

# Book Reviews

***Medicare for All, Really?!: Why a Single Payer Healthcare Plan Would Be Disastrous for America***, by Rich Yurkowitz, hardcover, 352 pp, \$27.99, ISBN-13: 9781645436782, Amplify Publishing, 2022.

This is an extraordinarily well-researched, well-documented book that could easily serve as a graduate-level dissertation. There are stylistic incongruities, as the conversational rhythm can slip from pleasant to simplistic in a way that might be distracting for some and pleasant to others. The graphics are elucidating, but on some occasions too small to read, or further interpretation within the context of the material would have been useful. Crucial points at times are lost in the minutiae of detailed, redundant tables, but other concepts are perfectly captured in an elegantly constructed image.

#### Spoiler alerts:

- Author Rich Yurkowitz, a health actuary, is not in favor of Medicare for all (M4A).
- By virtue of the title, those of us who will purchase this book would similarly lean against M4A and need little convincing of it. Yurkowitz interestingly juxtaposes hard cold data on both sides of the argument: both in support of his position against M4A and in favor of M4A. He provides comprehensive explanation to both sides, yielding valid opposing points when appropriate; thus, clearly providing the superior and winning debate.
- “A guy in the diner” is someone who has an opinion about everything, but is knowledgeable about little. Yurkowitz is not a “guy in the diner” about healthcare analysis. Indeed, he has spent 40 years analyzing proposed legislation and publishing articles as a recognized expert. Yurkowitz is well-equipped to arm the reader with vital tables and statistics.

#### Pearl Alerts:

- An excellent point of Yurkowitz’s book, and truly a function of his vision is this: Individuals favoring M4A use a statistic

that measures healthcare spending as a percentage of the gross domestic product (GDP). Yurkowitz submits we should rather view healthcare spending as a function of household disposable income (HDI). Yurkowitz explains: “GDP is what a country produces while [HDI] is the result of that production.” The HDI is essentially after-tax dollars for a household to spend (and furthermore, how a household may *choose* to spend those dollars).

When looking at GDP, the U.S. appears to be overspending on healthcare at 16 percent of GDP, while countries such as Sweden, France, Germany, and Great Britain cluster in the 8–11 percent range. Yurkowitz also notes that countries, e.g., the U.S. and Sweden, with dissimilar populations, diets, and population densities, are not exactly equivalent in terms of health needs.

In contrast, the U.S. HDI far exceeds that of every other country, meaning that we are far richer than our GDP alone would suggest. A graph developed by blogger Random Critical Analysis clearly demonstrates that U.S. healthcare spending as a function of HDI falls within the appropriate range (i.e., NOT excessive) in this comparison. Additionally, as other countries increase their HDI, their healthcare spending would also be expected to increase and to be more accurately reflected using this metric.

- The author explains why healthcare costs are high. You can have two out of three characteristics in business: cheap, fast, or accurate. If healthcare is fast and accurate, we must live with expensive. Quality (accuracy) is not an option we are willing to forfeit. Single-payer countries sacrifice speed, and have endless waits, for example, in cancer screening, and with dire consequence. Do we want to use this method of decreasing cost, at the possible risk of one’s life? The author submits the answer is and should be, no.

- Enrollment in a medical insurance plan increased from 313 million in 2013 to 323 million in 2017. The uninsured were a main target of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). The number of uninsured moved from 42 million in 2013 to 29 million in 2017. “Obamacare created upheaval to provide for 13 million participants,” writes Yurkowitz. Yet, there are still 29 million uninsured! Yurkowitz also demolishes the preexisting-condition pretext.

- The book highlights “Sixteen Dumb Ideas.” You just need to read them. They are worth the price of the book.

Though this book was published in 2022, the research was created in a pre-COVID world, where the author reasonably believes that consumer supply and demand reign supreme. This construct is no longer completely operational, and it’s overwhelming to comprehend that this is partially anachronistic.

This is an ambitious book, and Yurkowitz is clearly informed and at times innovative. I have read authors who can bring numbers to life and incorporate their conversational style into the narrative. I did not find this worked for Yurkowitz on all occasions. Numbers are his strong suit.

There are many more pearls than I have listed. While they are worth the effort, one may have to dig through a lot of text to find them. Additional editing would go a long way to making this informational book more accessible to all.

**Renée S. Kohanski, M.D.**  
Somerset, N.J.

***Lies My Gov’t Told Me: and the Better Future Coming***, by Robert W. Malone, M.D., hardcover, 480 pp, \$20.49, ISBN: 978-1510773240, Skyhorse Publishing, 2022.

Dr. Robert Malone writes from the standpoint of a clinician treating a patient. In this case the patient is all of us and where we find ourselves after three years

of the COVID-19 crisis.

Part 1 is the history of the patient and the physical examination, conducted and presented in essays written by specialists from different disciplines. Dr. Malone starts with his own journey to becoming red-pilled and then positions the other seven essays as adeptly as an orchestra building to a crescendo.

Gavin de Becker points out how all governments in the history of the world have used fear to control their citizens. This virus was portrayed as an existential threat to all even though the greatest risk was to the elderly and health-compromised people.

Dr. Paul Marik opines on sham peer review, which was used extensively during the pandemic to silence those who insisted on science and who would not go along with the “approved narrative” based on politics.

Other authors weigh in on medical freedom and “Mass Formation,” which has been proposed to explain how otherwise intelligent people accept and promote propaganda fully in opposition to what they were taught from Biology 101 forward.

The final essay of part 1 is written by Ed Dowd, who is described as an expert data analyst and hedge-fund guru, who formerly worked at BlackRock. He calls himself a “stock-picking ‘conspiracy theorist.’” Along with a small team he wrote the “Malone Doctrine,” which is the result of reading everything Dr. Malone has written. He provides evidence (data, charts, etc.) of the vaccines causing an increase in all-cause mortality, which cannot otherwise be explained.

Among several subtitles in his essay, this one sums it all up pretty well: “The Most Recent Cycle: Central Bank and Political Fraud with COVID as the Cover-up.” The government can only play the shell game for so long using its myriad fraudulent manipulations of data or outright hiding of data. Sooner or later, non-government entities would begin to shout from the mountaintops about the real data impacting their businesses, namely life insurance agencies and undertakers (funeral homes). In the end, he is convinced that COVID was the plan (by the government and global elites) all along. Dowd paints a very bleak picture of life ahead as all trust has been lost in the experts and government. The subtitle of the book, “And the Better Future Coming”

urges readers not to lose hope.

At the beginning of part 2, “Diagnosis—Lies and the Damage Done,” Malone enumerates the lies told and the people behind them. It finishes with measures needed to restore trust in science. He delves into many facets of the problem, including natural immunity, competing philosophies, informed consent, and the influence of Joseph Goebbels, to name a few. He discusses how two philosophies from centuries past, combined with hubris, lead our public health officials to use models (wildly wrong ones) as their basis for our COVID-19 crisis response. In the socialist tradition, it was all in the spirit of the “greatest good for the greatest number.”

The models led federal and state governments to apply unrelenting pressure to achieve compliance, naturally resulting in distrust. Another gem of illumination, in “Hitler’s Best Principles,” is: “Eerily, the U.S. and many other Western ‘democracies’ have learned to apply Joseph Goebbels’ work quite well.” History repeats itself.

Dr. Malone follows the path travelled by Ed Dowd and speculates that the virus was used as an opportunity to not only transfer wealth but to seize power. Follow the money. The power acceded to and wielded by the global elites was used, among other things, to obliterate informed consent. Not since Nazi Germany has it been deemed “acceptable” by those in charge to bypass informed consent before administering medication/treatment. The vaccines are clearly, as he points out, doing more harm than good.

The final section of part 2 concerns “Inverted Totalitarianism.” He applies this to our current government, which is being run by a group of managers and elites. It also goes by other more familiar names such as the “deep state” and the “administrative state.” So, our upside-down “democracy” now bows to the corporate interests that endorse authoritarian policies.

It’s scary to learn that our own government used well-oiled psy-op campaigns, formerly thought to be relegated for use only on foreign government and enemies, on our own citizens. The Noble Lie was easily applied by Dr. Anthony Fauci and others to dupe people into thinking the rules were implemented for the greater good, as to “protect Granny.” Dr. Fauci, convinced of his own brilliance, facilitated the gain-of-

function research that apparently resulted in the unleashing of a deadly virus upon the world.

Part 3 of the book is the treatment plan for the patient. Where do we go from here? How do we put our country back together? Although all of the remedies should be considered, two of the most powerful ones he proposes are to get the Trump Administration’s Schedule F Executive Order in place and to aggressively employ states’ rights to protect us against our federal government.

Schedule F was meant to protect the civil service from political corruption when thousands of its members have roles deemed to have some influence over policy. President Trump issued this order to apply to the non-elected bureaucrats in the Senior Executive Service. It gave whoever was in power the authority to fire at will those employees designated under Schedule F. It would have gone into effect soon after Trump’s 2020 inauguration that did not happen.

Dr. Malone writes, “Fully 88% of employees would have been newly classified as Schedule F, thus allowing the president to terminate their employment.” President Joe Biden, of course, immediately reversed the order. Getting something like Schedule F in place will require new leadership in D.C., including Congress and the White House.

Our Founding Fathers in their eminent wisdom created a Constitution that gave states most of the ultimate power and duty to work in the best interest of their citizens under the Tenth Amendment, which says that powers not specifically delegated to the federal government are reserved to the states, or to the people.

As former Democratic Speaker of the House, Tip O’Neill, Jr., once said: “All politics is local.” Locally is where we must now be focused in order to take back our rights and freedoms, to get this country back on track.

It is up to each of us to become involved working toward the treatment plan Dr. Malone has prescribed. Of course, more treatments will be added to this plan by others united in this cause. Dr. Malone, with his plan predicting a favorable outcome, does indeed restore hope and calm in being able to see a better future.

**Sheryl Huntoon, D.D.S.**  
Tampa, Fla.