, a health care specialist with the American Enterprise Institute, said in an interview on Thursday. [\*\*Related: Drug Company Profits Soar as Taxpayers Foot the Bill\*\*](#)

**Profit at the expense of people.**

<http://www.msn.com/en-us/health/medical/drug-overdose-deaths-rise-across-the-united-states-report/ar-AAbHykB?ocid=iehp>





# IMAGINE CONTINUUM CENTER

**Drug overdose deaths rise across the United States -report** Reuters Laila Kearney  
Deaths by drug overdose have been on the rise in the United States, with a majority of states recording increases from 2009 to 2013, according to a study released on Wednesday.

Across the country, 44,000 people died from drug overdoses in 2013, more than double the number in 1999, the study by the non-profit group, Trust for America's Health found. Nearly 52 percent of the deaths were related to prescription drugs.

## EDITORIAL

### [Making Some Painkillers Harder to Get](#)

Widely abused prescription drugs like Vicodin need tighter restrictions to curb the epidemic.

## Painkiller overdose deaths 'skyrocket' in women

### [Sharp Rise in Women's Deaths From Overdose of Painkillers](#)

By SABRINA TAVERNISE

Prescription painkiller addiction, long seen as mainly a man's problem, is rising at a far faster rate among women, a federal analysis of data found.

"On average, a physician will interrupt a patient describing her symptoms within eighteen seconds. In this short time, many doctors decide on the likely diagnosis and best treatment"

How Doctors Think, 2007 , Jerome Groopman, M.D.

[http://www.ted.com/talks/ben\\_goldacre\\_battling\\_bad\\_science.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/ben_goldacre_battling_bad_science.html)

## Murder By Injection

"Dr. Robert S. Mendelsohn, comments that "Modern cancer surgery someday will be regarded with the same kind of horror that we now regard the use of leeches in George Washington's time." The surgery of which he spoke is the widely accepted and imposed method of cancer treatment now in vogue throughout the United States. It is called the "cut, slash and burn" technique.

This method of cancer treatment actually represents the highwater mark of the German allopathic school of medicine in the United States. It relies almost exclusively on surgery, bleeding and heavy use of drugs, with the exotic addition of radium treatment. The Temple of the modern method of cancer treatment in the United States is the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Institute in New York. Its high priests are the surgeons and researchers at this center.

[Cancer Rates Expected To Increase 75% By 2030](#) [Our Stolen Future: The incidence of cancer in the United States](#) [Breast cancer rates increase worldwide, study finds](#)



CONTINUUM CENTER

**We have the wrong model for mind, medicine and health. Follow the money.**