

October 2013

Dear :

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

Thank you to everyone who signed [RxISK's drug safety petition](#) asking pharmaceutical giants AbbVie and Intermune to stop blocking the European Medicines Agency (EMA) from releasing prescription drug clinical trial data.

You are now part of a global movement with 6000+ signatures from 110+ countries.

We have a brief window of opportunity before the EU judgement on EMA's data access policy to spread the message through extreme petitioning. We need your help to deliver it with style.

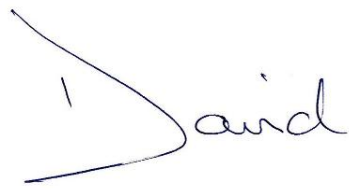
In the spirit of the Halloween season, why not take a photo or make a video in costume with a sign that conveys a message about transparency in clinical trial data - check out the end of this newsletter for [sample messages and a fantastic costume effort](#) from our good friend Billiam James. Post your efforts on our [RxISK Facebook page](#) with the new Facebook hashtag feature or share on Twitter by tweeting to @RxISK using #SecretPotionsSuck.

You can also celebrate Dia de los Muertos on November 1 by setting up "ofrendas" (shrines) to those we've lost to Rx drug harm.

And, finally, for our friends in the United States, don't forget that October 26 is [National Prescription Drug Take-back Day](#), when the police open drop-off sites for people to dispose of unneeded drugs.

Thank you for your support.

Your feedback, as always, is greatly appreciated.



David Healy, MD

In the news...

[RxISK adds 320,172 Health Canada reports of adverse events to its drug safety database](#)

RxISK.org, the first free, independent website for researching and reporting prescription drug side effects, has added to its drug safety database more than 320,000 adverse drug events reported to Health Canada from 1965 to March 31, 2013. The RxISK database now has more than 4.8 million reports of suspected adverse drug events - as reported to the FDA, Health Canada, and directly to the RxISK website itself - covering more than 17.4 million suspected side effects.... [\[Read More...\]...»](#)



RxISK stories

[Shooters on prescription drugs](#)

The news from Washington this week of another shooting where the shooter has been on psychotropic medication - this time trazodone - raises once again questions about the interaction between violence and medication. The data points absolutely convincingly to the fact that the drugs can and do cause violence. Just because the data shows that certain drugs can cause violence, doesn't mean that in a particular case where the perpetrator of a violent act was on medication that the drugs have in fact triggered this violence. In a majority of the cases I have been approached about, I have given the view that the drugs were not involved. It's only when you accept the drugs can cause a problem that you can convincingly rule out their role in specific cases....

From David's blog...



[A black box warning for clinical trials?](#)

Controlled trials are universally touted as providing gold standard information on drugs. Doctors are routinely taught to disbelieve the evidence of their own eyes and trust in controlled trials instead. Governments in North America and Europe are forcing patients to participate in controlled trials - saying that you get better care in a controlled trial [...]...»

[GSK's manifesto: Voyeurs of the world unite!](#)

There is a widespread impression that the pharmaceutical industry are split on the issue of access to clinical trial data with the bad guys like AbbVie taking legal actions to block access and the good guys like GSK in favor of transparency. An editorial like this one from GSK's James Shannon in the Huffington Post [...]...»

[AbbVie: Sharing the yellow etuff](#)

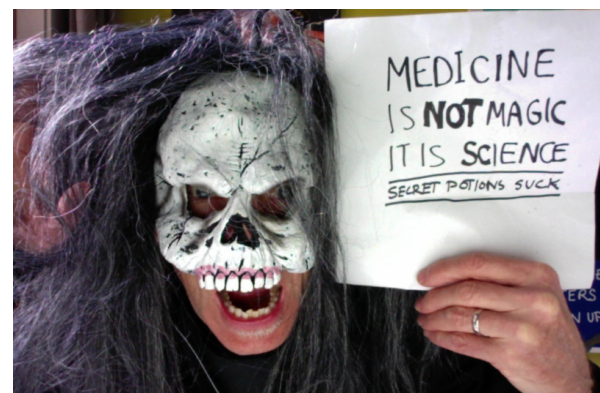
This is the second part of our effort to "translate" Neal Parker's recent presentation in Bruxelles. The first half is here Neal Parker Avoiding Adverse Events. Reading the first half and Neal Parker's original transcript - available here - will give lots more material for the Caption Competition below. The least dramatic moment in Mr [...]...»

[Neal Parker avoiding adverse events](#)

Neal Parker, Section Head Legal, Biologics Strategic Development at AbbVie, was an industry representative on a panel organized by EFPIA - The European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associates on August 27th in Bruxelles. In two posts AbbVie's Mission to Discover New Diseases and AbbVie's Mission to Discover New Patients, we gave a transcript of his talk with some commentary [...]...»

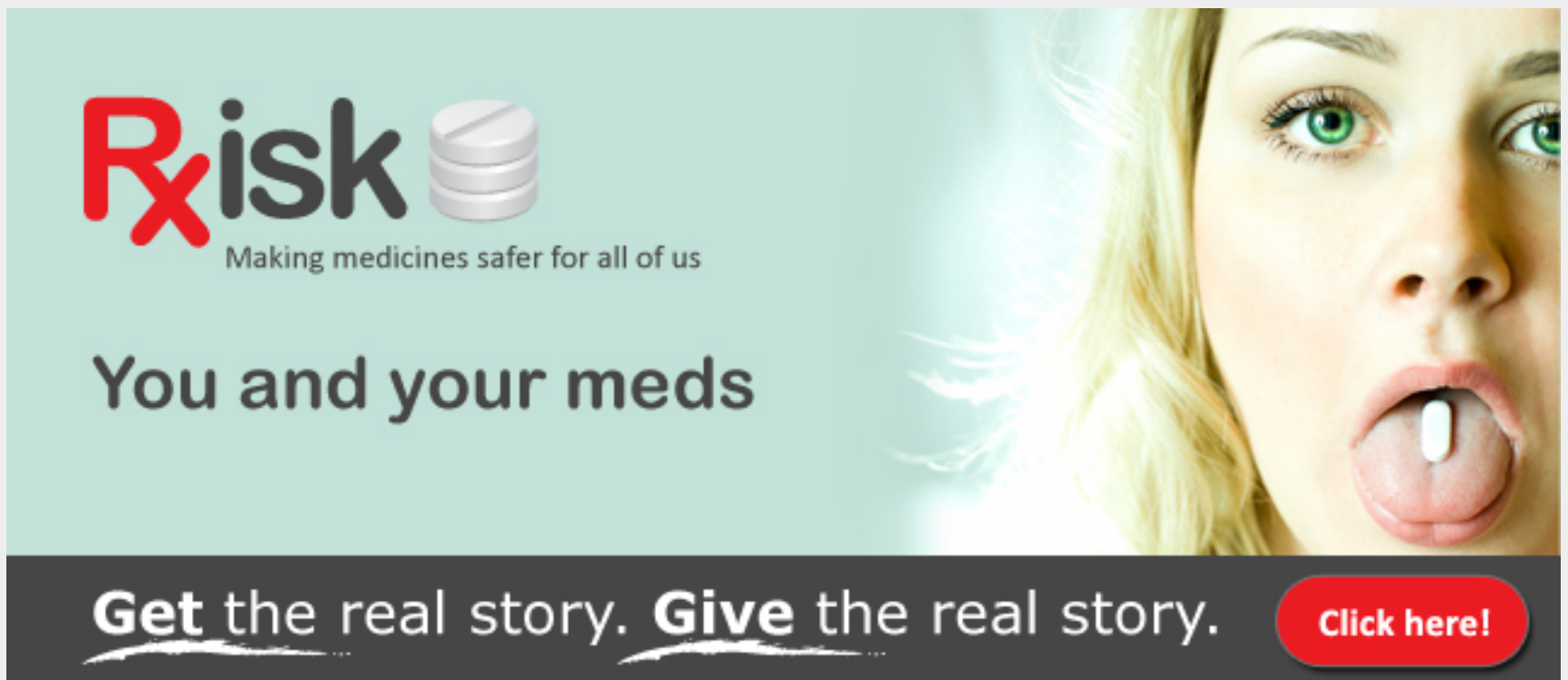
Get your Halloween on and send a message to Abbvie and Intermune


Post your photos and videos on our [RxISK Facebook page](#) using the new Facebook hashtag feature or share on Twitter by tweeting to @RxISK using #SecretPotionsSuck.



Here are some sample messages:

- Medicine is NOT Magic. It is Science. Clinical Trial Data must be public.
- Abbvie: Listen!
- My doctor needs to know. My pharmacist needs to know. I need to know.
- Drug side effects make me sad. BigPharma's drug secrets make me mad!
- BigPharma needs to share Clinical Trial Data for Rx Meds. Otherwise it's just hocus pocus.



Rxisk 
Making medicines safer for all of us

You and your meds

Get the real story. Give the real story. [Click here!](#)

