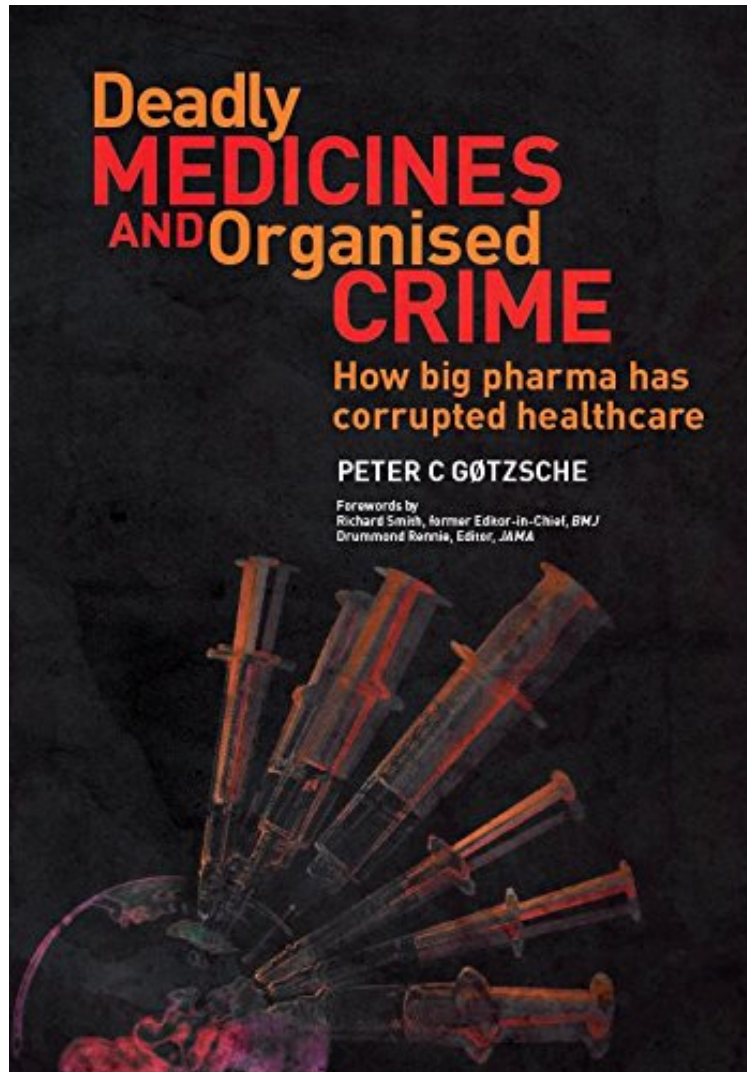


(Download free pdf) Deadly Medicines and Organised Crime: How Big Pharma Has Corrupted Healthcare

Deadly Medicines and Organised Crime: How Big Pharma Has Corrupted Healthcare

Peter Gotzsche

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Peter Gotzsche : Deadly Medicines and Organised Crime: How Big Pharma Has Corrupted Healthcare before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Deadly Medicines and Organised Crime: How Big Pharma Has Corrupted Healthcare:

138 of 140 people found the following review helpful. Big pharma and the MafiaBy Mauricio J. SolorzanoOne of the biggest canaries at the moment is Peter Gøtzsche, none other than the head of the Nordic Cochrane Centre, the Scandinavian arm of the Cochrane Collaboration, an independent research and information centre committed to preparing, maintaining, and disseminating reviews of the various treatments of mainstream medicine and examining

whether they have adequate evidence of safety and effectiveness. Cochrane was the first group of individuals to champion the notion of 'evidence-based' medicine - that is, medicine shouldn't be used unless there's evidence that the stuff works. Gostischoe is a guy after my own heart. When asked to speak at a Danish Society for Rheumatology event, called 'Collaboration with the drug industry. Is it THAT harmful?' Peter's opening gambit was to highlight the fact that Pfizer, one of the meeting's sponsors, had been fined \$2.3 billion in the US for promoting off-label use of four drugs, while Merck, the sponsor the year before, had been responsible for the deaths of thousands due to deceptive information about its arthritis drug. Gostischoe's latest book, entitled *Deadly Medicines and Organised Crime: How Big Pharma has Corrupted Healthcare* (Radcliffe Publishing Ltd) pulls even fewer punches. The book essentially makes the point that the drugs industry uses virtually every tactic used by the mob to sell its products. He even quotes a former vice-president of Pfizer as saying, 'It is scary how many similarities there are between his industry and the mob. The mob makes obscene amounts of money, as does this industry. The side effects of organized crime are killings and deaths, and the side effects are the same in this industry. The mob bribes politicians and others, and so does the drug industry.' Perhaps even more extraordinary than the careful case made by this blunt soothsayer is the fact that Richard Smith, the former editor of the *British Medical Journal*, agreed to write the book's foreword. In the book, Smith points out, the characteristics of organized crime include extortion, fraud, federal drug offences, bribery, embezzlement, obstruction of justice obstruction of law enforcement, tampering with witnesses and political corruption. "Peter produces evidence, most of it detailed, to support his case that pharmaceutical companies are guilty of most of these offenses," says Smith. Indeed, most of the billions paid out as fines by the drugs industry for flouting the law as thought of as 'the cost of doing business.' "As an epidemiologist with very high numerical literacy and a passion for details, so that he is a world leader in critiquing clinical studies, Peter is here on very solid ground," says Smith. "He shows too how the industry has bought doctors, academics, journals, professional and patient organizations, university departments, journalists, regulators and politicians. These are the methods of the mob." This is only the latest canary from among Establishment medicine to blow the whistle on Big Pharma. Marcia Ancell, the editor for two decades at the *New England Journal of Medicine*, recently published her own book: *The Truth About the Drug Companies: How They Deceive Us and What to Do About It*. All of the major medical journals, from the *BMJ* and the *Lancet*, to the *Journal of the American Medical Association* and the *New Eng Journal*, have revealed the scale of the problem - that correctly prescribed drugs are the fourth leading cause of death, that drug companies massage and make up data. Medicine should be a gift to us all rather than a money-making scheme for the pharmaceutical industry, as it now largely is. With that in mind, we suggest that the following be implemented. An independent funding body should be created to finance all medical trials, whether of drugs, other forms of therapy or alternatives. Doctors should be required to spend one year of their five-year training learning about nutrition, alternative modalities and new possibilities. Drug-company influence should be entirely excluded from medicine, from training colleges and from trips abroad. Doctors should be rewarded for adopting non-drug therapies, thus saving the nation at least one small part of the pound; 160 billion spent every year on drugs by the NHS. But most of all, we need to open up the entire field of cancer--our understanding of what it is, what causes it and how it could be treated--while taking on board new understandings of the body and the impact upon it of the environment, stress and emotions. As a researcher once commented when asked whether research into alternative healing should continue, "We can't find the answers if we don't keep asking the questions." We will shortly announce our campaign for freeing medicine from the pharmaceutical industry, so that doctors and patients alike are free to use an entire toolkit of modalities to get and stay well. 12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Absolute Must Read By Ron Don't take any new drug until you have read this book and give a copy to your doctor. Simply stated, the evidence for the corruption of drug research data, publications, and pharmaceutical marketing "investments" presented in this book is breathtaking. In plain and refreshingly blunt language the author proves how appropriate his provocative title is on virtually every page of the book. If you don't believe me, read the forwards written by Richard Smith, former editor in chief of the *British Medical Journal*, and Drummond Rennie, deputy editor, *Journal of the American Medical Association*. Gostischoe backs up each and every one of his frightening conclusions with solid data, holding himself to the "evidenced based" requirements the world's drug companies have so successfully sidestepped with "investments" designed to maximize their profits while betraying patients and everyone else working in the medical community. Also, visit and use the Cochrane Cooperative @ [...] to get unbiased summary reports on the real evidence for the effectiveness of drugs based on meta-analysis of research reports that have been carefully selected for valid research protocols. Personally I don't believe the big issue here is about any individual doctor's honesty. Most of these folks are truly the "good guys." Instead, this is about the misinformation doctors are being fed in compromised research reports from major medical journals, combined with major pharmaceutical company marketing investments carefully designed to influence doctors' professional judgments. Those investments include millions of dollars spent on physicians each year in gifts, consulting fees, continuing medical education, lecture fees, travel to conferences, corporate advisory boards, and so on. Individually, a single physician, and, individually, each of these "investments" are not that consequential in either practical or ethical terms. But taken together, they add up to massive corruption producing huge ongoing profits while subjecting patients to grossly overpriced new drugs that have no better, and sometimes worse outcomes when honestly

compared to older, well understood drugs. Read the book. Be an informed consumer and vote for regulatory change to end this destructive corporate abuse. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Both authors are highly credentialed individuals and paint a sad picture of Big Pharma and healthcare in general. By Dr. Marcia Angell, M.D.'s *The Truth About The Drug Companies* years ago and found this book to be equally as interesting. Both authors are highly credentialed individuals and paint a sad picture of Big Pharma and healthcare in general. I am a practicing physician and was curious why gabapentin was used so widely today and this book answered that question. Originally approved for seizures that did not respond to other medications and now people are prescribed it for a stubbed toe. Shame on the pharmaceutical industry and the physicians who fall into their trap. A must read for anyone who is alive and breathing.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS ARE THE THIRD LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH AFTER HEART DISEASE AND CANCER. In his latest ground-breaking book, Peter C Gotzsche exposes the pharmaceutical industries and their charade of fraudulent behaviour, both in research and marketing where the morally repugnant disregard for human lives is the norm. He convincingly draws close comparisons with the tobacco conglomerates, revealing the extraordinary truth behind efforts to confuse and distract the public and their politicians. The book addresses, in evidence-based detail, an extraordinary system failure caused by widespread crime, corruption, bribery and impotent drug regulation in need of radical reforms. "The main reason we take so many drugs is that drug companies don't sell drugs, they sell lies about drugs. This is what makes drugs so different from anything else in life...Virtually everything we know about drugs is what the companies have chosen to tell us and our doctors...the reason patients trust their medicine is that they extrapolate the trust they have in their doctors into the medicines they prescribe. The patients don't realise that, although their doctors may know a lot about diseases and human physiology and psychology, they know very, very little about drugs that hasn't been carefully concocted and dressed up by the drug industry...If you don't think the system is out of control, please email me and explain why drugs are the third leading cause of death...If such a hugely lethal epidemic had been caused by a new bacterium or a virus, or even one-hundredth of it, we would have done everything we could to get it under control." FROM THE INTRODUCTION

About the Author Professor Peter C Gotzsche graduated as a Master of Science in biology and chemistry in 1974 and as a physician in 1984. He is a specialist in internal medicine; he worked with clinical trials and regulatory affairs in the drug industry 1975-83, and at hospitals in Copenhagen 1984-95. He co- founded The Cochrane Collaboration in 1993 and established The Nordic Cochrane Centre the same year. He became professor of Clinical Research Design and Analysis in 2010 at the University of Copenhagen. Peter Gotzsche has published more than 50 papers in 'the big five' (BMJ, Lancet, JAMA, Annals of Internal Medicine and New England Journal of Medicine) and his scientific works have been cited over 10 000 times. Peter Gotzsche has an interest in statistics and research methodology. He is a member of several groups publishing guidelines for good reporting of research and has co- authored CONSORT for randomised trials (www.consort-statement.org), STROBE for observational studies (www.strobe-statement.org), PRISMA for systematic reviews and meta- analyses (www.prisma-statement.org), and SPIRIT for trial protocols (www.spirit-statement.org). Peter Gotzsche is an editor in the Cochrane Methodology Group.