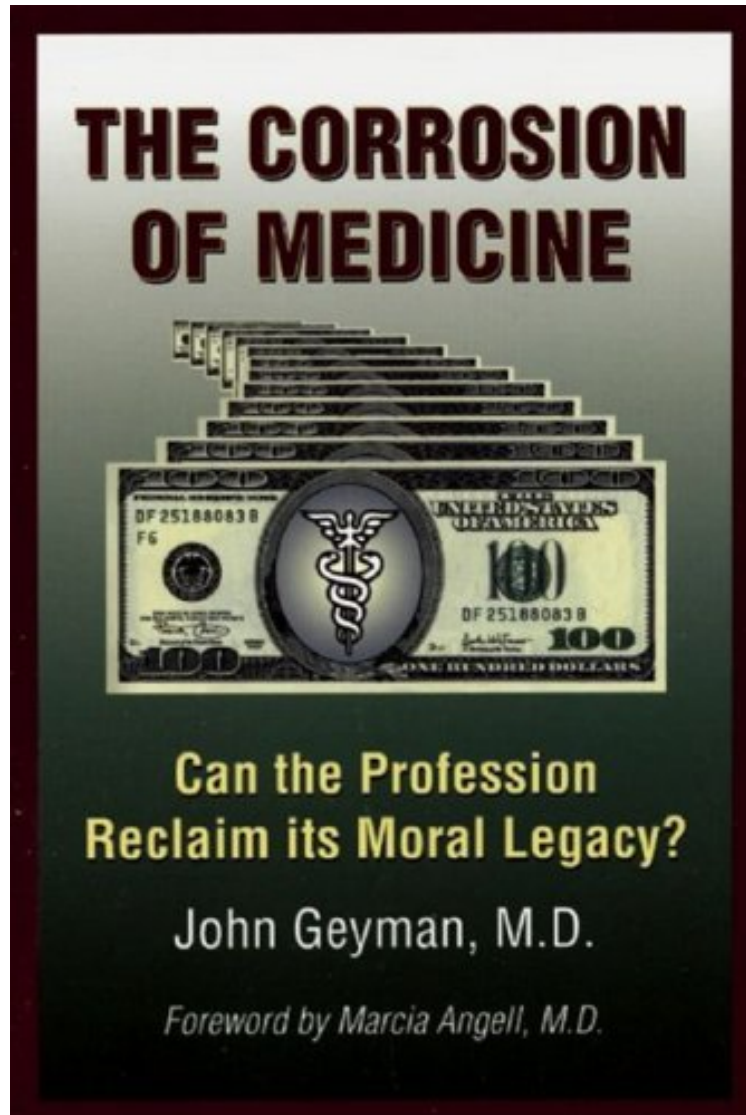


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# The Corrosion of Medicine: Can the Profession Reclaim Its Moral Legacy?

John Geyman

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**John Geyman : The Corrosion of Medicine: Can the Profession Reclaim Its Moral Legacy?** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Corrosion of Medicine: Can the Profession Reclaim Its Moral Legacy?:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Medicine is a service, not a business By John A. Leraas My father was a dentist in the 1950's. He never put more than a single line in non-bold type in the telephone book to list his

business. "Advertisers don't get referrals from other dentists." In undergraduate school I learned of a curse against persons who discover important medical breakthroughs (medications, treatments, devices, phenomena) and use them for their own profit and fame keeping the discoveries secret from others. These persons are cursed to a bad end and generally die miserably, we were told. During my medical school days I worked for a physician. I asked him why he never charged a physician. He responded, "Do you want to go to hell". These parts of my education now seem to many to whom I relate them to be quaint, silly and nearly unbelievable. Surely people, physicians, did not believe such things or act in such ways. Doctor Geyman shows the erosion of this legacy and how it happened. He makes important suggestions for bringing back an ethos of medicine not related to money; of restoring medicine to a profession of service; of breaking the industrial medical complex and restoring medicine as a humanistic calling. Thank you, doctor. Thank you very much. John A. Leraas, M.D. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By John Doe Good shape as advertised 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A doctor's view of corruption in the US medical industry By Margi Metz It is a very personal book about this doctor's experiences with his patients and the non-system of medical care in the US. Other books deal more thoroughly with policy issues and solutions, but this one is very effective and revealing.

The medical profession and healthcare in the United States are in trouble. Healthcare is unaffordable for a growing part of the population, 46 million Americans are uninsured, tens of millions are underinsured, quality of care is unpredictable, and these problems are getting worse, not better. All incremental attempts at reform have been ineffective, and the nation is confronting a crisis in healthcare costs, access, quality, and equity. John Geyman, MD, a renowned expert in primary care and health policy, traces over the last forty years the sea change in US healthcare, which has engulfed the profession in a marketplace now controlled by corporate and business interests. The profession's long history of service-based ethics and its social contract have been called into question as the business "ethic" of bottom-line profits has spread throughout the system. The deregulated healthcare marketplace, now one-sixth of the nation's economy, has had damaging impacts on health of the public as well as the profession itself. In Part I of the book, Geyman shows how medicine arose as a moral enterprise. Part II details the invasion of the business ethic, and in Part III, Geyman dissects the conflicts of interest medicine has with business, showing how patients get sold short. In the final section, Geyman shows that major reform is inevitable, and provides a roadmap for how professionals and laypeople together must renew medicine's social contract and reclaim its moral legacy. John Geyman, MD, the author of *Falling Through the Safety Net: Americans Without Health Insurance*, is a family physician. He is most recently the author of *Shredding the Social Contract: The Privatization of Medicare*. He lives outside of Seattle, Washington.

About the Author John Geyman is Professor Emeritus of Family Medicine at the University of Washington School of Medicine in Seattle, WA. He has spent 25 years in academic family medicine.