



**April 2013**

Dear :

Here's a recap of blog posts and other news from the past month.

This week saw the launch of the most important zone on RxISK: the [Symptom-on-Stopping \(SoS\) Zone](#), which highlights and collects data on the withdrawal side effects patients can experience when stopping a medication.

My recent series of blog posts on randomized control trials (RCTs) were inspired by [my review of Dr. Ben Goldacre's latest book, Bad Pharma](#). While I admire his work, I think his fixation on RCTs, and mistaking these for drug safety testing, is a serious problem with the medical profession today. These posts will continue.

Thank you for your support.

Your feedback, as always, is greatly appreciated.

David Healy, MD

## **In the news...**

### **Prescription-drug-induced violence**

Dr. David Healy, CEO of RxISK.org, speaks about prescription-drug-induced suicide and homicide at a recent lecture at Chicago-Kent

## [Autism Awareness Day:](#)

### [Antidepressants in pregnancy](#)

This post is by Adam Urato MD, the Chairman of Obstetrics and Gynecology at MetroWest Medical Center in Framingham, Massachusetts, as well as a Maternal-Fetal Medicine specialist at Tufts Medical Center in Boston, Massachusetts.



### [Dr. David Healy reviews Bad Pharma](#)

RxISK founder Dr. David Healy reviews Dr. Ben Goldacre's bestseller *Bad Pharma*. Healy praises many aspects of the book: "It will be accessible to anyone interested in health and its politics. It strikes the right note of outrage. It tackles the problems pharmaceutical companies pose to medical care and Evidence Based Medicine (EBM)."

However, he cautions that, "The risk is that the solutions it proposes will aggravate rather than resolve our problems."



### [Are prescription drugs causing suicides?](#)

Video interview with Dr. Healy, co-founder of RxISK, who explains how prescription drugs can lead to suicide and what can be done to address this problem.

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## **RxISK stories**

### [Sudden cardiac death: Vanessa's Story](#)

This post is excerpted from *After the Error: Speaking Out About Patient Safety to Save Lives* by Susan McIver, Ph.D. and Robin Wyndham...

### [Lipitor from 1997](#)

Dr. Duane Graveline, author of *Lipitor Thief of Memory*. The original of this post is here...

### [Buried alive: Post SSRI sexual dysfunction - PSSD](#)

I saw my first case of PSSD 15 years ago and since then have met 10 or more people with it and corresponded with many more. There is a striking consistency to the clinical picture across sufferers caught...

### [Sudden cardiac death: Jeannie's story](#)

This RxISK story written by Jeannie's mother records a growing epidemic of sudden unexplained cardiac deaths. These are linked to the effects of a range of drugs on the cardiac QTc interval. There is considerable evidence that pharmaceutical companies...



## From David's blog...

### [The empire of humbug: bad pharma](#)

In 1956, two of the creators of the modern RCT, Lou Lasagna and Michael Shepherd, met. The randomization in randomized placebo controlled trials came from Bradford Hill in Britain and placebo controls from Beecher, Gold and Lasagna in the US. In 1956, Michael

Shepherd, Bradford-Hill's representative in all things psychiatric, came on sabbatical to stay with Lasagna at Hopkins'....

### [The tragedy of Lou Lasagna](#)

This is the 3rd of 6 posts. The first two are Not So Bad Pharma, & April Fool in Harlow. The rest will be The Empire of Humbug 1 & 2 and Brand Fascism. There is an independent debate on some the issues, including my writing style, at Hearing Voices on 1boringgoldman...

### [April Fool in Harlow: Anecdote fishing in Harlow](#)

This is the second of a series of six posts that began with Not So Bad Pharma and will continue with The Tragedy of Lou Lasagna, The Empire of Humbug 1, The Empire of Humbug 2 & Brand Fascism. To celebrate May Fool's Day last year The Scientist ran an article on Data Diving...

### [Not so bad pharma](#)

The invitation from the London Review of Books to review Ben Goldacre's *Bad Pharma* reads: "We were unsure, at first, what a review could add that isn't already in the book - scrappy summaries and bits of praise are not for us. The book is of sufficient importance that the main thing is to get..."

### [Six fired, one dead, no answers](#)

This post was written by Alan Cassels and first appeared in *Focus* magazine online in early March. The full version is here. Alan was one of the creators of the Selling Sickness, or disease mongering idea. His

recent book is *Seeking Sickness: Medical Screening and the Misguided Hunt for Disease...*

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