

EXPERT QUOTES & REFERENCES

FROM 'A PRESCRIPTION FOR ALCOHOLICS'

*"It is highly disturbing that this drug is not made available to the patients that need it."*¹

–Report in Pharmacology & Therapeutics, 2006

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*"There is an enormous gap between the number of alcohol use disorder patients [alcoholics] who would potentially benefit from medications and the number of patients who actually receive medications ... a recent study ... showed that nationally, only 3% of Veterans Health Administration patients with alcohol use disorder received treatment medications."*²

–Report in American Journal of Psychiatry, 2014

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*"There is no other comparable example in medicine where you have evidence-based treatments that are not available."*³

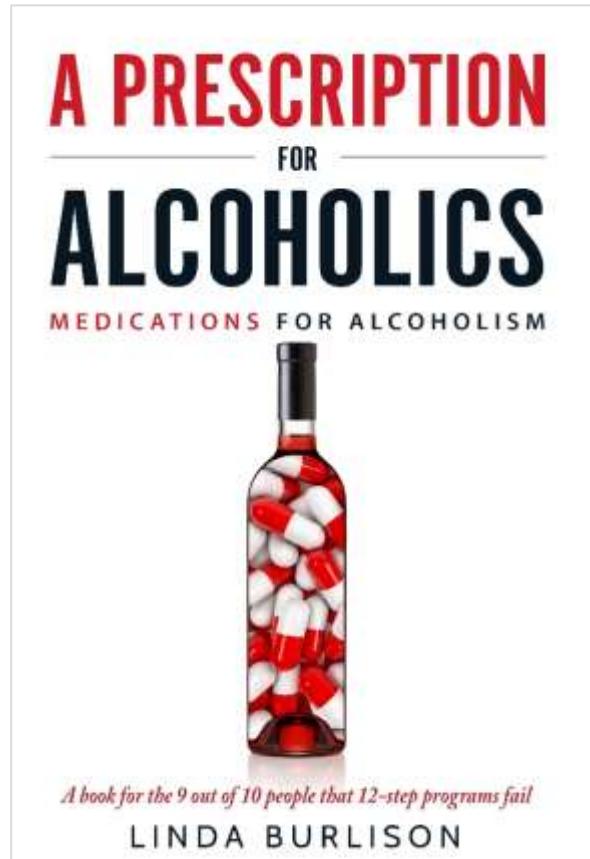
–Dr. Shelly Greenfield, MD, Chief Academic Officer, McLean Hospital; Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School, 2012

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*"People with addictive disorders continue to be offered, with great certitude and frequently at great cost, 'treatments' that are unsubstantiated by data or already known to be without beneficial effects... Meanwhile, advances that may be modest but have solid scientific support are arrogantly rejected by treatment providers in ways that would cause an uproar in other areas of medicine."*⁴

–Dr. Markus Heilig, M.D., Ph.D., Former Chief of the Laboratory of Clinical Studies, and a Clinical Director at the US Institute of Alcohol Abuse, 2015

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"No experimental studies unequivocally demonstrated the effectiveness of AA or [12-step] approaches for reducing alcohol dependence... People considering attending AA or TSF [Twelve Step] programs should be made aware that there is a lack of experimental evidence on the effectiveness of such programs."⁵

–2006 Cochrane Review (Cochrane is one of the most credible and trusted scientific/medical review organizations in the world)

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"I'm not trying to eliminate AA...I'm just saying it should be prescribed to that tiny group who can make use of it... It's terribly harmful when you send 90 percent of the people for the wrong treatment advice."⁶

–Toronto Star article quoting Dr. Lance Dodes, Retired Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School, 2014

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"Medication-assisted treatment has shown much promise in reducing alcohol use and promoting abstinence in patients diagnosed with alcohol use disorder. Considerable research evidence and consensus among experts support the use of pharmacologic treatments..."

A number of FDA-approved medications have been shown to be important elements of such treatment.

Although some patients do not benefit from medication-assisted treatment, most do. For each patient deemed an appropriate candidate for medication-assisted treatment, multiple pharmacologic agents offer a variety of options so that treatment can be tailored to each patient's needs and circumstances."⁷

–Free Guide from the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, US Department of Health & Human Services, 2013

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SOURCES

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