

Visions & Voices: The Medical Humanities, Arts and Ethics Series: Too Much Medicine?

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Too Much Medicine? A lecture by Shannon Brownlee

Too Much Medicine? How Overtreatment, Unnecessary Care and Economic Incentives Imperil the U.S. Healthcare System A Lecture by Shannon Brownlee

Thursday, September 27th, 4 pm, Mayer Auditorium (inside the Keith Administration Building), Health Sciences Campus. Use the [interactive USC map](#) to find KAM.



[Shannon Brownlee](#) is the acting director of the [New America Foundation Health Policy Program](#), in Washington, D.C., and is an instructor at the Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice at Dartmouth Medical School. A nationally known writer and essayist, her work has appeared in numerous publications, including *The Atlantic*, *BMJ*, the *New York Times Sunday Magazine*, *The New Republic*, *Slate*, *TIME*, *Washington Monthly* and the *Washington Post*.

Her book, *Overtreated: Why Too Much Medicine Is Making Us Sicker and Poorer*, exposes wasteful flaws in our healthcare system and was named the best economics book of the year by *New York Times* economics correspondent David Leonhardt. "Patients, physicians and policy makers would do well to consider her evidence as an important prescription for reform," says Jerome Groopman, MD. Brownlee is a Woodrow Wilson visiting scholar at the National Institutes of Health, Department of Bioethics. She is a recipient of the National Association of Science Writers' Science in Society Award and the Association of Health Care Journalists' Award for Excellence.

[Learn more about this event.](#)

Organized by [Pamela Schaff](#) (*Pediatrics and Keck Educational Affairs*), [Erin Quinn](#) (*Family Medicine*) and [Lyn M. Boyd-Judson](#) (*Levan Institute for Humanities and Ethics*). Co-sponsored by the *Keck School of Medicine's Program in Medical Humanities, Arts and Ethics*; the *USC Pacific Center for Health Policy and Ethics*; and the *USC Levan Institute for Humanities and Ethics*.

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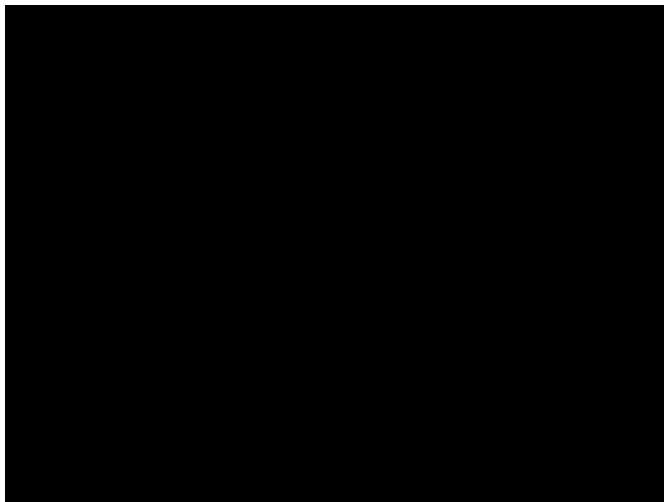
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Who Should be Responsible for the Health of Americans?



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Podcasts featuring Shannon Brownlee

- [Avoiding Unnecessary Medical Treatment](#)
Podcast of an address to the Commonwealth Club of California, 9/30/11.
- [Shannon Brownlee: Is Too Much Medicine Making Us Sick?](#)
Podcast of Shannon Brownlee's speech to the Zócalo Foundation on July 6, 2011.
- [Shannon Brownlee One Radio Network Interview](#)
Shannon Brownlee was interviewed about her book "Overtreated" on June 15, 2011.

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Short videos

- [Pros and Cons of Early Cancer Screening](#)
Shannon Brownlee discusses prostate cancer screening.
- [Clip from Escape Fire: The Fight to Rescue America's Health Care System](#)
This excerpt from the documentary film features Dr. Don Berwick and Shannon Brownlee.
- [The Quiet Revolution in Healthcare](#)
Excerpt from a speech given July 6, 2011, sponsored by the Zócalo Public Square.

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Long videos

- [Avoiding Unnecessary Medical Treatment.](#)
1 hour. Shannon Brownlee addresses the Commonwealth Club of California (9/30/2011).
- [Improving Patient Decision-Making in Health Care](#)
1 hour 43 minutes. Shannon Brownlee presents the Dartmouth Atlas Project report "Improving Patient Decision-Making in Health Care: A 2011 Dartmouth Atlas Report Highlighting Minnesota."

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This Guide

Scholarly articles by Shannon Brownlee

Click to search PubMed for scholarly articles and editorials in scholarly journals authored and co-authored by Ms. Brownlee, or use the links below to access selected articles. (Note: the links below go to USC's subscriptions and are available to USC affiliates once they sign in with their USC NetID. Non-USC-affiliates should consult their organizational or local public library to obtain access.)

- [Patient preference for emergency care: can and should it be changed?](#)
June 2012
- [Toward a 21st-century health care system: recommendations for health care reform.](#)
April 2009
- [Doing better for less: the case for organized group practices.](#)
October 2008

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Popular press articles by Shannon Brownlee

View a list of recent popular press publications written by or interviewing Shannon Brownlee, or use the links below to access articles written by Ms. Brownlee and specifically discussing healthcare, economics, and overtreatment. The articles below are available freely to anyone online.

- [12 Ways Health Care Could Be Improved If the House Wanted to Hold More Than Symbolic Votes](#)
The Atlantic, July 2012
- [Why The 'Best' Hospitals Might Also Be the Most Dangerous](#)
Time Magazine, July 2012
- [Letting Big Pharma Review Its Own Drugs: What Could Go Wrong?](#)
The Atlantic, July 2012
- [Why Americans Need Bloomberg's Big Gulp Ban](#)
Time Magazine, July 2012
- [Why Doctors Uselessly Prescribe Antibiotics for a Common Cold](#)
Time Magazine, April 2012
- [Can Cancer Ever be Ignored?](#)
New York Times Sunday Magazine, October 2011

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Books by Shannon Brownlee

- [Overtreated : why too much medicine is making us sicker and poorer](#)
Available in print, Science and Engineering Library, RA395.A3 B785 2008
Click the link above to check current availability.
- [The real state of the Union : from the best minds in America, bold solutions to the problems politicians dare not address](#)
Shannon Brownlee contributes a chapter to this book devoted to health care. Use the link above to determine availability.
Available in print, VKC Library, HN59.2.R433 2004
- [Worried sick : a prescription for health in an overtreated America](#)
Shannon Brownlee contributed a foreword for this new edition. Use the link to determine availability.
Available in print, Science and Engineering Library, RA395.A3 H332 2012

Websites

There are many groups working to reform healthcare by using lessons from economics in the United States and across the world. The links below provide access to a sample of these groups.

- [Choosing Wisely](#)
The ABIM Foundation has partnered with medical specialty associations to "identify five tests or procedures commonly used in their field, whose necessity should be questioned and discussed." This site provides access to the lists developed by each association.
- [Healthcare.gov](#)
This US government website uses plain language to explain current laws and regulations relating to health insurance and health care in the United States.
- [Alliance for Health Reform](#)
A "nonpartisan, nonprofit group, the Alliance does not lobby or take positions on legislation," but it does provide a wealth of information on laws and issues relating to health care reform in the United States.
- [New England Journal of Medicine-Health Policy and Reform Articles](#)
This reputable scholarly journal created a special site in August 2012 highlighting articles on health policy and health care system reform.
- [WHO-CHOICE](#)
CHOosing Interventions that are Cost Effective is a project of the World Health Organization that gathers data on cost-effectiveness of medical interventions.

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- [Excerpts from Overtreated](#)

This site promotes and provides excerpts from Shannon Brownlee's book "Overtreated."

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