

DRUGGING OUR CHILDREN: LEGAL & MORAL ISSUES

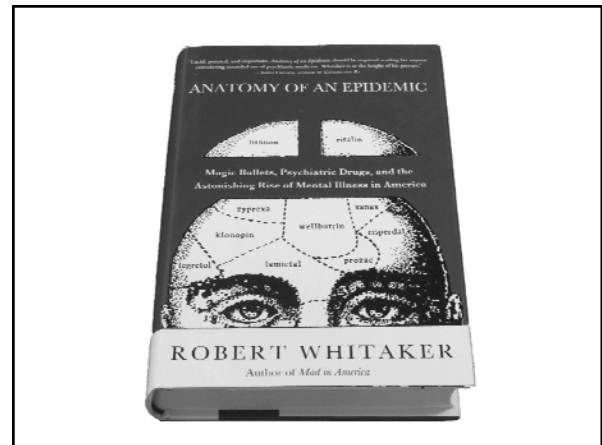
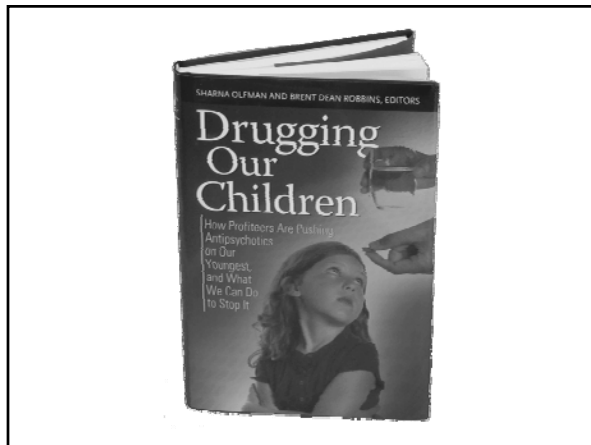
The 5th Annual Conference of the Society for Humanistic Psychology
 Person, Consciousness, Community
 March 29th - April 1st, 2012
 Point Park University, Pittsburgh, PA

James R. (Jim) Gottstein, Esq.
 Law Project for Psychiatric Rights
 Jim.Gottstein@PsychRights.org
<http://PsychRights.org/>

Law Project For Psychiatric Rights (PsychRights®)

- ❑ Public Interest Law Firm
- ❑ Mission: Mount Strategic Litigation Campaign Against Forced Psychiatric Drugging and Electroshock.
- ❑ Adopted Drugging of Children & Youth as Priority Few Years Ago

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Adverse Effects From ADHD Medications

- ❑ **Physical:** Drowsiness, appetite loss, lethargy, insomnia, headaches, abdominal pain, motor abnormalities, tics, jaw clenching, skin problems, liver disorders, weight loss, growth suppression, hypertension, and sudden cardiac death.
- ❑ **Emotional:** Depression, apathy, a general dullness, mood swings, crying jags, irritability, anxiety, and a sense of hostility from the world.
- ❑ **Psychiatric:** Obsessive-compulsive symptoms, mania, paranoia, psychotic episodes, and hallucinations.

Adverse Effects of SSRIs in Children

- ❑ **Physical:** Insomnia, sexual dysfunction, headaches, gastrointestinal problems, dizziness, tremors, nervousness, muscle cramps, muscle weakness, seizures, and akathisia (associated with increased risk of suicide).
- ❑ **Emotional/Psychiatric:** Psychosis, mania, behavioral toxicity, panic attacks, anxiety, apathy, an emotional dulling. Also, doubling of risk of suicidal acts.

Adverse Effects With Atypicals

- ❑ Psychosis.
- ❑ University of Maryland: Nine percent of children treated with antipsychotics for median time of 484 days developed tardive dyskinesia.
- ❑ Brain shrinkage and cognitive decline long-term.
- ❑ Metabolic dysfunction, obesity, type-II diabetes, hormonal abnormalities, movement disorders, cardiovascular problems, emotional blunting, sedation, and cognitive problems. Adverse events worse in children and adolescents than in adults.
- ❑ Early death

Iatrogenic Pathways to Bipolar Diagnosis

Stimulants → Bipolar Diagnosis

- ❑ In Canadian study, six percent of ADHD children treated with stimulants for average of 21 months developed psychotic symptoms.
- ❑ In a study of 195 bipolar children, Demetri Papolos found that 65% had "hypomanic, manic and aggressive reactions to stimulant medications."
- ❑ University of Cincinnati reported that 21 of 34 adolescent patients hospitalized for mania had been on stimulants "prior to the onset of an affective episode."

Antidepressants → Bipolar Diagnosis

- ❑ In first pediatric trial of Prozac, 6% of treated children suffered a manic episode; none in placebo group.
- ❑ Harvard University researchers find that 25% of children treated for depression convert to bipolar within four years.
- ❑ Washington University researchers report that within 10 years, 50% of prepubertal children treated for depression convert to bipolar illness.

Source: Cherland, "Psychotic side effects of psychostimulants," *Canadian Journal of Psychiatry* 44 (1999):811-13. Papolos, "Bipolar disorder, co-occurring conditions, and the need for extreme caution before initiating drug treatment," *Bipolar Child Newsletter* 1 (Nov. 1999). DeBello, "Prior stimulant treatment in adolescents with bipolar disorder," *Bipolar Disorders* 3 (2001):55-57.

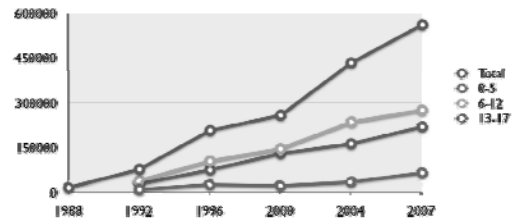
Source: Emlic, "A double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled trial of fluoxetine in children and adolescents with depression," *Arch of General Psychiatry* 54 (1997):1031-37. Martin, "Age effects on antidepressant-induced mania conversion," *Arch of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine* 158 (2004):771-80. Facella, "Pediatric onset bipolar disorder," *Harvard Review of Psychiatry* 3 (1995): 171-95. Geller, "Bipolar disorder at prospective follow-up of adults who had prepubertal major depressive disorder," *Amer J of Psychiatry* 158 (2001):125-7.

Summary of Long-term Worries With Psychotropics in Children and Youth

- ❑ Increased risk of disability (bipolar pathway)
- ❑ Physical ailments
- ❑ Emotional lethargy
- ❑ Cognitive decline
- ❑ Early death

Psychiatric Drugs & Children: A Monumental Disaster

Children on SSI Disability Due to Mental Illness



Prior to 1992, the government's SSI reports did not break down recipients into subgroups by age. Source: Social Security Administration reports, 1988-2007.

Legal Issues

- ❑ Rights of Children
- ❑ Rights of Parents
- ❑ International Law
- ❑ Off-Label Prescribing
- ❑ Authority of Psychologists
 - Diagnosis
 - Truth Telling

Authority of Psychologists

- ❑ Diagnosis
- ❑ Truth Telling

Legal Remedies

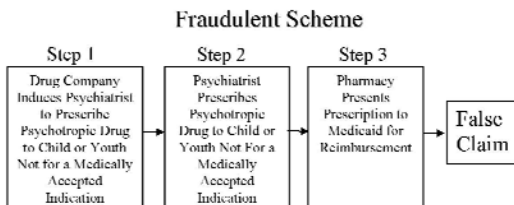
- ☐ Direct Action
 - Civil Rights Litigation -- 42 U.S.C. § 1983
 - State Law
 - International Law
- ☐ Indirect Action -- False Claims Act

False Claims Act (Medicaid Fraud Initiative)

- ☐ Medicaid Coverage Limited to "Medically Accepted Indications"
 - FDA Approved + Compendia "Supported"
- ☐ Designed to Stop Harmful Practice by Causing Doctors to Realize Inviting Financial Ruin if Continue
 - \$5,500 minimum fine per prescription
- ☐ Model Complaint
- ☐ Psychologists Could File
 - Need Attorney



CMS Allowing Steps 2 & 3 of Fraudulent Scheme to Continue



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Moral Responsibilities

- ☐ Correct Wrong Diagnoses
- ☐ Truth Telling
- ☐ Non-Acquiescence in Status Quo

**Occupy the
American Psychiatric Association
Philadelphia, May 5th, 2012**



Limited Number of Free T-Shirts

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May 5, 2012, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

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Must Pick Up In
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**Acquiescence In
Status Quo is Immoral**

"The trouble is, once you see it, you can't unsee it. And once you've seen it, keeping quiet and saying nothing becomes as political an act as speaking out. There is no innocence. Either way, you're accountable."

Arundhati Roy