

The Truth  *About Health*

"Experts" Determining Psychiatric Diagnoses that Require Drugs Have Drug
Company Links

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It appears that major drug companies are taking extra measures to ensure the continued and future sales of their products. Recently, a high percentage of the experts who name the mental disorders requiring drugs for treatment were shown to have financial ties to the drug companies themselves.

New research shows that half of the 170 experts involved in drafting the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM) of the American Psychiatric Association (APA) have financial ties to the pharmaceutical industry. The DSM is considered the bible of mental-health treatment. It is used to define every accepted mental and addictive illness as well as outlining the treatment procedures for those "illnesses."

University of Massachusetts clinical psychologist Lisa Cosgrove was one of the key persons conducting the study. "I don't think the public is aware of how egregious the financial ties are in the field of psychiatry," said Dr. Cosgrove. She got interested in the topic after discovering that five of the six panel members deciding if certain premenstrual problems were psychiatric disorders had ties to Eli Lilly & Co, the company that markets Prozac ®, which was the treatment they designated to treat the disorders they had newly named.

Dr. Cosgrove explained the procedure by which disorders find their way into the DSM and how it is then used to sell drugs. She said that no objective physical tests have ever been found for any disorder in the DSM. It relies on judgments from practitioners who rely on the manual. The Food and Drug Administration will not approve a drug to treat mental illness unless the condition is in the DSM. If the condition is named in the manual, companies can then market approved medications to physicians and consumers. Psychiatrists literally vote to name a "disorder" to be listed in the DSM. The DSM has grown from a mere 119 pages in 1968 to 886 in the latest edition and includes categories sufficiently broad as to label almost anyone "mentally ill."

While the study revealed that more than half of the 170 panel members responsible for overseeing the DSM had undisclosed financial ties to the drug industry, even more alarming is that 100 percent of the "experts" on DSM panels deciding the existence of mood disorders were financially involved with the drug industry.

Mood disorders, which include depression, bipolar, and schizophrenia/psychotic disorders are treated by the largest categories of psychiatric drugs in the world. In 2004 the sales totals were \$20.3 billion for antidepressants and \$14.4 billion for antipsychotic drugs alone.

The APA, stopping far short of requiring an objective panel, said it would require disclosure of industry ties among DSM experts when the next edition of the manual is released, probably around 2011.

SOURCE: <http://www.jointogether.org/news/headlines/inthenews/2006/psychiatry-bible-written-by.html>

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