

MEDICAL NEWS ROUNDTABLE

No slides were used in roundtable discussion. Here are notes from the moderator, Gary Schwitzer

I did post one piece about the roundtable:

<http://www.healthnewsreview.org/2013/03/a-journal-editor-calls-for-quarantine-of-groundbreaking-studies-about-new-treatments/>

It, in turn, linked to Elizabeth Loder's blog post:

<http://blogs.bmj.com/bmj/2013/03/06/elizabeth-loder-how-medical-journals-can-help-stop-disease-mongering/>

The Safe Patient Project blog of Consumer's Union included a brief summary at: <http://safepatientproject.org/posts/4349-were-live-blogging-at-selling-sickness>.

It read:

Roundtable on Medical News highlights issues that reporters and medical journals face in getting information out about the real story on treatment issues, drugs and medical devices. The panel included Dr Elizabeth Loder with the British Medical Journal, who talked about the challenges in delivering accurate messages about health research. Loder said that every treatment/drug should come with a warning label that follows it throughout its life – new medical research should carry a warning: this has not been verified and has not been replicated. Often the “replications” have a harder time getting published than original research and much published research is eventually completely debunked. Nancy Shute, an independent NPR reporter, said studies should be categorized with labels like “not interesting but true” or “not sexy but important.” By the way, the moderator, Gary Schwitzer, is the creator of the fantastic Health News Review blog <http://www.healthnewsreview.org/blog/> that evaluates health care journalism, advertising, marketing, public relations and other messages that may influence consumers and provides criteria that consumers can use to evaluate these messages themselves – be sure to check it out.