

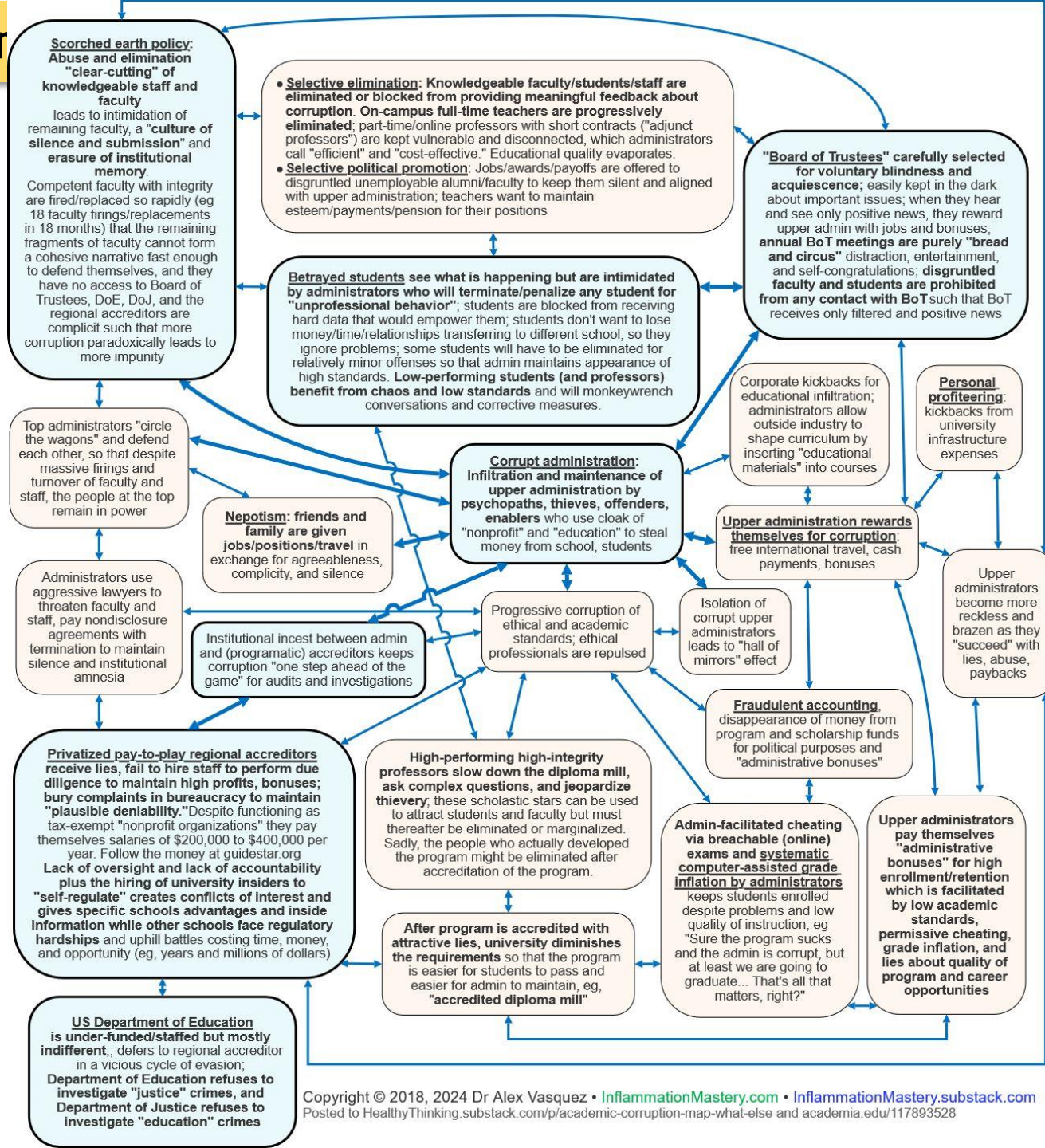
Administrative Anarchy in American Academia: Corruption in Chiropractic Colleges

Chiropractic was my first love. More accurately, I would say that my positivistic misinterpretation of chiropractic, my naïve perceptions as an inexperienced youth fresh out of military boarding school, and what I considered to be the promise of the profession – those were my first loves. Instead, what I found in the two chiropractic “universities” where I was faculty was not simply one or two or colluding administrators, but rather an entire ecosystem of corruption (see illustration) that emanated from the upper administration, contaminating everything from the financial accounting to the integrity of exams and accreditation standards, but also the Board of Trustees (BoT) which supposedly had responsibility for supervision of the administration, and also selection of the president himself. I found that “accreditation” was a completely worthless stamp of approval provided by privatized regional accreditors who were paid by the very schools they accredited for the programs that were approved, regardless of the veracity of the submitted documents and the integrity (or lack thereof) of the program, including completely changing program requirements after the program/changes had been approved, and the administration’s implementation and allowance of a corrupted online examination platform that allowed students to pass quizzes and examinations without any study, simply by clicking on the provided answers until the correct answer was made obvious. The students cared more about academic integrity than did the administrators; the regional accreditor apparently couldn’t care less as long as the school was paying for the accreditation processes and making things look pretty, and the US Department of Education obviously had no fucks to give and could not be bothered.

Administrative Anarchy in

The infographic accompanying this narrative depicts my painful, personal-professional experience in chiropractic academia.

Chiropractic was certainly my first love, and I dedicated many years of my life to being an ambassador, scholar, and cheerleader for the profession. I traveled thousands of miles to deliver hundreds of hours of graduate and postgraduate education. I authored dozens of articles for the profession and several textbooks specifically for chiropractic students and clinicians. One of the biggest disappointments of my life will forever be witnessing and experiencing the shameless and unbridled corruption within the administration of chiropractic colleges, many of which have now rebranded themselves as "universities" despite not meeting strict criteria for such.



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To have a corrupt administration, one must begin with corrupt administrators, which is to say people with ulterior motives and/or sociopathy/psychopathy. Psychopathic and narcissistic traits are common in the general population (1% severe, 10-30% mild) and are higher in certain groups, namely incarcerated prisoners and organizational administrators; thus, we cannot be surprised that some of these sociopaths would eventually infiltrate academia, then seek, obtain, and defend **positions of power and profit**. Furthermore and perhaps somewhat specific to chiropractic is that the lack of oversight (eg, the schools are impressively small compared to legitimate multiprogram universities) and the relatively lower academic standards (eg, no entry examinations, no external standards for graduate performance) facilitate the entry and perpetuity of academicians with lower qualifications, lower scholastic and professional achievements, and a much more casual and narrow perception of what might otherwise be rigorous academic standards, which they themselves have never experienced. Again: due to the relatively lower entry standards (for students and administrators) and overall lack of internal/external oversight, chiropractic colleges are attractive targets for swindlers and sociopaths. Those who strive and try to survive within chiropractic academics often refer to it as “*chiroland*”—analogous to the surreal and illusory *Twilight Zone*—and often chuckle that chiropractic administrators would happily eat their own young in order to maintain their positions of prestige and profit. **In a profession that offers only a very narrow range of opportunities—① hard-working private practice clinician, ② adjunct faculty member with no benefits or job security, or ③ upper administrator with full benefits, retirement, free international travel, and additional bonuses—those few chiropractors who acquire an upper administrative position cling to that prestigious and profitable outpost with tenacity and desperation.**

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One of these chiropractic presidents confided to me that because the upper administrators selected the Board of Trustees, all they had to do was pick the most naïve, enthusiastic/passionate, and gullible alumni to join the Board and go along with any and every suggestion offered by the upper administrators, including effectively paying themselves “performance bonuses” based on the profit of the school, which in their hands ultimately met siphoning scholarship money away from students to inflate the perceived profitability of the school and thus fund their so-called “performance” bonuses. I remember when one Board of Trustees member was being informed about the corruption of the upper administration, her reply was simply that “it broke her heart to hear such things” and so—to stop her small heart from breaking—she simply refused to listen to disgruntled students and betrayed faculty members—ie, she refused to listen to the exact people who had “boots on the ground” experience; of course, she never participated in or initiated any investigation to the obvious wrongdoings and disappearance of hundreds of thousands of dollars that was ruining the school. Emotional reflexes and administrative protectionism were the guiding lights for her trusteeship, and this is exactly why she had been chosen to be on the Board of Trustees by the same people who would benefit from her naïve and unquestioning loyalty.

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The chiropractic presidents I have known had not the slightest qualm about hiring their wives and children into upper administrative positions, including the very Board of Trustees itself. Even when their spouses had no legitimate reason for having any official affiliation with such a nonprofit academic institution, their wives were given administrative privileges, including free national and international travel to whatever conference had any tangential relationship with healthcare or academics. Administrators used “nonprofit educational institution” money to get free paid vacations to anywhere in Europe that they wanted, and of course, they could always extend the trip by having to attend more than one conference per trip, thereby justifying a layover of a few weeks—as one chiropractic president told me about the trips he made to Europe with his wife, at the expense of the school—“...two weeks on the beaches of Italy, letting all my concerns drain away” and then he attended another conference in Scotland, noted here as directly quoted from his university-president email: “Scotland is beautiful and the people here are friendly and helpful. The food is much better than I had expected (Scottish lamb, grass fed, unbelievable flavor). Last night [wife, listed on the university website as “Executive Assistant to the President] and I attended a session on the history of Scotch Whisky and then had a sampling. It was fascinating.” This was all the while the faculty on campus were desperately putting out daily fires of incompetence and corruption to keep the academic programs afloat; the true leadership was on campus with their sleeves rolled up and working hard—not knowing they were already on the chopping block to get fired—while the “president” wasn’t presiding over anything other than his personal pleasure, profit, and leisure. This particular president was noted for pretending to be Mormon and thus abstinent from vices such as alcohol; but he let his vices and whiskey take the reins when such suited his personal whims and desires, never for a moment prioritizing the university nor the chiropractic profession. Note the irony of his sending notes of his European vacations from his official presidential university email while all hell was breaking loose on his campus, to which he would return and pronounce, “Don’t tell me about problems; tell me only about solutions” to ensure that he had shifted the responsibility to the faculty to be Pollyannic positivistic people-pleasers instead of honest professionals; anyone who told the truth on that campus was ensuring that they’d be promptly eliminated, as I learned from experience, immediately followed by threatening letters from their pitbull profit-protecting legal henchmen.

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Of course, while the cat is away, the mice will play, and when presidents and their “administrative wives” are on a school-funded vacation in Europe, we as the remaining faculty could anticipate new waves of administrative chaos whenever the president and his wife were one of their extended vacations. Second-level administrators would buy tens of thousands of dollars’ worth of unnecessary school furniture, equipment, and infrastructure when the president was absent, apparently without any trace of paperwork because, upon his return, the president himself commented to me how baffled he was that a \$70,000 extension had been added to the library without his approval, prior knowledge and apparently without any paper-trail: the school's money disappeared and the unneeded building appeared, as if by magic, clearly showing that this "University President" had no idea what was happening on his campus, and had zero respect even from his fellow upper administrators that were misdirecting and robbing the school. That’s one of the problems with these upper circles of corruption is that it begins to take on a life of its own and even the ringleader of the corruption (let’s assume it’s the president) eventually gets blackmailed by his own fellow administrators because none of them can stop the others from participating and the reckless corruption that they’ve all allowed to take place.

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In order to maintain an upper administration of incompetent and corrupt buffoonery, one has to fill the ranks and stack the deck with subordinates who don't ask too many questions and who don't have high expectations for the performance of the university **institution**. What this means in practical terms for the remaining faculty is that they will be underserved and overworked as they have to compensate for a *lower quality* or outright *incompetent* infrastructure of internet technology, teachers' assistants, and other mid-level employees and managers. The only people who are safe from the consequences of academic corruption are the janitors and lawn maintenance crew; everyone else on campus is going to suffer through frustration, confusion, reduced professional development, lower standards, and lower pay for their work and outright gaslighting on a daily and weekly basis for the duration of their careers.

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I'll provide two more concrete examples of what I consider to be academic corruption so blatantly obvious that the experiences were simply baffling and bewildering. During an on-site review with the US Department of Education-approved (nonprofit, pay-to-play) regional accreditor, we as faculty specifically described our high academic standards verbally and in writing so they would approve our program and any in-process changes; as things would turn out, **everything we said to them was a lie because after we had our changes to the program approved, then upper administrators simply backed off of the standards and allowed students to pass courses without meeting the stated requirements.** Less obvious but more pervasive was the fact that we allowed our students to pass all of the online quizzes and examinations by simply randomly clicking on all of the provided answers because **our online educational platform was programmed to reveal to them the correct answer so that essentially all students could pass the exams, whether they had studied the material or not;** this was brought to the attention of upper administration after the students themselves complained about the low quality standards of the program, and the administrative response was to fire the concerned professor to whom the students had confided. In this particular school, the chiropractic administrators fired and replaced 18 top faculty members within 18 months, effectively implementing a "scorched earth policy" that erased the institutional memory while further insulating upper administrators behind shields of faculty intimidation and forced erasure of evidence and witnesses. If any professor starts to ask uncomfortable questions—such as about the fake online educational platform or the missing money from the budget and the disappearance of millions of dollars—they can easily be terminated and immediately threatened by aggressive lawsuits/lawyers paid for by school dollars; **the pitiful underpaid professors would have to defend themselves from their own light salary/savings, using their own after-tax income to combat a multimillion-dollar tax-free nonprofit institution.** This imbalance allows corrupt administrators to use the full force of their tax-free tax-deductible nonprofit institutions to wage **legal and psychological warfare against truth-telling teachers.**

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In the United States, “accreditation” of a college or university is utterly meaningless with regard to the quality of the education; “accreditation” simply requires filling out paperwork, overpromising “high standards of academic rigor to prepare our students for their careers as professionals” (anything that sounds similar to that) and having a clean accessible campus and pretty-looking brochures with paid models posing as happy students. Paperwork and site visits are pathetic means for the assurance of academic quality in higher education because any conniving and convincing imbecile can fraud a glossy program description, and any half-sober administrators can put on a happy face for half-a-day of softball questions from the regional accreditors. Since the regional accreditors have effectively zero oversight by the US Department of Education, and because they are effectively paid to turn a blind eye toward the programs that they are paid to approve, they don’t probe very deeply and they don’t investigate complaints of wrongdoing except in the most egregious situations and/or when doing so has a strategic end or political taint to it. Making matters worse, of course, is when corrupt academicians infiltrate the corpus of the regional accreditors such that they are well-connected and well-informed of any possible spontaneous and semi-legitimate quality checks or investigations. **In essence, the lack of oversight from the US Department of Education and the obvious conflict of interest with the pay-to-play regional accreditors means that accreditation in American education is meaningless** – it just means that an institution filled out paperwork, satisfied a list of nonacademic requirements such as fire escapes and building accessibility, and was able to bluff their way through some low-level interviews with softball questions that any trickster could knock out of the park.

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Academic corruption itself is itself a paradox because theoretically the entire reason for the existence of academia is the accumulation and transmission of truth. Within the *academia of healthcare*, another higher and outcome-based standard applies to the entire enterprise; if legitimate academia has a requirement to respect the truth, then **healthcare academia has the additional demand to produce ethical and competent graduates that can ensure the life-and-death responsibilities that are intrinsic to clinical care.** Corruption of healthcare academia therefore carries an even heavier weight than academic corruption in general, because of the increased probability of ultimately increased risk of negligence and injury for patients. But I am hesitant to equate chiropractic academic corruption directly with lower professional performance. **Indeed, the healthcare delivered by chiropractors has consistently been found to be safe and beneficial specifically for neck pain, low-back pain and other musculoskeletal complaints; this contrasts with the remarkable lack of safety, lack of efficacy, and lack of supporting evidence of medical/drug interventions for chronic pain.** I think that one must differentiate between the administrators, the teachers, the students and the practicing clinicians; one cannot equate the behavior of one of these groups with the behavior of others, even if the continuum might appear instinctively correct. In my experience, having taught thousands of practicing chiropractors, I found that most of them were hard-working, honest, and desirous of advancing their professional skills for the betterment of their own careers and also for the betterment of patient outcomes. However, administrative corruption in chiropractic clearly retards the advancement of the profession as a whole, most obviously because *quality* schools have traditionally done more than merely educate students; *better* schools and legitimate universities have also supported research and supported the careers of professors to advance the science of their topics and to serve as a repository for knowledge and guiding example of professionalism. These concepts and practices are essentially nonexistent within the chiropractic culture. This explains largely why the chiropractic profession advances slowly when and if it advances at all. The breadth and profundity of the chiropractic profession remain narrow and shallow because those who would enlarge the profession are excluded from the profession's institutions by corrupt and viciously insecure administrators. **You won't find many or any "distinguished professors" or "professors emeriti" within chiropractic academia because they aren't allowed to exist in an academic environment centered around simplicity and profitability. The institutions don't have enough stability and foresight to cultivate the development of profound scholasticism.**

Vasquez A. Official Guidelines guarantee failure in treatment of chronic pain per *American Family Physician* and American Academy of Family Physicians 2021 <https://healthythinking.substack.com/p/official-guidelines-guarantee-failure>. Paradigm Shift in Medical Management of Chronic Pain 2024, part 1 <https://inflammationmastery.substack.com/p/final-edition-video-3hours15minutes>

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No surprise, then of course that many chiropractors find that the only way to advance their profession is to leave their profession by seeking other degrees, and quite commonly ignoring and denying the fact that they were ever chiropractors. Even in my own situation of having been a chiropractic scholar and advocate, I don't even mention the chiropractic colleges where I have worked on my resume; this is all the more ironic because I consider my chiropractic education to have been quite excellent, and I went on to attain two additional doctoral degrees in other healthcare fields.

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No doubt exists that the chiropractic profession's worst enemy is itself. As I've said in my decades of articles and presentations, **if any one American healthcare profession could positively change the course of health outcomes literally overnight, then that profession is chiropractic.** The chiropractic adjustment is an irreplaceable clinical tool, and the profession could have *and should already have* advanced to a more prominent position in healthcare and professionalism; **those who continue to allow and perpetuate corruption and profiteering within chiropractic leadership and academia are those who are most to blame for the profession's retardation, lack of direction, delayed development, and the perpetual inability of the profession to complete its greater promise to its students, its clinicians, and the public.** In 2009, I published *Chiropractic and Naturopathic Mastery of Common Clinical Disorders* (republished in 2016 as *Inflammation Mastery 4th Edition*) detailing the integrative chiropractic management of several primary care conditions; but did the profession advance in any meaningful way? In 2010, I published "Chiropractors Managing Chronic Hypertension—An Idea Whose Time Has Arrived" in the profession's biggest newspaper/magazine *Dynamic Chiropractic* (2010 Jun, [archived here](#)), and in 2011 I published the clinical handbook/textbook *Integrative Chiropractic Management of Chronic Hypertension and High Blood Pressure, Second Edition* and I handed a copy directly to the president of the American Chiropractic Association, but apparently nothing changed for the profession as a whole—no action, no initiative, no conversation. In 2014, I published *Chiropractic Immune Nutrition Against Viral Infections*, but the chiropractic profession has demonstrated zero leadership during the global viral pandemic chaos of 2019 that has continued to the present day. I wanted more for chiropractic; I wanted more from chiropractic. I never dreamed that my experience in chiropractic academics would result in my writing essays on administrative incompetence, lost professional opportunities, and drawing interconnected maps of academic corruption; but such has been the result of my experience, corroborated by the experiences of many—*too many*—of my colleagues, friends, and students within chiropractic. If you ever wonder why the chiropractic profession is so slow to advance, you need look no further than the corrupt administrators and inept leadership that repels and actively eliminates the true leaders, scholars, clinicians, and teachers who would otherwise advance the profession.

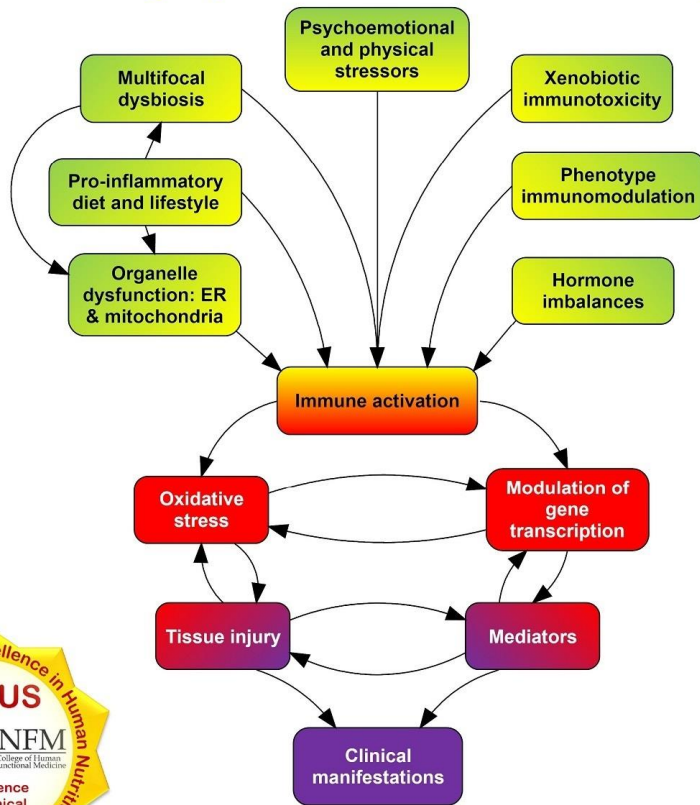
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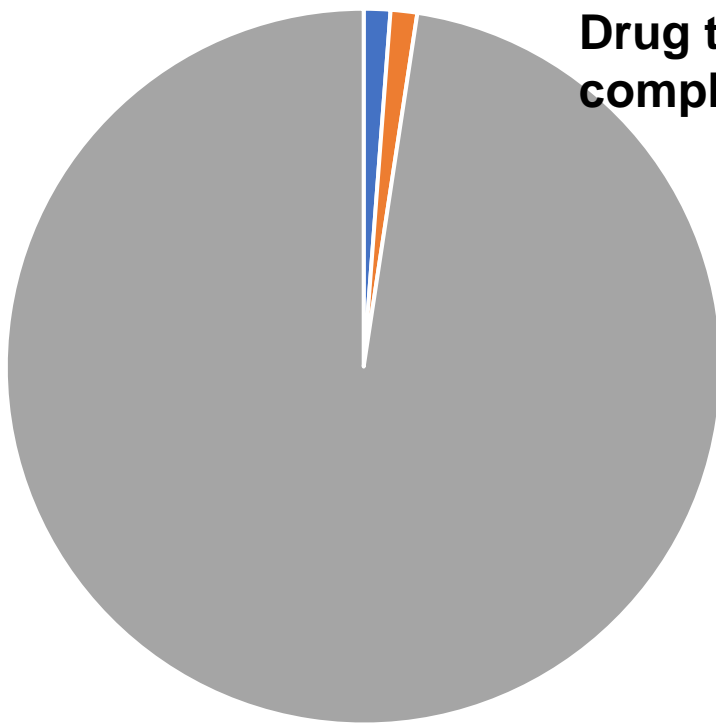
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Drug treatment of chronic pain is essentially a complete (>97%) failure



- **Fibromyalgia** Duloxetine/milnacipran vs. placebo; Memantine; Cyclobenzaprine; Pregabalin/gabapentin vs. placebo Small
- **Osteoarthritis** Duloxetine vs. placebo; NSAID vs. placebo; Diclofenac vs. Celecoxib; NSAID vs. NSAID; Topical diclofenac vs. placebo; Acetaminophen
- **Low back pain** Duloxetine vs. placebo; Amitriptyline vs. placebo; Amitriptyline vs. pregabalin
- **Neuropathic pain** Pregabalin/gabapentin vs. placebo; Oxcarbazepine vs. placebo; Pregabalin vs. gabapentin Insufficient evidence; Pregabalin vs. gabapentin enacarbil; Duloxetine vs. placebo; Capsaicin patch; Cannabis
- **Inflammatory arthritis** NSAID vs. placebo; Celecoxib vs. Diclofenac; Celecoxib vs. naproxen; Diclofenac vs. meloxicam; Meloxicam vs. naproxen; Nabumetone vs. naproxen

- Duloxetine for neuropathic pain
- NSAIDs for inflammatory arthritis
- Drug failures (>97%) in the medical treatment of chronic pain conditions

Graphical representation of the medical mismanagement of common chronic pain conditions—fibromyalgia, osteoarthritis, low-back pain, neuropathic pain, and inflammatory arthritis—showing zero reliable effectiveness and confidence in commonly used drugs for these common pain conditions. None of the commonly used drugs in the treatment of intermediate-term and long-term pain demonstrate at least a moderate benefit (ie, exclusion of small benefit or no benefit) and at least moderate strength of evidence (ie, exclusion of low-level evidence); **in other words, all treatments are essentially failures per moderate efficacy and moderate evidence for intermediate/chronic pain.** Duloxetine for neuropathic pain and NSAIDs for inflammatory arthritis are the only two treatments that show moderate benefit with moderate quality of evidence but only for the treatment of short-term pain—generous inclusion of this data for short-term pain shows that **97.6% of medical treatments can be considered failures** and/or unreliable since all other treatments lack moderate-or-better efficacy with moderate-or-better evidence. Data from page 562 of Raymond et al, Nonopioid Pharmacologic Treatments for Chronic Pain published in *American Family Physician* (2021 May) based on Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) publication 20-EHC010 published April 2020.

Neoliberal hijacking of liberal vocabulary and ideals: using the language of freedom for domination

Liberalism	Neoliberal manipulation
Education, Enlightenment, Self-actualization, professionalism, personal advancement and development	Education becomes indoctrination to corporate values, then debt slavery to enforce conformity. Professionalism becomes “you will do as you are told”; education becomes identity, which becomes a fixed role of obligations and depersonalization (eg, medical doctor starts authentically wanting to help people then results in following mandatory drugging guidelines without any escape from overdrugging all patients in service of pharma profits; nutrition/CAM marginalized to irrelevance)
Equality, opportunity Reference: Hursh D. Neoliberalism and Education Policy. <i>Encyclopedia of Educational Philosophy and Theory</i>, 2016. doi.org/10.1007/978-981-287-532-7_158-1	Corporations now have human rights; multibillionaires attend government meetings to dictate policy. Playing field of ideas is repeatedly leveled until the only surviving values are those with powerful persistent corporate backing; real humans eventually tire and are unorganized and underfunded compared to corporate teams/interests. Every “opportunity” is a corporate commodity
Freedom, choice, liberty, democracy	“Choice” is limited to options selected by the elite/powerful so the general population will think they have power to “choose” and “vote”, eg, every ~4years while “elected” puppets serve private interests
Free-market capitalism, capitalism	“Free markets” do not exist; all major markets have government protections, public/tax subsidies, and competitor restrictions Reference: Chomsky. <i>Profit Over People: Neoliberalism and Global Order</i>, 1998
Healthcare and happiness for all, universal healthcare	“World Health” becomes global domination by multibillionaires enforcing mandatory drugging and restrictions of travel, work, bank accounts, and basic liberties. Their slogan, “You will own nothing, and you will be happy.” Forced compliance is mandatory for time-limited access to basic rights
Individualization, independence	You can “choose” which program of indoctrination and debt slavery appeals to you, eg, 4 years of “education” will become 20-40 years of indebtedness © 2024 Dr Alex Vasquez HealthyThinking.substack.com
Inclusion, diversity	Dilution of good ideas with absurdity and propaganda to serve private power; creation of exhausting processes while all ideas are given their “inclusion”; public forums become theatres of absurdity
Right to property Reference: Silvers D. <i>Neoliberalism as a System of Power</i>, 2023. University College London youtu.be/hLtkJ-AgLuY	Rich/private/corporate interests assert (commonly via government/military power) they have the right to all property and resources in the world, eg, hence America’s past/present “influence” in Vietnam (tungsten), Iraq (oil), Chile (telecommunication, 1973 coup), Panama (cargo passage), etc.