

**Jay Amsterdam's comment on Barry Blackwell's comment on Mark
Kramer's comment on Sam Gershon's comment on Jay Amsterdam's project
on the ethical conduct in the paroxetine 352 study**

Dear Barry:

Thank you for the kind and generous words that you have posted on the INHN web-site from November 18, 2021 regarding the primary source historical documents pertaining to the corruption and cover up of the GSK paroxetine study 352 bipolar trial by academic key opinion leaders (KOLs and their protective academic institutions).

I certainly appreciate your views about posting this historical , “*detailed documentation of overt, even blatant, corruption in the pharmaceutical industry abetted by well-known credentialled, once respected, academic psychopharmacologists, now also overlooked or ignored by professional organizations at the highest level of professional and national accountability*”. On the other hand, your expression of shared career resignation with that of Professor (aka: Maestro) Mark ,Kramer in his November 11, 2021 INHN commentary sits less well with me. This difference in sentiment between us, may be the result of my having been witness to the actual corruption and misconduct in the 352 study by (then) trusted colleagues and university administrators.

Despite this difference of opinion, the frustration that you and Mark have expressed is certainly understandable and is, moreover, nothing new to any of us.

To this end, I refer you back to the historical email thread (below) between yourself, Maestro Kramer, and this writer from November 23, 2018 to November 26, 2018. Beyond the prescient words expressed in these email correspondence,. I would also note the presence of Barney Carroll (who was part of the email thread),but who was also prematurely taken from our midst by his untimely death in 2018.

(Note - If you are a purist, then start reading the email thread from the bottom up. Otherwise, enjoy the prior historical commentary from the bottom down).

With kindest regards,
Jay

December 27, 2021

From: Barry Blackwell <blackwellbarry@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 26, 2018 12:01 PM

To: J Amsterdam <enopath@aol.com>
Subject: Re: The seedy underbelly of academic psychiatry

Jay,

I appreciate all you have done and continue to do. Mark (maestro) Kramer's reply was also helpful. Closeted inside INHN with minimal or no resources Tom and I do our level best as do you and others. Our ethical malaise is understandable given the wealth and political influence of Big Pharma and the greed, income disparity, Congressional gridlock and Presidential ineptitude we live under. Perhaps we should take comfort in the fact we lived and worked in better times. If my attachments were read by any of your mailing list I do hope they elicited even the tiniest twinge of guilt, but doubt it.

Best,

Barry

From: J Amsterdam <enopath@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, January 26, 2018 9:45 AM
To: 'Mark Kramer'; 'Barry Blackwell'
Cc: tomban@bell.net
Subject: RE: The seedy underbelly of academic psychiatry

Dear Maestro & Barry:

Do you think that your little email thread (below) can be made public, and sent to everyone in the academic and psychopharmacologic world that either of you have ever known in your entire lives? After all, both of you have had a lifetime of the political nuances of Pharma industry, academia, and admin to put names to this issue. I believe that it's called a grass-roots effort; made direct to the players and stake holders. Alas, my list of professional email recipients is quite limited. I sent our latest *Psychiatria Polska* blockbuster out to virtually everyone that I know. To date, I have received only a handful of comments (mostly congratulations) from the 'usual suspects' (i.e., Barry, Barney, Sam, Mark, and my Old Testament religion professor from my college days). What is more telling to me is the folks who did not respond to receipt of the article! I would have been interested in seeing who responded with a "I'm shocked, shocked to learn that fraud is going on"

Nevertheless, I am confident that the rest of the email recipients did read my email to them and, most also read the article. Of that I am certain. The fact that 97% of them are on the academic-Pharma payroll does not diminish their deep-seated embarrassment (as they read the article and cast their glance in the mirror). If I could have located Karl Rickels' and Joe Mendels' email addresses, I would have also included them. I can remember sitting across from Karl in his office, back in 1984, getting lectured by him (as he was my mentor) about the necessities of writing my own research articles! He said that he never had Pharma involved in the writing of his papers. At that time in my career, I didn't even know what Rickels was talking about. Of

course I wrote my own research papers. Who would'a thought that, even back in the early 80s, Pharma had KOLs who were on the take. Boy was I naïve! A similar conversation was held with Mendels 4 years earlier (before he was tossed out of Penn for misappropriation of federal funds). At the time, I did not understand what these two early Pharma poster boys were telling me. Of course I wrote my own research papers (as I had thought all my colleagues had done). It wasn't until 2007 (when Barney and Bob started sending me emails about their outing of Nemeroff) that I began to understand that many of my, heretofore, academic role models (as a young researcher) were engaged in ongoing plagiarism and Pharma corruption. Imagine my disgust.

Maestro, your feelings of resignation over the current academic-industrial cabal is palpable. And, you are correct, Maestro, I do have a fire in my belly to expose these miscreants (like I have quietly done since I blew the whistle on one of my research mentors for stealing federal grant money for personal use). I would also remind you that David did not go up against Goliath at the command of God; but rather, he did so out of a sense of moral compass (and carried the 'spirit of God within him'). I shudder to recall the number of folks who, since 2010, have told me that I am like David going up against the Pharma Goliath, or I am like Don Quixote fighting windmills at Penn, or I am like a punch-drunk fighter getting battered without reason, etc. Well, that is true, I am all of these characters. However, I would rather be my kind of fool than theirs. Barney once advised me not to go back to the grind of academia, as it would deprive me of the time to continue the fight to "hammer the bastards". He was right! Anyway, someone has to do the work. If there was no David, then where would we be?

So far, I have done my part to bring the issue into public scrutiny. I have previously brought the issue up to multiple members of Congress, and even to the President's desk. Although I am mindful of the 8 second attention span of my colleagues and the futility expressed by the Maestro of hoping the public will read more than 1 page of a document (much less 50 pages), I attach for your illumination (should you have the patience and attention span to read them) some of my past attempts at fighting windmills. Feel free to re-send them out to everyone in the whole world that you have ever known, even those with an 8-secondd attention span.

With much affection,
JD

From: Mark Kramer [mailto:mark-kramer@verizon.net]
Sent: Friday, January 26, 2018 2:11 AM
To: 'Barry Blackwell' <blackwellbarry@hotmail.com>
Cc: tomban@bell.net; 'J Amsterdam' <enopath@aol.com>
Subject: RE: The seedy underbelly of academic psychiatry

Yes, Barry.

Your point is well-taken about many of us being mired in ethical lassitude. Your call to action through INHN, and then through your personal note, engaged my attention enough to call it to

action. I then shaped a short paragraph which will be sent to appropriate D.C. jurisdictional representatives. However, doing so, expecting reform, is just short of an Abilify resistant delusion. I now newly feel a petition would be equally non-productive.

Those of us who do not profit materially or psychologically from today's inglorious medical climate, yet who also deeply care about mitigating harms inflicted on science and humanity by highly organized multinational Goliaths, would need to be in line for divine intervention, as was David.

So, I am just not complaining anymore.

Just 2-3 years ago – when in quixotic persona – I might have been moved to orchestrate face to face meeting(s) on the issues with DC representatives I had known. Alas, they've fled amidst authentic scandals.

As I see it, only Professor Jay has the youth and raw fire in his belly to engage the DC crooks face-to-face. If he should ever flex his network to gain a face to face, I will be happy to prepare some slides and drive us there or take a train with my dear buddy. Sadly, for me such an outing would only be to enjoy camaraderie, as well as to uncork the medicinally needed wine in DC after the meeting(s.)

Over just the last year I've grown weary with our world. It's not just the recent loss of my life-long wife and friend. I see daily that "truth" is manufactured willy-nilly; lies are sold for profit legally without remorse. Bribery-lobbying is authorized and corporations (the journals, pharma, academic centers, device manufacturers, and natural resource distributors) are now international cabals. We live in a time when availability of water and air to developing nations is conditioned on profits by the World Bank. Such a steadily organizing World Order cannot be penetrated by slingshots and stones. \$\$ Multibillion fines have not slowed it down. Racism and tribalism provide cover for its nameless leaders – those without country or creed - only aligned with greed. (I agree with your writings on that.)

Until now, for over 20 years I'd only been a lone crusader in our academic wilderness hoping to bring a groundbreaking psychopharmacologic principle into the world. Yet nearly no one in INHN, or any institution I know, or those in numerous informal discussion groups I've engaged, aside from Barney, and some neuropeptide experts (Leeman, Hokfelt, Douglas) had been interested enough to pose significant scientific questions or observations. Even after my colleague and I recently spelled out in J.A.D. the reasons as to why our preclinical and clinical findings (the latter replicated in thousands of patients) had not been commercialized, the silence has been deafening – Just as Professor J had predicted.

That is when I understood that anachronism exemplifies our profession's science. I've become sadly informed that the INHN is not as current as I initially hoped it could be. I could not have known. When will it realize that neuropeptide systems are our next chapter? Who, if not the INHN, will record this chapter of new psychopharm history? And even if we should prepare the story for the INHN, the sad truth is that it would only be a trifling % of members who will engage enough to relish, debate, and thus further the potential import?

I have to say I am now as sad and cynical as Professor Sam.

Dispirited to my core at age 72, with a FH forecasting just a few years left, my only remaining idea is just to live it out with equanimity, but Nero-like: exclusively play or listen to celestial music as our city continues to burn and I prepare to meet my maker. Music, after all, is concerned more with inspiration than ethical lassitude. I should have enlisted the cabal to sell my music as their soundtrack. But no. Conscience is like that.

Good work is yours and the INHN's, nevertheless. And thank you for being one of a handful that actually read my diatribe in response to yours.

Be well, Barry.

Mark

Mark Kramer
p 215-498-1820
f 215-628-3654

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Mark Kramer, MD PhD
Professor of Psychiatry (Adjunct)
Department of Psychiatry
(Guesting in Immunology at
Children's Hospital Of Pennsylvania)
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pa 19104-4399
(2000-2012)
Consulting
Mark Kramer, Inc.
1412 Lantern Circle
Office #200
Dresher, Pa. 19025

This email and its attachments are confidential information and are intended only for the use of the individual or entity named above. Thanks.

From: Barry Blackwell [<mailto:blackwellbarry@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, January 25, 2018 8:46 AM
To: Mark Kramer <mark-kramer@verizon.net>
Cc: tomban@bell.net
Subject: Re: The seedy underbelly of academic psychiatry

Mark - thanks for your reply and comments. I am weary of reading laments about the Big Pharma status quo when no attempt is made to address or reverse it. For example I would hope that any right minded person who knows the truth would at least have attempted to alert their legislative representatives of the political causes and implications of this disaster. Even if they can't be bothered to respond. If you have any other ideas about how to influence the situation please let me know. We seem to be mired in ethical lassitude.
Barry

From: Mark Kramer <mark-kramer@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2018 12:26 PM
To: 'Barry Blackwell'; 'J Amsterdam'; 'samuel gershon'; 'Bernard Carroll'
Cc: 'Edward Shorter'; 'Max Fink'; 'Tom Ban'; 'martin b.kassell'; 'Dubin, William R.'; 'Rob DeRubeis'; 'LORENZO LORENZO-LUACES'; 'Lorenzo Lorenzo-Luaces Valencia'; 'Hollon, Steven D'; 'Parker, Gordon'; DrSAger@lawyerstress.com; 'Michael Feinberg'; 'edward.tobe@comcast.net'; pumariega-andres@cooperhealth.edu; 'Trudo Lemmens'; 'don klein'; 'Erick Turner'; 'Robert T. Rubin'; 'James Williams'; 'Martin Rosenberg'; 'Susan Molchan'; jcoynester@gmail.com; 'Coyne, James'; pdoshi@bmj.com; 'Paul Grof'; 'Paul Thacker'; 'Allen Frances'; 'Ari Albala, M.D.'; 'Beck, Aaron'; 'Thase, Michael'; 'Boghos I. Yerevanian M. D.'; 'Carey, Ben'; 'Cagande, Consuelo'; giovanniandrea.fava@unibo.it; 'Mark H. Pollack'; 'Meir Steiner'; 'Fava, Maurizio, M.D.'; 'Nierenberg, Andrew A., M.D.'; 'Nassir Ghaemi'; 'Neil Dubin'; David.Healy54@gmail.com; 'Ed Silverman'; 'Fournier, Jay'; 'Frye Mark'; 'Hagop S. Akiskal, MD'; 'Ira D Glick'; 'Irl Extein MD'; 'Sobanko, Joseph'; john_zajecka@rush.edu; jws6@columbia.edu; 'Kenneth'; 'Lewis Judd'; 'Jan Fawcett'; 'The Neurocritic'; 'Neuro Skeptic'; 'Paul Andrews'; 'Zachary Cohen'; 'Pacchiarotti Isabella'; 'Paula Clayton'; 'Peter Doshi'; 'Philip Gold'; 'Preston, Samuel H'; 'Baldessarini Ross J'; 'Ranga Krishnan'; rshelton@uab.edu; 'Suppes Trisha'; 'Sona Dimidjian'; tketter@stanford.edu; 'Tondo Leonardo'; 'wallyfletcher'; 'Walter A. Brown, MD'; 'Nolen, WA'; 'William E. Bunney Jr.'; leemonmchenry@gmail.com; 'Jureidini, Jon (Health)'; 'Robert Whitaker'; 'Carey, Ben'; 'martin b.kassell'
Subject: RE: The seedy underbelly of academic psychiatry

Dear Barry et al,

Attributed to ongoing digital barrage, Microsoft claims that our average attention span is now only 8 seconds (down 33% over a few years); now 1 second shorter than that of a goldfish.

If emails are ignored after 48 hours of sending, then they will likely never be opened or processed further. Thus proactive follow up to outreach emails are required after 48 hours. The more that people that are exposed to the communication, the more they may take note and act on it.

I assumed that professionals in our niche would have very long attention spans and not require e-mail re-prompts to get them to pay attention to their important issues. Mine was a faulty idea. And I do not think this happens because most of the cc list here is on the pharma payroll.

The issue is exactly the same today in the field of music. "Piano Jazz" is a narrow niche of once hungry adherents. Emails or social media announcements to that audience, even if accompanied by free samples, are similarly disregarded on the first round. Even major brands have to show the same ad 20 times in a single day, on the same channel to have impact.

So, you asked for ideas.

The idea is that even our most important considerations (corruption of health data) have to be marketed in the same manner as "pet rocks." We might expect more of each other, but Kripes, there is now ample evidence that self-absorption is endemic.

No need to respond.

Best, Mark

Mark Kramer
p 215-498-1820
f 215-628-3654

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Mark Kramer, MD PhD
Professor of Psychiatry (Adjunct)
Department of Psychiatry
(Guesting in Immunology at
Children's Hospital Of Pennsylvania)
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pa 19104-4399
(2000-2012)

Consulting
Mark Kramer, Inc.
1412 Lantern Circle
Office #200
Dresher, Pa. 19025

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From: Barry Blackwell [<mailto:blackwellbarry@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2018 12:06 PM
To: J Amsterdam <enopath@aol.com>; 'samuel gershon' <samuelgershon258@gmail.com>; 'Bernard Carroll' <bcarroll40@comcast.net>
Cc: 'Edward Shorter' <edwardshorter@gmail.com>; 'Mark Kramer' <mark-kramer@verizon.net>; 'Max Fink' <Max.Fink@stonybrookmedicine.edu>; 'Tom Ban' <tomban@bell.net>; 'martin b.kassell' <mbkmd@yahoo.com>; 'Dubin, William R.' <William.Dubin@tuhs.temple.edu>; 'Rob DeRubeis' <derubeis@psych.upenn.edu>; 'LORENZO LORENZO-LUACES' <lorenzl@sas.upenn.edu>; 'Lorenzo Lorenzo-Luaces Valencia' <lllv1989@gmail.com>; 'Hollon, Steven D' <steven.d.hollon@Vanderbilt.Edu>; 'Parker, Gordon' <g.parker@unsw.edu.au>; 'DrSAger@lawyerstress.com'; 'Michael Feinberg' <mfeinberg@dca.net>; 'edward. tobe@comcast. net' <edward.tobe@comcast.net>; 'pumariega-andres@cooperhealth.edu'; 'Trudo Lemmens' <trudo.lemmens@utoronto.ca>; 'don klein' <donaldk737@aol.com>; 'Erick Turner' <turnere@ohsu.edu>; 'Robert T. Rubin' <rtrubin@yahoo.com>; 'James Williams' <jwilli77@cox.net>; 'Martin Rosenberg' <mrosenbe@camden.rutgers.edu>; 'Susan Molchan' <susan_molchan@verizon.net>; 'jcoynester@gmail.com'; 'Coyne, James' <jcoyne@pennmedicine.upenn.edu>; 'pdoshi@bmj.com'; 'Paul Grof' <paulgrof75@gmail.com>; 'Paul Thacker' <thackerpd@gmail.com>; 'Allen Frances' <allenfrancesmd@gmail.com>; 'Ari Albala, M.D.' <arialbala@gmail.com>; 'Beck, Aaron' <abeck@pennmedicine.upenn.edu>; 'Thase, Michael' <thase@pennmedicine.upenn.edu>; 'Boghos I. Yerevanian M. D.' <byerevanian@gmail.com>; 'Carey, Ben' <bencarey@nytimes.com>; 'Cagande, Consuelo' <Cagande-Consuelo@CooperHealth.edu>; 'giovanniandrea.fava@unibo.it'; 'Mark H. Pollack' <Mark_Pollack@rush.edu>; 'Meir Steiner' <mst@mcmaster.ca>; 'Fava, Maurizio,M.D.' <MFAVA@mgh.harvard.edu>; 'Nierenberg, Andrew A., M.D.' <ANIERENBERG@mgh.harvard.edu>; 'Nassir Ghaemi' <nghaemi@tuftsmedicalcenter.org>; 'Neil Dubin' <neildubinmd@zoomtown.com>; 'David.Healy54@googlemail.com'; 'Ed Silverman' <ed.silverman@statnews.com>; 'Fournier, Jay' <fournierjc@upmc.edu>; 'Frye Mark' <mfrye@mayo.edu>; 'Hagop S. Akiskal, MD' <hakiskal@ucsd.edu>; 'Ira D Glick' <iraglick@stanford.edu>; 'Irl Extein MD' <irlex@aol.com>; 'Sobanko, Joseph' <Joseph.Sobanko@uphs.upenn.edu>; 'john_zajacka@rush.edu'; 'jws6@columbia.edu'; 'Kenneth' <kweiss@comcast.net>; 'Lewis Judd' <ljudd@ucsd.edu>; 'Jan Fawcett' <jfawcett@salud.unm.edu>; 'The Neurocritic' <neurocritic@gmail.com>; 'Neuro Skeptic' <neuroskeptic@googlemail.com>; 'Paul Andrews' <pandrews@psychology.mcmaster.ca>; 'Zachary Cohen' <zachary.d.cohen@gmail.com>; 'Pacchiarotti Isabella' <pacchiar@clinic.ub.es>; 'Paula Clayton' <pjcpsych@aol.com>; 'Peter

Doshi' <pdoshi@rx.umaryland.edu>; 'Philip Gold' <philipgold@mail.nih.gov>; 'Preston, Samuel H' <spreston@pop.upenn.edu>; 'Baldessarini Ross J' <rbaldessarini@mclean.harvard.edu>; 'Ranga Krishnan' <Ranga_Krishnan@rush.edu>; rshelton@uab.edu; 'Suppes Trisha' <tsupes@stanford.edu>; 'Sona Dimidjian' <sona.dimidjian@colorado.edu>; tketter@stanford.edu; 'Tondo Leonardo' <leonardot@aol.com>; 'wallyfletcher' <wallyfletcher48@gmail.com>; 'Walter A. Brown, MD' <walter_brown@brown.edu>; 'Nolen, WA' <w.a.nolen@umcg.nl>; 'William E. Bunney Jr.' <webunney@uci.edu>; leemonmchenry@gmail.com; 'Jureidini, Jon (Health)' <Jon.Jureidini@sa.gov.au>; 'Robert Whitaker' <robert.b.whitaker@verizon.net>; 'Carey, Ben' <bencarey@nytimes.com>; 'martin b.kassell' <mbkmd@yahoo.com>

Subject: Re: The seedy underbelly of academic psychiatry

Jay, congratulations on success in publishing your article on Corporate Corruption of Clinical Trials. An earlier draft you shared with me as part of an extended exchange on INHN after publication of my essay on Corporate Corruption in the Psychopharmacological Industry, a review based on 9 books published in the previous decade on this topic. Attached to this e-mail is both the original essay and a subsequent posting which summarizes exchanges between six leaders in the field expressing a consensus about the problem and pessimism about what might be done professionally or politically to reverse it. Following publication of my essay and the responses our Central Office sent a letter to all 74 US members of INHN inviting them to contact their Congressmen and Senators. 25 members opened the e-mail, only 9 downloaded it and nobody responded. I personally sent the essay to both Wisconsin Senators, Two Democratic congressmen and to Paul Ryan Speaker of the House. In addition I sent copies to the White House Scientific Office and the Attorney General of Ohio who was conducting a lawsuit against the manufacturers of opioids. Nobody responded.

I have taken the liberty of attaching the relevant documents to this reply in the hope that somebody amongst the colleague on your mailing list might have ideas they are willing to share.

Best Wishes,
Barry.

From: J Amsterdam <enopath@aol.com>

Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2018 9:21 AM

To: 'samuel gershon'; 'Bernard Carroll'

Cc: 'Edward Shorter'; 'Mark Kramer'; 'Max Fink'; 'Barry Blackwell'; 'Tom Ban'; 'martin b.kassell'; 'Dubin, William R.'; 'Rob DeRubeis'; 'LORENZO LORENZO-LUACES'; 'Lorenzo Lorenzo-Luaces Valencia'; 'Hollon, Steven D'; 'Parker, Gordon'; DrSAger@lawyerstress.com; 'Michael Feinberg'; 'edward.tobe@comcast.net'; pumariega-andres@cooperhealth.edu; 'Trudo Lemmens'; 'don klein'; 'Erick Turner'; 'Robert T. Rubin'; 'James Williams'; 'Martin Rosenberg'; 'Susan Molchan'; jcoynester@gmail.com; 'Coyne, James'; pdoshi@bmj.com; 'Paul Grof'; 'Paul Thacker'; 'Allen Frances'; 'Ari Albala, M.D.'; 'Beck, Aaron'; 'Thase, Michael'; 'Boghos I. Yerevanian M. D.'; 'Carey, Ben'; 'Cagande, Consuelo'; giovanniandrea.fava@unibo.it; 'Mark H. Pollack'; 'Meir Steiner'; 'Fava, Maurizio, M.D.'; 'Nierenberg, Andrew A., M.D.'; 'Nassir Ghaemi'; 'Neil Dubin'; David.Healy54@googlemail.com; 'Ed Silverman'; 'Fournier, Jay'; 'Frye Mark';

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mbkmd@yahoo.com

Subject: RE: The seedy underbelly of academic psychiatry

Dear Sam:

Thanks so much for your nice email. I certainly agree with your demoralization concerning the negative effects of the academic-industrial complex on medical research writ large, and on our beloved field of psychopharmacology, in particular.

I believe that we can all lament over the commercialization of clinical trials research and the scientific publication of it. It is a sad state of affairs when 'doctored' data get prominent billing in top notch, peer-reviewed scientific journals (for hyped 'positive' results and commercial gain; while the deconstruction of the falsified data cannot get any consideration for publication in the same scientific journals that published the falsified data. And, as for retraction of the bogus data, well... don't hold your breath waiting for the American Journal of Psychiatry to acquiesce to what should be done for the benefit of science and our patients.

As to the point (below) that Barney tweeted regarding the inability to publish peer-reviewed scientific articles within the US exposing research misconduct in main stream journals, I attach a short piece originally published by the late Dr. John ('Mickey') Nardo in his blog: 1 Boring Old Man. This short piece describes the 'publication journey' that we endured in order to successfully publish our deconstruction article on the CIT-MD-18 trial . I hope that you find it illuminating.

With all good wishes,
Jay

From: samuel gershon [<mailto:samuelgershon258@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2018 11:49 PM

To: Bernard Carroll <bcarroll40@comcast.net>

Cc: J Amsterdam <enopath@aol.com>; Edward Shorter <edwardshorter@gmail.com>; Mark Kramer <mark-kramer@verizon.net>; Max Fink <Max.Fink@stonybrookmedicine.edu>; Barry Blackwell <blackwellbarry@hotmail.com>; Tom Ban <tomban@bell.net>; martin b.kassell <mbkmd@yahoo.com>; Dubin, William R. <William.Dubin@tuhs.temple.edu>; Rob DeRubeis <derubeis@psych.upenn.edu>; LORENZO LORENZO-LUACES <lorenzl@sas.upenn.edu>; Lorenzo Lorenzo-Luaces Valencia <lllv1989@gmail.com>; Hollon, Steven D <steven.d.hollon@Vanderbilt.Edu>; Parker, Gordon <g.parker@unsw.edu.au>;

DrSAger@lawyerstress.com; Michael Feinberg <mfeinberg@dca.net>; edward. tobe@comcast.net <edward.tobe@comcast.net>; (pumariega-andres@cooperhealth.edu) <pumariega-andres@cooperhealth.edu>; Trudo Lemmens <trudo.lemmens@utoronto.ca>; don klein <donaiddk737@aol.com>; Erick Turner <turnere@ohsu.edu>; Robert T. Rubin <rtrubin@yahoo.com>; James Williams <jwilli77@cox.net>; Martin Rosenberg <mrosenbe@camden.rutgers.edu>; Susan Molchan <susan_molchan@verizon.net>; jcoynester@gmail.com; Coyne, James <jcoyne@pennmedicine.upenn.edu>; pdoshi@bmj.com; Paul Grof <paulgrof75@gmail.com>; Paul Thacker <thackerpd@gmail.com>; Allen Frances <allenfrancesmd@gmail.com>; Ari Albala, M.D. <arialbala@gmail.com>; Beck, Aaron <abeck@pennmedicine.upenn.edu>; Thase, Michael <thase@pennmedicine.upenn.edu>; Boghos I. Yerevanian M. D. <byerevanian@gmail.com>; Carey, Ben <bencarey@nytimes.com>; Cagande, Consuelo <Cagande-Consuelo@CooperHealth.edu>; giovanniandrea.fava@unibo.it; Mark H. Pollack <Mark_Pollack@rush.edu>; Meir Steiner <mst@mcmaster.ca>; Fava, Maurizio, M.D. <MFAVA@mg.harvard.edu>; Nierenberg, Andrew A., M.D. <ANIERENBERG@mg.harvard.edu>; Nassir Ghaemi <nghaemi@tuftsmedicalcenter.org>; Neil Dubin <neildubinmd@zoomtown.com>; David.Healy54@googlemail.com; Ed Silverman <ed.silverman@statnews.com>; Fournier, Jay <fournierjc@upmc.edu>; Frye Mark <mfrye@mayo.edu>; Hagop S. Akiskal, MD <hakiskal@ucsd.edu>; Ira D Glick <iraglick@stanford.edu>; Irl Extein MD <irlex@aol.com>; Sobanko, Joseph <Joseph.Sobanko@uphs.upenn.edu>; john_zajecka@rush.edu; jws6@columbia.edu; Kenneth <kweiss@comcast.net>; Lewis Judd <ljudd@ucsd.edu>; Jan Fawcett <jfawcett@salud.unm.edu>; The Neurocritic <neurocritic@gmail.com>; Neuro Skeptic <neuroskeptic@googlemail.com>; Paul Andrews <pandrews@psychology.mcmaster.ca>; Zachary Cohen <zachary.d.cohen@gmail.com>; Pacchiarotti Isabella <pacchiar@clinic.ub.es>; Paula Clayton <picpsych@aol.com>; Peter Doshi <pdoshi@rx.umaryland.edu>; Philip Gold <philipgold@mail.nih.gov>; Preston, Samuel H <spreston@pop.upenn.edu>; Baldessarini Ross J <rbaldessarini@mclean.harvard.edu>; Ranga Krishnan <Ranga_Krishnan@rush.edu>; rshelton@uab.edu; Suppes Trisha <tsupes@stanford.edu>; Sona Dimidjian <sona.dimidjian@colorado.edu>; tketter@stanford.edu; Tondo Leonardo <leonardot@aol.com>; wallyfletcher <wallyfletcher48@gmail.com>; Walter A. Brown, MD <walter_brown@brown.edu>; Nolen, WA <w.a.nolen@umcg.nl>; William E. Bunney Jr. <webunney@uci.edu>; (leemonmchenry@gmail.com) <leemonmchenry@gmail.com>; Jureidini, Jon (Health) <Jon.Jureidini@sa.gov.au>

Subject: Re: The seedy underbelly of academic psychiatry

this is a remarkable discovery,.. we I think were all aware of these issues but this dramatic presentation of the facts in this format,.. deserves a revival of discussion and explication on a broader scale,..Part of the problem is of course money——many journals won't pay anything toward the cost of running the journal office and the editors necessary expenses,.. the institution often find this as an access to drug company support,.. and investigators can use crummy papers published in crummy and also not so crummy journals to flush out their CV ,s and then we have the relatively new trilogy,.. of pay-to-play,.. pay -to- review,.. and pay -to-write,.. SAM

On Jan 23, 2018, at 9:09 PM, Bernard Carroll <bcarroll40@comcast.net> wrote:

Good work Jay and Leemon and Jon. I Tweeted a link to the on-line open access article. Barney.

<https://twitter.com/bcarroll40/status/955985103020204032>

Dr. Bernard Carroll
Behavioral Research Consulting
100 Del Mesa Carmel
Carmel, CA 93923.

Phone: 831-626-1467

E-mail: bcarroll40@comcast.net

From: J Amsterdam [<mailto:enopath@aol.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2018 12:18 PM

To: 'Bernard Carroll' <bcarroll40@comcast.net>; 'samuel gershon' <samuelgershon258@gmail.com>; 'Edward Shorter' <edwardshorter@gmail.com>; 'Mark Kramer' <mark-kramer@verizon.net>; 'Max Fink' <Max.Fink@stonybrookmedicine.edu>; 'Barry Blackwell' <blackwellbarry@hotmail.com>; 'Tom Ban' <tomban@bell.net>; mbkmd@yahoo.com; 'Dubin, William R.' <William.Dubin@tuhs.temple.edu>; 'Rob DeRubeis' <derubeis@psych.upenn.edu>; lorenzl@sas.upenn.edu; llv1989@gmail.com; 'Hollon, Steven D' <steven.d.hollon@Vanderbilt.Edu>; 'Parker, Gordon' <g.parker@unsw.edu.au>; DrSAger@lawyerstress.com; 'Michael Feinberg' <mfeinberg@dca.net>; edward.tobe@comcast.net; pumariega-andres@cooperhealth.edu; 'Trudo Lemmens' <trudo.lemmens@utoronto.ca>; 'Klein, Donald F.' <donaldk737@aol.com>; turnere@ohsu.edu; 'Robert T. Rubin' <rtrubin@yahoo.com>; 'James Williams' <jwilli77@cox.net>; 'Martin Rosenberg' <mrosenbe@camden.rutgers.edu>; 'Susan Molchan' <susan_molchan@verizon.net>; jcoynester@gmail.com; Coyne, James <jcoyne@penntmedicine.upenn.edu>; pdoshi@bmj.com; 'Paul Grof' <paulgrof75@gmail.com>; 'Paul Thacker' <thackerpd@gmail.com>; allenfrancesmd@gmail.com; 'Ari Albala, M.D.' <arialbala@gmail.com>; Beck, Aaron <abeck@penntmedicine.upenn.edu>; Thase, Michael <thase@penntmedicine.upenn.edu>; 'Boghos I. Yerevanian M. D.' <byerevanian@gmail.com>; 'Carey, Ben' <bencarey@nytimes.com>; 'Cagande, Consuelo' <Cagande-Consuelo@CooperHealth.edu>; giovanniandrea.fava@unibo.it; 'Mark H. Pollack' <Mark_Pollack@rush.edu>; 'Meir Steiner' <mst@mcmaster.ca>; 'Fava, Maurizio,M.D.' <MFAVA@mgh.harvard.edu>; ANIERENBERG@mgh.harvard.edu; 'Nassir Ghaemi' <nghaemi@tuftsmedicalcenter.org>; 'Neil Dubin' <neildubinmd@zoomtown.com>; David.Healy54@googlemail.com; 'Ed Silverman' <ed.silverman@statnews.com>; 'Fournier, Jay' <fournierjc@upmc.edu>; 'Frye Mark' <mfrye@mayo.edu>; 'Hagop S. Akiskal, MD' <hakiskal@ucsd.edu>; 'Ira D Glick' <iraglick@stanford.edu>; 'Irl Extein MD' <irlex@aol.com>; 'Sobanko, Joseph' <Joseph.Sobanko@uphs.upenn.edu>; john_zajecka@rush.edu; jws6@columbia.edu; 'Kenneth' <kweiss@comcast.net>; 'Lewis Judd' <ljudd@ucsd.edu>; jfawcett@salud.unm.edu; neurocritic@gmail.com; neuroskeptic@googlemail.com; 'Paul Andrews' <pandrews@psychology.mcmaster.ca>; 'Zachary Cohen' <zachary.d.cohen@gmail.com>; 'Pacchiarotti Isabella' <pacchiar@clinic.ub.es>; 'Paula Clayton' <pjcpsych@aol.com>; 'Peter

Doshi' <pdoshi@rx.umaryland.edu>; Philip Gold <philipgold@mail.nih.gov>; 'Preston, Samuel H' <spreston@pop.upenn.edu>; 'Baldessarini Ross J' <rbaldessarini@mclean.harvard.edu>; 'Ranga Krishnan' <Ranga_Krishnan@rush.edu>; rshelton@uab.edu; 'Suppes Trisha' <tsupes@stanford.edu>; 'Sona Dimidjian' <sona.dimidjian@colorado.edu>; tketter@stanford.edu; 'Tondo Leonardo' <leonardot@aol.com>; 'wallyfletcher' <wallyfletcher48@gmail.com>; 'Walter A. Brown, MD' <walter_brown@brown.edu>; w.a.nolen@umcg.nl; 'William E. Bunney Jr.' <webunney@uci.edu>
Cc: leemonmchenry@gmail.com; 'Jureidini, Jon (Health)' <Jon.Jureidini@sa.gov.au>
Subject: The seedy underbelly of academic psychiatry

Dear Friends & Colleagues:

Please find attached an article, just published today, that describes the somewhat seedy underbelly of the academic-industrial complex. It contains additional information to that previously noted in some of our earlier publications. I hope that you enjoy it. Moreover, I would commend each of you to widely distribute the article to every colleague you have ever met in the entire world, so that this sort of unacademic behavior and research misconduct is more widely appreciated and, hopefully, less often practiced.

Finally, before you give any further thought as to why we selected the present publication venue, please note that, heretofore, the publication of an article of this sort has never been accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed psychiatric journal . Thus, the appearance of this article represents the first published, forensic deconstruction of research misconduct in a peer-reviewed medical journal. I commend the editorial staff at the Psychiatria Polska for showing the moral compass and ethical back bone to publish such an article.

My very best wishes,
Jay

Jay D. Amsterdam, MD

May 19, 2022