A Modern Day "House of Cards"

By Jimmie Holman & Justin Allen

The behemoth that has become conventional medicine, despite its size and control, is collapsing under its own weight. Regardless of its monumental funding, endless hype and propaganda, the implied promises of revolutionary and successful cures simply have not been fulfilled. Instead, they have brought only a new wealth of misfortune, despair, and complications often far worse than the original ailment or affliction.

The system of Western medicine today is one which now clearly seems designed, not to heal, but rather to entrap and extract as much financial wealth as possible from the unwitting public and transfer that wealth to the giants of the pharmacological and medical industries. To some large extent, this system even utilizes the politicians and regulatory agencies to help execute its plan. (This should not be too surprising as much of the money involved flows through those governmental and regulatory agencies.) However, as more of the public educates themselves, investigates the matter of health, and personally experiences the deceptions and misdirection which make this swindle possible, the weaknesses of Big Pharma may be revealed.

Without this perpetuating system in place, Big Pharma is nothing more than a house of cards ready to fall!
PURPOSE OF MEDICINE (HEALING)

It would go undebated among many that the purpose of medicine is to treat and then ultimately heal the suffering of an illness or injury – without also providing a chance that symptoms may worsen or that new symptoms may even occur after treatment. Some cultures have held onto their healing traditions for thousands of years without having to seek much help, if any, from Western treatment methods, despite most of its advancements. Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) has included a great number of practices over time that range from acupuncture to food therapy. Diseases are understood as a disharmony within the body, and the practices of TCM help to trace the patterns of their symptoms to their cause, which, with treatment, would then help lead to recovery.

“Let food be thy medicine and medicine be thy food”
Hippocrates 460 BC – 370 BC

Ayurvedic medicine, which originated in India, is one of the world’s oldest medical systems. It is a 3,000-year-old practice that remains as one of the country’s traditional health care systems. This system also implements the use of special diets and herbal compounds to amplify health and fight off diseases and their symptoms. Key understandings of Ayurvedic medicine include universal interconnectedness among people, their health, and the universe; the body’s constitution; and life forces.

Native Americans likewise used a very wide group of herbs as remedies that have, according to some, been known to even help treat some of today’s newest and worst diseases. Their natural remedies also included returning harmony and balance to both the physical body and the spirit as well in order to ensure full recovery.

Overall, it is easy to recognize that these few cultures (similar to many) have established that natural and holistic routines have proven effective in their use for treatment and provide sufficiently positive results. Also, each of these cultures managed to understand that in order to properly and completely address an illness, the condition of the entire body must also be diagnosed and then nurtured back to a balanced state as well. Whereas with conventional Western medicine, the intent is most often to target symptoms, as opposed to their cause – which is possibly brought on due to a poor condition of the entire system or body. It is curious to wonder, if past remedies were actually effective, logically explaining why many cultures have used them generation after generation, why then have so many people abandoned these methods for the use of chemically compounded pharmaceuticals that are capable of great harm? The answer is quite disillusioning when the components of this situation are viewed from a large and historical perspective.
WHEN MEDICINE CHANGED (FOR THE WORSE)

In the early 1900’s, pharmaceuticals were making their way into everyday use as the new resolution for health treatment. With the boom of the industrial revolution and the many great advancements being made at the time, it seemed the new patented medicines that were being marketed to the public would help launch human health into a new realm as well; one of a fit condition and that would be free of the debilitating and oftentimes deadly illnesses that were plaguing the lives of many. What was really taking place was the birth of a monopoly over the public’s health.

Business tycoons such as Andrew Carnegie and John Rockefeller started to invest much into the beginning medical industry. In 1910, they had used their own change-agent to implement standards limiting conventional medical practice to using the new chemically-constructed (patented) prescription drugs and routines as the only treatment approved by the new American Medical Association (AMA). That year, Abraham Flexner, while on staff for The Carnegie Foundation, traveled to every medical school in North America to survey and evaluate them. After his journey, he wrote a report later published by The Foundation which was used to substantiate the need for new outlined standards in American health care and medical education. Within these new guidelines were the demands that any medical school which focused on or provided homeopathic and other holistic medical practice over the “scientific” pharmaceutical and surgical modalities were to remove them from their curriculum or lose their accreditation and underwriting support. Flexner realized that holistic remedies would present a challenge to growing forms of scientific treatments within the medical marketplace. He also openly admitted wanting to antagonize these routines in an effort to weed them from the community of conventional medicine through the publication of his report. For the most part, it would seem that Mr. Flexner and his cohorts were very successful in removing alternative therapies from much of public attention, but not at completely eliminating the practices or the science. Further down the medical timeline, alternative practices—chiropractic treatments in particular—begin to rear their head again as a problem for the conventional medical empire.

In 1963, the AMA established the Committee on Quackery, whose goal was to “contain and eliminate” the chiropractic profession. This conflict led to what eventually became called “medical racism” and a great effort was made to discredit anyone who worked in alternative health professions. Conventional doctors scoffed at the practice of chiropractic and the sour attitude toward them was eventually picked up by the general public as well. The Committee’s assault on chiropractic doctors and methods was strategic and quite sophisticated; even directed at the impressionable intellect of young students entering medical schools and universities. Cleverly enough, The Committee on Quackery designed what were known as “Quack Packs” which were given to new medical students that provided instruction on dealing with patients curious about chiropractic and other “quackery” treatments. It was encouraged to tell patients things that made them believe chiropractors are, in fact, killers working with unscientific methods and it would only do them harm to receive such treatment.

However, the discussion about alternative and (most especially) chiropractic health care changed greatly when, in 1978, Louis Sportelli, D.C., a chiropractor from Pennsylvania, received a packaged bundle of some very concerning AMA documents. They revealed that the association had most definitely engaged in a systematic, widespread, and illegal conspiracy in order to boycott and then eliminate the chiropractic profession. This situation helped shed much light on the fact that the motives of the AMA and its contemporary agencies were financially and politically driven and more sinister than what most could ever realize. Eventually, it was determined that the AMA was guilty of trying to “contain and eliminate” the profession of chiropractic as a competitor in the U.S. health care system. Now, it would seem reasonable to consider that this would take place with other holistic forms of treatment as well, no? In fact, numerous

1 Education in the United States and Canada: A Report to the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, Abraham Flexner, Bulletin No. 4 1910
3 Doctored, 1012 Documentary film directed by Bobby Sheehan
instances of suppression involving many innovative doctors’ methods and their patients’ results have been reported over the years, such as in the cases of: Royal R. Rife, Harry Hoxsey, Gaston Naessens, Max Gerson, William Koch, and Stanislaw Burzynski (to name a few).

Several decades after these moments in medical history, we have still not been able to examine the potential possibilities these innovators raised. People are continuing to become frustrated with while receiving unsuccessful conventional health care which may have been successfully addressed by non-conventional alternatives. New regulations that are pushed into effect by the hands of pharmaceutical companies and powerful agencies seem to largely promote financial interests over public health. The powering force behind these factions of the health industry is to develop and market new pharmaceutical drugs for sustained use on existing and new diseases. The incentive of large profits take precedence over that of public health.

**INVESTIGATIONS**

In 2005, a shocking report from the British House of Commons Health Committee revealed much about the pharmaceutical industry and its influence in the European Union, (and the world). The report discusses an overwhelming list of issues within the pharmaceutical industry and its fellow corporations, agencies, and government bodies and indicates that the reach of its influence goes much further than expected.

The House of Commons Report determined a list of conclusions about the pharmaceutical industry’s influence, and where it and fellow entities have presented major failings to include:

- The pharmaceutical industry has such influence that it dictates clinical practice and deprives it of much needed independent and constructive critical feedback.
- An ineffective self-regulatory process within the industry has led to many failings. Because of a major lack of transparency, regulators are kept from feedback that would allow them to “check, test, and stimulate their policies and performance.” Because of the regulatory secrecy within the industry, problems have led to a poor history in the Medicine and Health products Regulatory Agency’s (MHRA) ability to recognize drug risks, poor communication, and a lack of public trust. This secrecy also undermines publication partiality. The close relationships between regulators and companies has greatly reduced quality control and audit.
- Although there are institutions in place to evaluate and provide feedback and quality control such as academic, research, clinical, and professional institutions, and also the media and patient groups, the representatives of these interests are only somewhat successful in limiting the industry’s influence in their work. This is due to the lack of transparency, limited resources, and a significant dependence on industry funding.
- It also appears that the UK Government and the EU have come to view trade imperatives and health priorities as one in the same. Although the Department of Health’s adamant denial of conflict between the two objectives, evidence provided for the report showed otherwise and that the scope for conflict is huge.\(^4\)

These failings within the pharmaceutical industry have led to great consequences such as the unsafe use of drugs and the growing “medicalization of society”. Eventually, everyone will be medicating themselves. And although the pharmaceutical industry has not invented this idea of a “pill for every ill”, it has certainly profited from it. Intensive promotional activity – especially around the time that a new drug is released - has led to issues such as the

indiscriminate prescribing of drugs such as SSRI antidepressants and COX-2 inhibitors that have been proven to be unsafe and even deadly in some cases. These problems stem from a major lack of proactive and systematic monitoring of drug effects and health outcomes in normal clinical use. The measure of how greatly the pharmaceutical industry seems to have gained influence over medical treatment, doctors and prescribers, regulatory agencies, media, and even the general population is staggering.

Although the report is focused primarily on the industry’s influence in the United Kingdom, it indicates that the problem is clearly global, and that there is no evidence to suggest “the situation in the UK was worse than in other countries.” However, it seems safe to imagine that the industry’s pervasive and persistent influence elsewhere has equally damaging effects as it has shown to have in the UK.

CORRUPTION AND CRIMINALITY

“The purpose of this letter is to draw your attention to the frustration and outrage that FDA physicians and scientists, public advocacy groups, the press, and the American people, have repeatedly expressed over the misdeeds of FDA officials. Recent press reports revealed extensive evidence of serious wrongdoing by Dr. Andrew von Eschenbach, Dr. Frank M. Torti, top FDA attorneys, Center and Office Directors, and many others in prominent positions of authority at FDA. As a result, Dr. Frank M. Torti, Acting Commissioner and the FDA’s first Chief Scientist, abruptly left the Agency. But, the many other FDA managers who have failed to protect the American public, who have violated laws, rules, and regulations, who have suppressed or altered scientific or technological findings and conclusions, who have abused their power and authority, and who have engaged in illegal retaliation against those who speak out, have not been held accountable and remain in place.”

A letter sent to President Barrack Obama on April 2, 2009, from nine scientists at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) shed light on a very disturbing issue. It exposed corruption within the administration at some of the highest levels of management. The letter warns the president that the administration is “fundamentally broken” and reports that there is “extensive evidence of serious wrongdoing...in prominent positions of power.” The credibility of the FDA’s science is also at risk, they say, because of improper political influence. Indeed, a Government Accountability Report (GAO) in 2005 concluded that “political pressure led to the Food and Drug Administration’s 2004 decision to deny over-the-counter (OTC) status to Plan B, an emergency contraceptive.” The same group of scientists (the “FDA Nine” as they have become known) had written to Michigan Rep. John Dingell in October 2008 as well. They produced a condemning letter which accuses FDA managers of ordering, intimidating, and

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coercing scientists “to manipulate their research results in violation of federal law.”

The corrupt managers at the administration are far more concerned with ensuring and protecting their current positions and promoting their careers. They have chosen to employ a regulation-based “pseudo-science” rather than science-based regulation, it says. As more evidence of mismanagement and corruption piles against these high-ranking administration members, so does their internal resistance to change their behaviors and carry out thorough investigations into scientists’ claims. When confronted with the issue that FDA scientists were being demanded to accept evidence and conclusions that were not scientifically proven or clinically validated, the Director of the Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH) conducted his own investigation and concluded that the scientists “need to move forward”; carrying out no disciplinary action whatsoever and thus allowing those managers to avoid any responsibility.

“The nation is at risk if FDA science is at risk.”

Letter from FDA Scientists to Rep. John Dingell

In another effort to hush the voices of whistleblower FDA scientists, managers also conducted illegal surveillance of email correspondence between government officials and its employees. Senator Charles Grassley wrote to FDA Commissioner Margaret Hamburg in July 2012 expressing his “disappointment and disbelief” at the behavior of the FDA. He was also upset with the fact that officials there had contacted the General Counsel’s Office (GCO) to begin the illegal monitoring of email traffic between not only members of his staff, but Rep. John Dingell and others in Congress as well. Documents he obtained reveal that the FDA did target communications with Congress, and then took adverse personnel action against whistleblowers. In his letter he demands the names of those who authorized such actions from both the FDA and the GCO along with an extensive list of other investigative questions whose answers would shed more light on the circumstances.

However, despite the criminality and the corruption, nothing has been done. Even our own Congressmen are being met with unresponsiveness, incomplete information, or being outright lied to; regardless of their demands for cooperation. This is only more indication that what motives lie behind the closed doors of the FDA actually conflict with their mission of protecting the health of the American public. Despite all of the clear and condemning evidence, no one, not even Sen. Grassley, has taken the issue further to have these corrupt FDA managers assume responsibility for their poor and even dangerous behavior.

The circumstances that might have arisen from a thorough investigation of what was reportedly taking place at the FDA may have helped in many ways. Charging and removing corrupt officials for their mismanagement and other illegal activities would afford representatives the opportunity to install fresh leaders uninhibited by exterior influence over their decision-making. However, this would be extremely difficult. The influence of the giant health care and pharmaceutical industries is so broad that, indeed, there are always readily available financial resources for investing to make sure of receiving the best representation and least objection from government officials. The FDA’s obscure behavior even lends slight control over the government. When officials are given information that is tampered with, incomplete, or totally false, their authority is taken away as well as they are not making totally informed decisions that would promote the health of the people. Control over government is control over its citizens. What better way to control people than through the manipulation of their own health? It may feel correct to think that the approval of defective medical devices and certain prescriptions proven to be problematic may only be small on the scale of human health and how it is affected. If entities such as the FDA or others from the pharmaceutical industry haven’t reached their hands into someone’s pockets through medicines already, they may be targeting them through their food and natural vitamins as the presence of big business grows in the young organic foods and wholesome supplement industry.
**CODEX ALIMENTARIUS**

Established in 1961, The Codex Alimentarius Commission is the global body concerned with making proposals to, and is consulted by, the Directors-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on all issues relating to the implementation of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme. These organizations use Codex Alimentarius to set the standards, guidelines, and codes of practice that contribute to the safety, quality, and fairness of international food trade. The Codex Commission has stated its main purposes as:

- Protecting the health of consumers
- Ensuring fair practices in the food trade
- Promoting coordination of all food standards work undertaken by international governmental and non-governmental organizations

Closer observation will help with understanding that the Commission’s members’ and related agencies’ interpretations of these claims may be seen as broad, to say the least.

Although the adoption of standards and guidelines established by Codex is essentially voluntary, the World Trade Organization (WTO) uses them as the benchmark in all international food trading issues. It may seem helpful to have uniformity in codes that determine what foods may be imported into certain nations, and how they are grown or processed. However, as members of the WTO, any food trade disputes that arise would then be settled according to Codex standards, and any nation who brought up the dispute may be forced to implement those food standards as well. Along with dealing with ordinary foods, Codex also sets standards and guidelines for: vitamin and mineral food supplements; health claims; organic foods; genetically modified foods; food labeling; advertising; food additives and pesticide residues. The oversight of Codex that outlines the standards for each of these areas carries implications that more people should be aware of and consider.

As for the vitamin and mineral food supplements standards of Codex, the guidelines order the setting of restrictive upper limits on the dosages of vitamins and minerals. They also prohibit any claims that vitamin and mineral supplements may be used for the prevention, alleviation, treatment or cure of disease. Despite that many are turning to the help of natural vitamin and other mineral supplements to maintain or help restore health without the aid of conventional Western care, the global enforcement of these standards would make the sale of curative, preventative, and therapeutic products exclusive to only the pharmaceutical industry.

Organic foods have sparked interest and increasing attention from Codex. It is interesting to consider that the Codex Committee on Food Labeling has its own standards for organics that would help water down the nutrition of such products and involve the use of substances such as:

- Sulphur dioxide; known to cause allergic reactions in some people
- Sodium nitrite and sodium nitrate; both potentially carcinogenic, and have been implicated in the hyperactivity of children
- Carrageenan; has no nutritional value and there is evidence that it is associated with the formation of ulcers in the intestines and cancerous tumors in the gut

These standards would then send organic foods through processes much like what non-organics undergo and they would reduce much of the nutritional value they provide as well. It seems that the rising popularity in the demand for more natural and organic foods may be getting some unwanted attention which could turn the organic market into another giant profit area at the control of the pharmaceutical and conventional medical industries.

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6 http://www.codexalimentarius.org/about-codex/en/
It is understandable that being met with a great change in health care and modern remedies would raise much caution from many. However, when time is taken to consider and compare the mechanics and effects of conventional medical treatments to holistic routines, it seems more reasonable that someone should avoid medicating themselves with potentially harmful patented drugs as opposed to more complimentary methods if available. The biggest obstacle that so many must overcome is shedding the crushing certainty that has been imposed on them that the most beneficial and only way to treat or even cure illness or injury is through the use of medical processes approved by financially-driven entities. Once that revelation is accomplished on an individual level, a more open discussion can begin that would help more people realize the benefits of treating their organic bodies using healthier remedies. As intellect gathers, so would the average level of health.

“In the past we permitted ourselves to be put on the defensive in our attempts to prove our stand. This was a mistake as TRUTH should never be put on the defensive. The system of instruction of the Far East rather than that of the Western World should be used in advancing new discoveries of truth. In the Far East the teacher does not stop to prove each theory or fact. The message is delivered whether his hearers agree with him or not. He does not care whether they all agreed with him or not, for he feels sure those who are ready for the truth he teaches will recognize it, and for the others, if they are not prepared to receive the truth, no amount of argument will help matters. The Eastern teacher knows that much of his teaching is but the planting of a seed which will grow and be recognized only after the lapse of time.”

From Radiant Energy – far Beyond the Light Rays Lies the Secret of the Universe – The Evolution and Transmutation of the Atom - copyright 1945, Dr. T. Henry Moray

Although so many of the advancements brought through science have helped shatter the boundaries of limited concepts and institutions, they too can be limited in what they can truly accomplish for human health. American trauma units and surgeries are among the best and most responsive and effective in the world. Diseases have been nearly extinguished and immunizations have helped save countless children. The average human life-span has been greatly extended. Yet, when it comes to actual health care and recovery, many believe the return is generally not worth the investment in conventional medicine. Prescriptions can lead to a number of negative issues from side effects; one of the scariest to consider is addiction. Although an excess of any substance or nutrient may lead to complications, the repercussions of taking too much vitamin C would likely be easier to respond to than those from the chronic use of chemical-based pharmaceuticals. As mentioned before, an overall healthier lifestyle will greatly help reduce the risk of illness and injury also.

Along with activity and exercise, fueling the body with the nutrients it needs from untampered foods helps create an internal environment fit to fight off potential disease and viruses as well. Treatment encapsulates remediation for the entire human body, to include what is fed to it. Prescriptions typically merely isolate and blanket symptoms without applying any repair to what may have been affected. What should be taking place in order to avoid further conflict between the two fields is an integration of both holistic and conventional methods of health care. The science can advance and further promote understanding of the functions of natural remedies as the professionals within the holistic fields learn potential scientific applications to their methods. Such cooperation could even lead to a new age in medicine; one uninhibited by the prospect and mandate of corporate financial gains and status quos. Instead of forcing the depletion of one’s resources and their own physical being in order to cover the cost of ineffective and ultimately

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7 Henry Moray, Radiant Energy – For Beyond the Light Rays Lies the Secret of the Universe and the Atom, The Evolution and Transmutation of the Atom, 1945
unhealthy treatments, informed practitioners and doctors can help establish a medical system that topples and eliminates the flimsy house of Big Pharma; a system that does not operate on obscurity, lies, and misdirection as we have now.

**CLOSING SUMMARY**

During the earliest stages of medicine and health care, many cultures developed varieties of their own to manage recovery. Whether it be the Ayurvedic medicine of the Hindus, the mixing of herbs and teas as used by the Native Americans, Traditional Chinese medicine, or any other alternative remedy, the desired end of the treatment was always to ultimately cure the patient; not lifelong and expensive treatment. However, industrialism and big business bled into health care as the 1900’s began and forever changed the way people would address their health issues. Through an overwhelming force of finances and propaganda, the pharmaceutical and medical industry has placed a chokehold around health care and even some of the powers of government which should, instead, be regulating it. Yet, even though there has been documented proof of much conflict between pharmaceutical and conventional medical financial interests and the overall promotion of public health, no actions have been taken to remove corruption and implement a system that applies actual healthy standards for those it claims to protect. Not even the commands of our elected officials ring loud enough to summon a proper and honest response from the FDA; a component of the bureaucracy which should then answer to congressional representatives. And though not everyone has succumbed to poor health and worse treatment, many of the foods being consumed now have also become fair game in the market of health. As the demand for more raw and organic food products rises, so does the interest of the conventional medical system looking for new areas of income. Resistance to this movement can still be applied individually, though. It starts with leading a healthier lifestyle and removing many toxic elements from daily traditions. A healthier public would always encourage healthier treatment, as the population would be more informed on health and therefore aware of how a treatment should be carried out and what its effects should include. It requires self-awareness and education at the individual level, though. The progress of change would only be simpler and less intimidating for an informed and healthy public. Little by little, force gathers to blow down the house of cards that is pharmaceuticals and conventional medical care. And after the house’s toppling, innovative doctors can begin to integrate holistic methods into the worthy foundation of conventional medical practices, and humans can take control of their health from the cash behemoths of the modern health industry.
**IMPORTANT ATTACHMENTS & RESOURCES**

April 2, 2009 Letter to Barack H. Obama from FDA Scientists/Whistleblower group (PDF)

July 16, 2012 Letter to FDA Commissioner Hamburg from Senator and Ranking Senate Judiciary Committee Member Charles E. Grassley (PDF)

October 14, 2008 Briefing Memorandum to House Representative John Dingell from FDA Scientists/Whistleblower group (PDF)


These documents are provided in their entirety within the 3rd section “Fall of the House of Pharma: Supplemental Information”

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