



BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

IPE Clinical Seminar

“Reducing Medical Errors and Improving Patient Safety”

Presented by Allan Korn, MD

Recommended Reading:

Libraries are filled with books with titles such as “St. Elsewhere Killed My Grandmother.” You won’t find any of those here. Each author is known to me either personally or by reputation. Each is available on Amazon, often new or used. If your library doesn’t have them, perhaps they could be requested.

1. **Josie’s Story, A Mother’s Inspiring Crusade.** Sorrel King, Grove Press. This early book truly inspired the safety movement when Sorrel told the story of her daughter, Josie, who died of thirst and dehydration while an inpatient at Johns Hopkins Hospital.
2. **Safe Patients, Smart Hospitals.** Peter Pronovost, Hudson Street Press. Peter is the Johns Hopkins physician (anesthesiologist) who picked up on the Josie Sorrel tragedy and turned it into a national movement.
3. **Medical Devices and the Public’s Health: The FDA 510K Clearance Process at 35 Years.** Institute of Medicine (IOM), National Academy of Science Press, 2011. Report’s conclusion: the process for bringing medical devices to market is irreparably broken and needs to be “blown up,” in the erudite opinion of the IOM. The FDA ignored it.
4. **To Err is Human.** IOM, National Academy of Science Press, 1999. This is the original IOM publication that called attention to the 100,000 American patients killed each year by medical errors. But in truth, the same data were reported three years earlier by Mark Chassin in a seminal article in the **Milbank Quarterly**. Mark is currently the CEO of the Joint Commission of the Accreditation of Health Care Organizations.
5. **Closing the Quality Chasm,** IOM, National Academy of Science Press, 2001. This lays out the original IOM recommendations of what could and should be done about the issues reported in the above. Unlike the FDA, America listened, but reacted ineffectively and far too slowly.

6. **An American Sickness: How Healthcare Became Big Business and How You Can Take it Back.** Elizabeth Rosenthal, Penguin Press. Anyone who has interacted with the healthcare enterprise will recognize themselves in this book. Don't read it at bedtime.
7. **The Truth about Drug Companies.** Marcia Angel MD, former Editor-in-Chief of the New England Journal of Medicine. Random House. This thought exposed how drug cost development is exploited by the pharmaceutical industry is a fascinating read.
8. **Rigor Mortis: How Sloppy Science Creates Worthless Cures, Crushed Hope and Wastes Billions.** Richard Harris, Basic Books. Now this title might suggest St. Elsewheres killing Grandmas, but it is far from that. This tells a long neglected story about a dysfunctional research infrastructure which is often motivated not by patient need, but individual greed. Something else to be avoided at bedtime.