

Quotes from Reviews of:

**Marc A. Rodwin**  
***Conflicts of Interest and The Future of Medicine:  
The United States, France and Japan***

New York: Oxford University Press, 2011; ISBN : 978-0-1997-5548-6

*Health Affairs*, 2011; 30(8):1612-1613; doi: 10.1377/hlthaff.2011.0680

**M. Gregg Bloche**

**Money and Influence at The Bedside. Conflicts of Interest and the Future of Medicine: The United States, France and Japan.** <http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/30/8/1612.full.html>

“His 1993 book, *Medicine, Money, and Morals*, [Rodwin] rigorously synthesized state-of-the-art knowledge about doctors’ conflicts of interest and their impact on patient care.... no one has tracked them as unrelentingly... He’s now tracked them on three continents (if Japan counts as Asia), and ... reports the dismaying results. *Conflicts of Interest and the Future of Medicine: The United States, France, and Japan* details medicine’s struggles with myriad temptations...Rodwin writes clearly, and he is soft-spoken but stinging in his account of organized medicine’s resistance to limits on self-referral, enticements from Big Pharma, and other flows of lucre....He has written an important book on an urgent topic, neglected by both political parties in the ongoing battle over health care reform.”

*The American Journal of Bioethics*, 2011; 11(10): 36–41; doi/abs/10.1080/15265161.2011.615617

**Stephen R. Latham,**

**Conflicts of Interest and the Future of Medicine: The United States, France and Japan.**

“Marc Rodwin’s *Conflicts of Interest and the Future of Medicine* succeeds admirably both at helping us learn *about* other countries and at helping us learn *from* them... The attentive reader will come away from these chapters with a sophisticated and complex understanding of the evolution of the healthcare financing system in each of the countries....The book will be of great interest to health policy analysts, health lawyers, physician leaders, regulators, and bioethicists. It is a model of descriptive and analytical comparative analysis.

“Rodwin pulls no punches, announcing that the experiences of the three countries have led him to conclude that a number of traditional reforms aimed at conflict of interest in medicine just don’t work...Rodwin supplies detailed arguments for each conclusion, based on the evidence gathered in his national case studies.”

*Journal of the American Medical Association*, 2011;305(21):2231-32;doi:10.1001/jama.2011.731

**Samuel Y. Sessions,**

**Conflicts of Interest and the Future of Medicine: The United States, France and Japan**

The reforms proposed in the conclusion are useful and wide-ranging.... By providing a wealth of data demonstrating that these problems are by no means confined to the United States, [*Conflicts of Interest and the Future of Medicine*] will be helpful to scholars as well as intriguing to readers new to the subject.

*World Medical & Health Policy*, 2011; 3(2): article9; doi: 10.2202/1948-4682.1170

**Arnauld Nicogossian**

***Conflicts of Interest and the Future of Medicine: The United States, France, and Japan***

<http://www.psocommons.org/wmhp/vol3/iss2/art9>

Dr. Rodwin masterfully reviews most of the reasons leading to conflicts-of-interest and draws attention to the similarities and differences between the United States', Japan's, and France's practices for managing this problem. He presents relevant examples, discusses the historical evolution of the medical ethics in each country, and proposes suitable remedial actions....This is a well-written and scholastic treatise by an academic who studied and worked in all three countries discussed in this book.

*Journal of Bioethical Inquiry*, 2011; 4 (1):387-388; doi: 10.1007/s11673-011-9326-y

**Adam Licurse and Aaron S. Kesselheim**

***Conflicts of Interest and the Future of Medicine: The United States, France, and Japan***

“The existence of these incentives—and the conflicts of interest they create—is the subject of Marc Rodwin’s new book, *Conflicts of Interest and the Future of Medicine*. In his history-heavy analysis of the growth and symbiosis of medicine and industry in the United States, France, and Japan, Rodwin chronicles the cultural, legal, and institutional factors that have contributed to each country’s current landscape of financial incentives in clinical medicine. Each tells a different story of how organized medicine, professional self-regulation, market competition, and payers affect contemporary physician behavior and provides insight into the relationship between this behavior and health care cost.”

*Social History of Medicine*; 2011; doi: 10.1093/shm/hkr146

**Nancy Tomes**

***Conflicts of Interest and the Future of Medicine: The United States, France and Japan.***

“Comparative histories of any subject, including medicine, are of enormous value, yet most of us lack the patience or energy to do such work. Thus we have all the more reason to be grateful to those scholars who do, among them Marc A. Rodwin, whose book *Conflicts of Interest and the Future of Medicine* provides a comparative perspective on a particularly challenging subject: economic conflicts of interest in medical practice. By comparing how conflicts of interest and their regulation have evolved historically in France, the U.S. and Japan, Rodwin provides a fascinating, well-informed account of the changing economics of modern medicine....unlike many works of policy analysis that present only a thin veneer of history, this book has a solid historical foundation.”

“Rodwin’s lucid, learned summary of physician conflicts of interest will be enormously useful to historians, particularly those concerned with the post-1970 period. The book’s extensive footnotes and bibliography provide a guide to relevant sources in the fields of law, economics, sociology, and policy, and an appendix offers a short legal history of the concept of conflicts of interest and its evolution from Roman fiduciary law to modern civil law. This is a fine piece of work that will be of great use particularly to historians of twentieth century medicine.”

*Choice*, 48-6418, RA410, 2010-46033 CIP, American Library Association

**F.W. Musgrave**

**Conflicts of Interest and the Future of Medicine: The United States, France and Japan.**

“Rodwin provides significant context for the ongoing debate over health care policy. He posits that “the physician-doctor relationship lies at the heart of medicine,” and that this relationship has been strained by conflicts between professional ethics and financial self-interests. These conflicts are interfaced with the main forms of medical practice and their interaction with the influence of organized medicine on private practice; professional self-regulation; market competition; and the roles of the state and insurers. The author presents examples from France, Japan, and the US to illustrate such conflicts and how differently the nations cope with them.”

*Social Policy & Administration*, 2011;45(7):831–833; doi: 10.1111/j.1467-9515.2011.00817\_4.

**Ellen Kuhlmann**

**Conflicts of Interest and the Future of Medicine: The United States, France, and Japan**

“Rodwin provides comprehensive, yet accessible information on the complexity of conflicts of interest and how they may shape the future of medicine in different health-care systems. This book is well written and highly topical. It will be of interest for all those who are concerned about doctors’ conflicts of interest, from policymakers and academics to practitioners and the users of medical services.”

“*Conflicts of Interest and the Future of Medicine: The United States, France, and Japan* offers us deeper insights into the complexity of interests that impact in doctors’ decisions beyond medical reasons and that may not always benefit patients and the public interest.”

*Santé Publique*

**Yves Charpak**

**Conflict of Interest and the Future of Medicine: The United States, France and Japan**

2011;23: 151-161; <http://www.cairn.info/revue-sante-publique-2011-2-page-151.htm>

« Le livre est un document très imposant et qui survole tous les aspects des conflits d’intérêt ... La grande qualité du livre tient à son exhaustivité pour l’abord des conflits d’intérêts »

« L’un des messages clefs est qu’il y a un continuum de conflits d’intérêts, de natures différentes et qu’il est illusoire de penser que la simple déclaration de ces conflits d’intérêts, qui est la principale solution proposée un peu partout aujourd’hui, peut résoudre tous les problèmes »

« Il parle des conflits d’intérêts de nature financière mais aussi ceux qu’on pourrait appeler de « loyauté », quand le médecin doit aussi satisfaire un tiers autre que le patient.

Le livre entre dans le détail de ces différents types de conflits d'intérêts, en listant :

- la fourniture de service par des médecins auto employés (les libéraux chez nous), où la « bonne santé de l'activité » peut entrer en conflit avec les intérêts des patients;
- la réalisation d'actes additionnels, biologiques, radiologiques, techniques, qui entraînent aussi une meilleure rémunération ;
- les arrangements entre professionnels de santé ou même avec d'autres types de services pour organiser le marché, la circulation des patients au mieux des intérêts de tous ;
- la propriété de l'outil de travail par les médecins eux-mêmes, cliniques et hôpitaux par exemple, augmente les possibilités d'une attitude « entrepreneuriale » ;
- pour ceux qui ne sont pas auto-employés, la dépendance à une autorité qui les emploient peut créer des situations d'influence de l'employeur contraires à l'intérêt des patients et qui dépend de la « solidité » de leur contrat et de leur autorité. Ils peuvent être amenés à favoriser des jeux et intérêts institutionnels plus que l'intérêt des patients. En particulier les stratégies de réduction des coûts peuvent être contraires à l'intérêt des patients ;
- les tentatives des assureurs santé d'imposer de la capitation, du partage des risques financiers, peuvent conduire à des stratégies thérapeutiques moins optimales de la part des médecins concernés. Cela est d'autant plus vrai que ces assureurs ont un lien financier avec les médecins qui dépendent d'eux en partie ;
- les liens avec d'autres parties, sous forme de subventions, cadeaux, et autres subsides présentent un risque bien particulier, notamment quand ils viennent d'institutions fournissant des services et des produits utilisés par les mêmes médecins pour leurs patients.

Le livre raconte aussi qu'aucun des trois pays explorés n'a de système en place permettant d'éviter les conflits d'intérêts, mais qu'ils sont de nature et d'ampleur différentes, selon le pays. En particulier il insiste sur l'illusion de tout régler par la déclaration simple des conflits d'intérêts. Il suggère de les décrire et de les analyser systématiquement, en détaillant bien ce qui concerne les industries de santé, mais aussi les institutions publiques, les assurances de santé obligatoires ou non, les hôpitaux, les ONG, etc. »