

Merck Created Hit List to "Destroy," "Neutralize" or "Discredit" Dissenting Doctors

Merck made a "hit list" of doctors who criticized **Vioxx**, according to testimony in a Vioxx class action case in Australia. The list, emailed between Merck employees, contained doctors' names with the labels "neutralise," "neutralised" or "discredit" next to them.



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According to *The Australian*, Merck emails from 1999 showed company execs complaining about doctors who disliked using Vioxx. One email said:

We may need to seek them out and destroy them where they live ...

The plaintiffs' lawyer gave this assessment:

It gives you the dark side of the use of key opinion leaders and thought leaders ... if (they) say things you don't like to hear, you have to neutralise them ... It does suggest a certain culture within the organisation about how to deal with your opponents and those who disagree with you.

The Australian:

The court was told that **James Fries**, professor of medicine at **Stanford University**, wrote to the then Merck head **Ray Gilmartin** in October 2000 to complain about the treatment of some of his researchers who had criticised the drug.

"Even worse were allegations of Merck damage control by intimidation," he wrote, ... "This has happened to at least eight (clinical) investigators ... I suppose I was mildly threatened myself but I never have spoken or written on these issues." The allegations come on the heels of revelations that **Merck created a fake medical journal** -- the Australasian Journal of Bone and Joint Medicine -- in which to publish studies about Vioxx; had pop songs commissioned about Vioxx to inspire its staff, and paid ghostwriters to draft articles about the drug.

- <http://medicalexposedownloads.com/PDF/FDA%20history.pdf>
- http://medicalexposedownloads.com/PDF/NOTICE_THE_1990_FDA_raids.pdf
- http://medicalexposedownloads.com/PDF/The_FDA_Harassment_and_Wrongful_Persecution_of_Professor_Nelson.pdf
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ORGANIZED CRIME 02.21.15



Daniela Drake

Big Pharma Is America's New Mafia

Pharmaceutical companies have more power than ever, and the American people are paying the price—too often with our lives.

Mafia has been defined since 1940 as a “group regarded as exerting a secret and sinister influence”.(1)

I know how these groups operate because I have been living in Colombia since 1981. In this South American country, drug cartels were very effective at infiltrating and corrupting all levels of society, their criminal activities were only possible by the complicity of many persons obtaining benefits from these mafia organizations, either directly by being part of their payroll and/or indirectly by providing services and commodities. Those who stand on the side of righteousness were brutally murdered.

*“Democracy is not defended by the violation of human rights” – Rodrigo Lara Bonilla.**

*“Tolerance is the virtue of those who have faith in what we believe ” —Alvaro G. Hurtado***

I have been analyzing data about evidence-based medicine during the last six months.(2) One of my conclusions is described in the following quote of my analysis: “The effect of criminal practices by pharmaceutical companies is only possible because of the complicity of others: healthcare systems, professional associations, governmental and academic institutions.”. Read more via figshare. (2)

Finally, I would like to agree and endorse Dr. Smith conclusions about the outstanding work by Peter C. Gøtzsche “Critics of the drug industry have been increasing in number, respectability, and vehemence, and Peter has surpassed them all in comparing the industry with organised crime. I hope that nobody will be put off reading this book by the boldness of his comparison, and perhaps the bluntness of the message will lead to valuable reform.”

References

1. <http://www.oxforddictionaries...>

2. Ramirez, Jorge H (2014): Data (i.e., evidence) about evidence based medicine. figshare.<http://dx.doi.org/10.6084/m9.f...>

3.

http://figshare.com/articles/Data_i_e_evidence_about_evidence_based_medicine_EBM_and_clinical_practice_guidelines_GPC_/1093997



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