

XV.
FEDERALLY FUNDED “NONPROFIT” MEDICAL ASSOCIATIONS CHOOSING WISELY®
FOR WHOM?

As noted in fn. 24, ACMT is federally funded by the DHHS to disseminate accurate health advisories to U.S. physicians. This is with the understanding that ACMT members keep abreast of current accepted science by their certifications and maintenance of certifications by “nonprofit” accrediting boards.

According to the DHHS ATSDR website:

“ACMT members include physicians certified through the American Board of Medical Toxicology [ABMT[186]] or the American Board of Medical Specialties [ABMS[187]]. Associates can also gain additional knowledge and experience through participation in a number of activities such as...the expansion of medical toxicology practice through public policy and fellowship opportunities. An ATSDR grant has enabled ACMT to establish the Program to Build Capacity to Conduct Environmental Medicine and Health Education Activities. The grant also assists ACMT in providing courses in environmental medicine and environmental toxicology, national education and consultations, Internet-based educational resources — including the Toolbox for Public Health Response — and peer reviews for ATSDR’s Case Studies in Environmental Medicine (CSEM)”

Choosing Wisely® is an accrediting campaign of which “nonprofit” ACMT is a participant. The campaign is run by the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) and with grants from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.[188] For a greater understanding of the battle over claims that the ABIM “nonprofit” is unethically generating income from useless and burdensome required physician certification and re-certification, please read the footnotes [189], [190] and [191].

The basic gist of what is being said in fn 189 to 191, seems to be that old tobacco scientists are running the game by use of “nonprofit” medical specialty accrediting boards. The directors are riding around in chauffeur driven limos and buying multi-million dollar condos with money obtain from physicians who are forced to take useless certification tests to keep their licenses in good standing. These fat-cat board members are determining what treatments physicians may give if they want to keep their licenses. They have set up ancillary foundations and lobby politicians. The “nonprofit” Consumer Reports [192] disseminates much of the Choosing Wisely® campaign information for “nonprofit” medical associations, such as ACMT.

At the very least this is another area of healthcare that deserves scrutinizing because of the implications for conflicts of interest adversely influencing the future of medicine and healthcare. As merely one example, ACMT continues to promote the Veritox Theory as appropriate physician education and ACMT is working with multiple other “nonprofit” associations under the premise that accurate advisories will be provided by ACMT to U.S. physicians and to the public via Choosing Wisely®.

Dangerously harmful to the environmentally injured, ACMT has chosen to share the following discriminatory and misleading advice to U.S. physicians and to the public through their Choosing Wisely® affiliate Consumer Reports.[193] [194]

“Don’t order tests to evaluate for or diagnose ‘idiopathic environmental intolerances,’ ‘electromagnet hypersensitivity’ or ‘mold toxicosis.’ These diagnoses reflect labels to indicate that patients have adverse non-allergic reactions to normal environmental stimuli. These diagnoses are made on the bases of self-reported symptoms or non-validated testing procedures. Although these conditions have been widely promoted, evidence-based assessments fail to support these diagnoses as disease entities. Labeling a patient with these diagnoses may adversely affect the patient’s lifestyle, obscure ascertainment of the etiology of their symptoms and promote unnecessary testing.”

This begs the questions:

1) **Choosing Wisely® for whom?**[9]

2) What motivates a toxicological medical trade organization (whose members often serve as toxic tort expert defense witnesses for those who cause environmental disability) to teach physicians that environmental intolerances (EI) should never be diagnosed as reactions to not-normal environmental stimuli?

3) What motivates a toxicological medical trade association (which has been promoting the scientific fraud for years that it is proven mold toxicosis does not occur from WDB exposures) to teach physicians that symptoms of mold-toxicity (and CIRS-WDB) are based only upon self-reported symptoms and invalid testing?

4) When hired and paid as toxic tort defense witnesses, would it be harder for ACMT members to state in court that “current accepted science” finds toxic exposures in WDB could not cause the disabilities of the parties claiming injury -- if U.S. physicians were trained to understand that, indeed WDB exposures can cause the symptoms being reported?

The answers seem self-evident that Choosing Wisely® is just another government backed mismanaged healthcare program where no one is watching the ship. Just one more public fleecing where fat-cat leaders of “nonprofit” medical associations profit by proliferating insurers’, pharmaceutical companies’ and other stakeholders’ interests over true healthcare, while discriminating against the environmentally disabled for profit.

Choosing Wisely® appears to be another chapter in U.S. healthcare that will end up in the Tobacco Legacy Library, housed at the University of San Francisco. The campaign appears to have a primary goal of insurers’ profiting by controlling physician practices if they want to keep their licenses – not assisting physicians to provide quality, affordable healthcare.

Under the Affordable Health Care Act insurers are provided tax-dollars to assure all citizens are able to receive necessary medical treatment. But the Act is neither affordable nor is it health care when the environmentally injured are deemed hysterical liars from federally funded “nonprofit” organizations led by old Tobacco Scientists and toxic tort defense expert witnesses for the insurance industry. [195] [196] For the WDB-injured and honorable physicians who try to treat their WDB-injured patients while being compensated by insurers and able to keep their licenses; then based on the advice that ACMT is Choosing Unwisely to share, elements of the Affordable Health Care Act appears to have been permitted to deteriorate to be just that - an Act (by bad actors).[197]

[186] ABMT history and origin <https://www.abem.org/public/subspecialty-certification/medical-toxicology/medical-toxicology-overview> <http://www.abtox.org/AboutABT.aspx>

[187] ABMS <http://www.abms.org/about-abms/>

[188] Choosing Wisely Campaign <http://www.choosingwisely.org/> & <http://www.choosingwisely.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/About-Choosing-Wisely.pdf>

[189] Blog of Westby G. Fisher, MD, FACC University of Chicago's Pritzker School of Medicine <http://drwes.blogspot.com/>

[190] *“Is it ‘medically professional’ for a non-profit organization to use physician testing fees to “choose wisely” \$2.3 million luxury condominium complete with a chauffeur-driven BMW 7-series town car? In my view obviously not. To most people such an action would conjure up images of hypocrisy, waste, and corruption.”*
<http://drwes.blogspot.com/2014/12/the-abim-foundation-choosing-wisely-and.html>

[191] 2015 Newsweek *“The Ugly Civil War in American Medicine”* <http://www.newsweek.com/2015/03/27/ugly-civil-war-american-medicine-312662.html>

[192] “nonprofit” Consumer Reports role in Choosing Wisely
<http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/health/doctors-and-hospitals/choosing-wisely/index.htm>

[193] ACMT choosing unwisely to give bad advice that could be quite profitable while serving as a toxic tort defense witness – if the mainstream physicians continue to buy the scientific fraud that is being sold to them:
<http://www.choosingwisely.org/clinician-lists/acmt-and-aact-tests-for-idiopathic-environmental-intolerances/>

[194] Regarding ACMT’s bad advice when choosing unwisely to mass-distribute it via Consumer Reports: *“How The List Was Created -The American College of Medical Toxicology’s (ACMT’s) Board of Directors established a Choosing Wisely® work group in 2013 to develop a list of items for the Choosing Wisely® campaign. Members of the work group were chosen to represent various practice settings within the field of medical toxicology, including ambulatory, acute and population-based practice. Work group members included the President of the College, the Chair of the Practice Committee, the Chair of the Positions and Guidelines committee and other academic leaders within the medical toxicology community. All work group members also represented the American Academy of Clinical Toxicology (AACT). The first list was released by the work group in 2013 and in 2014, the work group reconvened to develop a second list of items for the campaign. A second preliminary list was disseminated to all members of ACMT and AACT for review, commentary and potential additions. Additional feedback was solicited*

American College of Medical Toxicology, Choose Wisely To Sunset Your Mold Statement

from leaders within the field of medical toxicology. The work group reviewed all responses, and narrowed the list to the final five items based on a review of scientific evidence, relevance to the specialty and greatest opportunity to improve care, reduce cost and reduce harm to patients. The final list was approved by the ACMT Board of Directors and the AACT Board of Trustees.

[195] Bruce J. Kelman, DABT for Phillip Morris 1999

<https://industrydocuments.library.ucsf.edu/tobacco/docs/#id=zppl0191>

[196] Dr. Wes "ABIM and Big Tobacco – A love story" <http://drwes.blogspot.com/2015/09/the-abim-and-big-tobacco-love-story.html>

[197] Choosing Wisely gives grant to "Integrated Healthcare Association IHA" The "nonprofit" IHA appears to be comprised of several insurance companies – not physicians who practice integrated medicine.

<http://www.abimfoundation.org/News/ABIM-Foundation-News/2015/New-Grantees-To-Focus-On-Reducing-Overuse-Of-Tests-Identified-By-Choosing-Wisely.aspx> & http://www.iha.org/iha_membership.html