

[Read download] The Crisis in Clinical Research: Overcoming Institutional Obstacles

The Crisis in Clinical Research: Overcoming Institutional Obstacles

Edward H. Ahrens

*audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC*



#2199416 in Books 1992-03-12Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.56 x .86 x 6.38l, #File Name: 0195051564248 pages | File size: 33.Mb

Edward H. Ahrens : The Crisis in Clinical Research: Overcoming Institutional Obstacles before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Crisis in Clinical Research: Overcoming Institutional Obstacles:

The current crisis in clinical research cannot be fully appreciated unless the underlying economic, sociological and motivational problems in American medicine are fully understood. Accordingly, this important book describes the evolution of biomedical research in relation to changes in institutional perceptions of the importance of each of the three roles that U.S. medical schools play--teaching, research and service to patients. Ahrens meticulously analyzes seven very different kinds of research activity that are included under the term "clinical research." He describes the profound shift in emphasis from patient-oriented research to research at the cellular and molecular level. This shift has created an imbalance between two contrasting research approaches to the problems of human disease--reductionism and integrative research. In searching out the reasons for this change, Ahrens carefully examines institutional supports for clinical research--the medical school environment in which the research is carried out and the main funding source, the National Institutes of Health. This timely work identifies the fundamental differences between reductionism and integrative research and provides clear evidence that if both modes are to prosper in the future, as they must, then patient-oriented research must receive far stronger support from U.S. medical schools and the N.I.H. Ahrens

masterfully argues that changes must be made in the special training of clinical investigators and in their funding requirements, and that new working partnerships between clinically skilled M.D.s and technically trained Ph.D.s are urgently needed in order to restore patient-oriented research to full productivity and to accomplish a re-balancing that most effectively assures quality research in the future.

"Ahrens' conclusion that there is a crisis in clinical research is inescapable. He has done the entire research community a favor with his acute analysis. Every clinical investigator and medical educator should be required to read this splendid book." --Nature "I particularly liked the author's candid opinions and suggestions for overcoming the problems related to clinical research. I believe the material will be of interest to those conducting clinical research. The book is easy to read, well organized, and up to date. This book deserves a place on the shelves of health science libraries and academic departments conducting clinical research." --The Annals of Pharmacotherapy "Professor Ahrens has written *The Crisis in Clinical Research* for every clinical scientist struggling against the new scientific consumer. With the skill of a clinical scientist, Professor Ahrens correctly isolates the forces that have made becoming a clinical scientist a frustrating, tedious, and often emotionally painful experience. The one-source availability of data about MDs in clinical research makes this book a must for every medical library. *The Crisis in Clinical Research* is on the must-read list for anyone concerned about the future of what remains one of the United States' great strongholds - biomedical research." --Journal of the American Medical Association "At a time when fundamental questions are being posed about the costs and directions of health-related research, a book addressing the crisis in clinical research is both timely and instructive. The author - whose own research contributions include important insights into the relationships of lipids, especially cholesterol, to disease - is eminently well qualified to write on this subject. It is perhaps the best analysis in print of the problems with clinical research, and as such deserves to be read by everyone interested in research." --Academic Medicine "This field is one where hard opinions are rarely accompanied by hard facts. Ahrens has done his own painstaking analysis of grant awards, training fellowships, and scientific output, and he has conducted his own comprehensive interviews. To my mind, his views make an irrefutable case." --The Lancet "A valuable book. In a thorough and meticulous study . . . the author documents a progressive bureaucratization of the institutions. Ahren's book reflects a serious and determined effort to understand and deal with important deficiencies in medical education and in the cultivation and support of clinical investigators. His analysis is perceptive, frank, and persuasive. Ahren's book performs a valuable function as a reference source, as an expression of his philosophy of medical science, and as an incisive critique of what American medical research has become during the past half century. It should be read by everyone concerned with medical education and research." --Integrative Physiological and Behavioral Science "Ahrens paints a revealing picture of the numerous factors that have contributed to the imbalance, such as medical school size, the growing dependence on patient-service income, and the inequities of current reward systems. He is perhaps at his best in prescribing steps to be taken to generate stronger support for patient-oriented research by U.S. medical schools and by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Rich in detail, though brief in compass, this is a superb exposition." --The Pharos "In his timely and thoughtful examination of the structure and conduct of clinical research in the United States, Ahrens clearly defines the many predicaments in clinical research and offers a range of recommendations to enhance the recruitment, training, and performance of young clinical investigators. In so doing, he presents a brief history of biomedical research in American medical schools and provides a lucid description of how the National Institutes of Health (NIH) reviews and processes grant applications. Ahrens makes a compelling case for restructuring medical schools by emphasizing the importance of clinical research and freeing the schools from competing in the health care - delivery marketplace. Ahrens' book represents an important contribution to this educational effort." --New England Journal of Medicine "Ahren's book is well worth reading by physicians, politicians, and administrators who have the responsibility for development within health care. It can also be interesting for those younger people who are interested in careers in clinical research." --Lakartidningen (Swedish Medical Journal) "Ahrens has systematically categorized and evaluated the research productivity of the American research establishment in the years 1977, 1982, and 1987 by a laborious review and comparison of the publications of a large cross-section of medical faculty members with those of researchers at the NIH Clinical Center. His analysis is heightened by a thorough description of the structure of the NIH and its extramural grant system. Ahren's valuable investigations document the growing schism." --Journal of the History of Medicine About the Author Edward H. Ahrens is at Rockefeller University.