

Analyzing the Opioid Crisis: 65 Articles by Dr. Josh Bloom



By Josh Bloom — October 7, 2019



ACSH has been writing about the now disastrous consequences of withholding opioid pain medications from pain patients with legitimate needs since 2013 **(1)** – well before most other organizations. Since this time Dr. Josh Bloom, our director of chemical pharmaceutical research, has published about 20 newspaper op-eds on the mismanagement of opioid policy and 65 articles for the ACSH site.

We are publishing his works as a media reference guide. To simplify the search for a specific topic we have divided his writings into 8 broad categories, A through G, which are indicated in parentheses after the title. Many articles fall into multiple categories.

We believe that some of these articles represent groundbreaking material that was not previously covered by other writers. These are bolded.

Article Categorization:

- A. - Intentional manipulation of statistics and lies that created a false narrative of the opioid crisis
- B. - The demonization of opioid drugs and other controlled substances
- C. - Opioid alternatives – plusses and minuses
- D. - Denial of pain relief
- E. - Flawed public policy
- F. - Fentanyl and its analogs
- G. - Flawed studies and faulty media reporting
- H. - General bad science

***Bold - Key article**

The Great Opioid Shakedown of 2019 Will Be a Pyrrhic 'Victory (E)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2019/08/28/great-opioid-shakedown-2019-will-be-pyrrhic-victory-14252>
[1]

The Lunacy Continues - Now It's Music Instead Of Sedatives Before Surgery (B)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2019/08/04/lunacy-continues-now-its-music-instead-sedatives-surgery-14195> [2]

Florida Officials Successfully Withheld Pain Meds From Surgical Patients. Aren't They Special? (E) (D)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2019/07/30/florida-officials-successfully-withheld-pain-meds-surgical-patients-arent-they-special-14191> [3]

A Royal Pain: Opioid BS From The BBC (G)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2019/07/24/royal-pain-opioid-bs-bbc-14172> [4]

Surgeon General Backpedals On Flawed Tylenol Study. Because Of ACSH. (B)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2019/07/15/surgeon-general-backpedals-flawed-tylenol-study-because-acsh-14153> [5]

Dr. Aric Hausknecht Responds To SG Jerome Adams' Tylenol Recommendation (B)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2019/07/12/dr-aric-hausknecht-responds-sg-jerome-adams-tylenol-recommendation-14149> [6]

Need General Surgery? Ignore The Surgeon General (B)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2019/07/08/need-general-surgery-ignore-surgeon-general-14135> [7]

Advil As A Substitute For Opioids? NY Times' Gina Kolata 'Busts' One Myth With Another (C, G)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2019/07/02/advil-substitute-opioids-ny-times-gina-kolata-busts-one-myth-another-14130> [8]

Overdoses Are 'Falling.' But What Does That Really Mean? (A)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2019/06/26/overdoses-are-falling-what-does-really-mean-14116> [9]

Oh-Klahoma! 8 Questions J&J Should Ask Andrew Kolodny (A, B)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2019/06/18/oh-klahoma-8-questions-jj-should-ask-andrew-kolodny-14100> [10]

'Opioid Cutoff' Article Tells Us How Badly Pain Patients Were Harmed. Too Bad Kolodny Was Included. (A, D)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2019/05/22/opioid-cutoff-article-tells-us-how-badly-pain-patients-were-harmed-too-bad-kolodny-was-included-14043>

[11]

Neurontin: The Darling Of The Anti-Opioid Crowd. But Does It Work? (C)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2019/05/07/neurontin-darling-anti-opioid-crowd-does-it-work-14005> [12]

Sen. Gillibrand's Anti-Opioid Mentality Will Hurt Women (E)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2019/03/25/sen-gillibrands-anti-opioid-mentality-will-hurt-women-13905>
[13]

Oral And IV Tylenol Work *Equally* Well For Hip Replacement Pain - But Do They Work At All? (B, G)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2019/03/13/oral-and-iv-tylenol-work-equally-well-hip-replacement-pain-do-they-work-all-13877> [14]

My Response To The Times Article About Opioid 'Good News Bad News' (G)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2019/03/07/my-response-times-article-about-opioid-good-news-bad-news-13861> [15]

Johnson & Johnson's Shameless Exploitation Of The Opioid Crisis (C)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2019/02/26/johnson-johnsons-shameless-exploitation-opioid-crisis-13832> [16]

Heroin Pills Are Now A Reality - Is Andrew Kolodny Finally Happy? (A, E, F)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2019/02/20/heroin-pills-are-now-reality-andrew-kolodny-finally-happy-13825> [17]

Woeful In Wisconsin - WISN's Opioid Story Is Jawbreakingly Idiotic (G)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2019/02/06/woeful-wisconsin-wisns-opioid-story-jawbreakingly-idiotic-13782> [18]

An Opioid Study So Bad That It Disproves Itself? (G)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2019/01/23/opioid-study-so-bad-it-disproves-itself-13753> [19]

CNN: Opioid Overdoses Kill More People Than... Food? (G)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2019/01/14/cnn-opioid-overdoses-kill-more-people-food-13725> [20]

Sen. Ron Wyden Smears Opioid Task Force. Why? (E)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2018/12/28/sen-ron-wyden-smears-opioid-task-force-why-13686> [21]

Dear PROP/CDC - Here's What Happens When You Over-Restrict Pills: More Deaths. Nice Going. (A,B,D,F)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2018/12/12/dear-propcdc-heres-what-happens-when-you-over-restrict-pills-more-deaths-nice-going-13663> [22]

Do Opioid Scripts For Tooth Extraction Really Cause Abuse, Or Just Useless Numbers? (G)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2018/12/06/do-opioid-scripts-tooth-extraction-really-cause-abuse-or-just-useless-numbers-13647> [23]

Organic Chemistry Can Defeat Any Fentanyl Agreement (F)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2018/12/05/organic-chemistry-can-defeat-any-fentanyl-agreement-13645> [24]

Who Is Telling The Truth About Prescription Opioid Deaths? DEA? CDC? Neither? (A, B)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2018/11/05/who-telling-truth-about-prescription-opioid-deaths-dea-cdc-neither-13569> [25]

Opioid Policies Based On Morphine Milligram Equivalents Are Automatically Flawed (H)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2018/10/23/opioid-policies-based-morphine-milligram-equivalents-are-automatically-flawed-13529> [26]

Foolish US Drug Policies Keep Making Things Worse - Now It's Meth (Again) (G)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2018/09/27/foolish-us-drug-policies-keep-making-things-worse-now-its-meth-again-13450> [27]

Former CDC Head Tom Frieden Is Back In The News, And It Isn't For His Terrible Science (G)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2018/08/24/former-cdc-head-tom-frieden-back-news-and-it-isnt-his-terrible-science-13355> [28]

Shades Of Tuskegee - Oregon's Monstrous Experiments On Poor Pain Patients (B,D,E)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2018/08/15/shades-tuskegee-oregon-experiments-poor-pain-patients-13315> [29]

Feds Double Down On Pills As Fentanyl Deaths Double (E,F)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2018/07/12/government-doubles-down-pills-fentanyl-deaths-double-13190> [30]

Fentanyl 101- Let's Clean Up The Terminology (F)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2018/07/02/fentanyl-101-lets-clean-terminology-13141> [31]

The Madness Continues: FDA Opioids Advisory Panels Must Be Stoned (G)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2018/06/27/madness-continues-fda-opioids-advisory-panels-must-be-stoned-13124> [32]

For Pain Care, Race Shouldn't Matter. But It Does (D,E)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2018/06/05/pain-care-race-shouldnt-matter-it-does-12969> [33]

Wanna Get The Opioid Mess All Wrong? Ask Keith Humphreys (G)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2018/05/29/wanna-get-opioid-mess-all-wrong-keith-humphreys-your-man-13028>

[34]

Big Brother Walmart Is Watching Your Meds Very Carefully. And Not Just Painkillers (B)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2018/05/11/big-brother-walmart-watching-your-meds-very-carefully-and-not-just-painkillers-12950> [35]

'Synthetic' And 'Opioids': Two Useless, Confusing Terms That Need To Go (F)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2018/05/08/synthetic-and-opioids-two-useless-confusing-terms-need-go-12932> [36]

'Study Links Rising Heroin Deaths To 2010 OxyContin Reformulation.Duh.' (E)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2018/04/09/study-links-rising-heroin-deaths-2010-oxycontin-reformulation-duh-12812> [37]

Fentanyl Sleuthing Gives Hints About Where It's Made – Sometimes (F)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2018/03/22/how-fentanyl-metabolized-gives-hints-about-where-its-sometimes-12737> [38]

The CDC Quietly Admits It Screwed Up Counting Opioid Pills (A,E)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2018/03/19/cdc-quietly-admits-it-screwed-dishonestly-counting-pills-12717> [39]

Dear CDC: What Will You Screw Up Next? Meth Is Back (E)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2018/02/14/dear-cdc-what-will-you-screw-next-meth-back-12574> [40]

Runs On Imodium Before The FDA Clamps Down (B)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2018/01/30/runs-imodium-fda-clamps-down-12497> [41]

'Let Them Eat Aspirin' - Jeff Sessions' Painfully Ignorant Remarks (E)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2018/02/09/let-them-eat-aspirin-jeff-sessions-painfully-ignorant-remarks-12556> [42]

Dear NY Times, Your Opioid Coverage Has Been Terrible. Here's Why (G)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2018/01/15/dear-ny-times-your-opioid-coverage-has-been-terrible-heres-why-12419> [43]

Neurontin: Over-Hyped And Underwhelming (C)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2017/12/26/neurontin-over-hyped-and-underwhelming-12242> [44]

Have A 'Fentanyl On A Shopping Cart' Question? Call ACSH (F)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2017/11/10/have-fentanyl-shopping-cart-question-call-acsh-12131> [45]

Advil Works As Well As Opioids For Acute Pain? Not So Fast (C, G)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2017/11/07/advil-works-well-opioids-acute-pain-not-so-fast-12089> [46]

ACSH Explains: What's The Difference Between Opioids And Opiates?

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2017/10/27/acsh-explains-whats-difference-between-opioids-and-opiates-12041> [47]

How Chinese Organic Chemists Get Away With Murder – Literally (F)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2017/10/19/how-chinese-organic-chemists-get-away-murder-literally-11979> [48]

The Opioid Epidemic In 6 Charts Designed To Deceive You (A, B, E)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2017/10/12/opioid-epidemic-6-charts-designed-deceive-you-11935> [49]

CVS's Transparent Opioid PR Stunt (C)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2017/09/28/cvss-transparent-opioid-pr-stunt-11880> [50]

Tylenol Isn't So Safe, But At Least It Works, Right? (C)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2017/09/18/tylenol-isnt-so-safe-least-it-works-right-11827> [51]

Is Tylenol 'By Far The Most Dangerous Drug Ever Made?' (C)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2017/09/11/tylenol-far-most-dangerous-drug-ever-made-11711> [52]

Heads In The Sand — The Real Cause Of Today's Opioid Deaths (A, E)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2017/08/16/heads-sand-%E2%80%94-real-cause-todays-opioid-deaths-11681> [53]

Pain In The Time Of Opioid Denial: An Interview With Aric Hausknecht, M.D. (C, D)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2017/07/30/pain-time-opioid-denial-interview-aric-hausknecht-md-11628> [54]

Dear CDC, Why Are You Torturing Pain Patients? (D, E)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2017/06/22/dear-cdc-why-are-you-torturing-pain-patients-11469> [55]

If You Think Fentanyl Is Bad... (F)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2017/01/17/if-you-think-fentanyl-bad-10663> [56]

Opioid Denial: My Own Harrowing Experience (D)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2016/12/29/opioid-denial-my-own-harrowing-experience-10655> [57]

Have Opioid Restrictions Made Things Better Or Worse (G)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2016/11/03/have-opioid-restrictions-made-things-better-or-worse-10400> [58]

Merciless In Seattle: Untreated Pain, Misery, And Suicide (D)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2016/11/01/merciless-seattle-untreated-pain-misery-and-suicide-10389>
[59]

Have Pain? Pick Your Poison (C)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2016/10/25/have-pain-pick-your-poison-10358> [60]

Gonna Throw Away Your Used Narcotics? (A,E)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2016/10/07/gonna-throw-away-your-used-narcotics-10270> [61]

Prince Was Killed By 'The Devil In The Room' (F)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2016/06/03/prince-was-killed-by-the-devil-in-the-room> [62]

Narcotics Overdose? Or Biased Reporting? (G)

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2016/05/16/narcotics-overdose-or-biased-reporting> [63]

Opioid Abuse & Death: Nothing Close To A Good Answer

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2015/12/29/opioid-abuse-and-death-nothing-close-to-a-good-answer> [64]

NOTE:

(1) See "New painful casualties of the drug war" New York Post, 12/3/13

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- [12] <https://www.acsh.org/news/2019/05/07/neurontin-darling-anti-opioid-crowd-does-it-work-14005>
- [13] <https://www.acsh.org/news/2019/03/25/sen-gillibrands-anti-opioid-mentality-will-hurt-women-13905>
- [14] <https://www.acsh.org/news/2019/03/13/oral-and-iv-tylenol-work-equally-well-hip-replacement-pain-do-they-work-all-13877>
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- [23] <https://www.acsh.org/news/2018/12/06/do-opioid-scripts-tooth-extraction-really-cause-abuse-or-just-useless-numbers-13647>
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- [31] <https://www.acsh.org/news/2018/07/02/fentanyl-101-lets-clean-terminology-13141>
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- [38] <https://www.acsh.org/news/2018/03/22/how-fentanyl-metabolized-gives-hints-about-where-its-sometimes-12737>
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- [45] <https://www.acsh.org/news/2017/11/10/have-fentanyl-shopping-cart-question-call-acsh-12131>
- [46] <https://www.acsh.org/news/2017/11/07/advil-works-well-opioids-acute-pain-not-so-fast-12089>
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