Cross-Border Pharmacy: The Safety Myth

David MacKay
Executive Director
Canadian International Pharmacy Association
The Safety Smoke-Screen

- FDA and Big Pharma scare tactic
- Licensed, highly regulated pharmacies in Canada
- Provincially & Federally inspected
- CIPA Certified – about 35 pharmacies
- HPFB approved product from our shelves, DIN#
- NOT rogue “internet” suppliers
- Original manufacturer’s packaging
- Willing to accept FDA or NABP inspections
Rogue Unlicensed Vendors

- "Internet pharmacies", dubious location
- Hiding behind Canadian Flag, SPAM, Pop-up Ads
- No prescription required, no patient history
- Unlicensed, unregulated, substandard packaging
- Counterfeit introduction, tainted or diluted meds
- Most reside in the United States NOT Canada
- Portrayed by FDA as the norm – "buyer beware"
- Common sense steps prevent victimization
- Closed system of pharmacies protects patients
Congressional GAO Study - June 17th

- Websites in United States, Canada, Argentina, Costa Rica, Fiji, India, Mexico, Pakistan, Phillipines, Spain, Thailand, Turkey
- 68 samples of 11 drugs
- **All 18 Canadian sites required a Rx, vs. 5 of 29 U.S. sites and none of the foreign sites**
- Chemical composition of Canadian drugs matched manufacturers
- Canadian drugs unapproved due to non FDA labeling
- Canadian drugs handled properly
- Canadian pharmacies reliable in their business practices
TIME Investigation reveals:

- "The FDA's actions against Canadian imports have been part of a concerted campaign to simultaneously discredit its counterpart agency in Canada,
- Provoke fear among American consumers who buy their drugs there,
- Blunt an exploding political movement among local and state governments to begin wholesale drug buys in Canada and
- Ultimately preserve the inflated prices charged U.S. consumers and taxpayers."
Pharmaceutical Drug R&D

1. NIH provides several molecules – taxpayer money
2. Tweak existing molecules vs. building them
   “Me too” drugs  Eg. Prilosec>>>Nexium: new patent life
3. Aim for busy, profitable market segments
4. Shop promising Biotech Phase III drugs
5. Mergers & acquisitions:
   – Pfizer = Pharmacia + Searle + Upjohn + Parke Davis
   – Glaxo = Smith Kline Beecham + Burroughs Wellcome
   – Astra + Zeneca,
   – Novartis = CIBA + Sandoz
   – Aventis = Rhone-Poulenc + Hoescht
   – J&J = Janssen + Ortho + McNeil
FDA Propaganda

- Seizure blitzes are deceptive & misleading
- Generalized findings, unapproved ≠ unsafe
- Lacking disclosure & scientific method
- Tar the lot with one brush – “buyer beware”
- No chemical testing
- State “Looks Can Be Deceiving” campaigns = scare tactics, deliberate misinformation
- Denies opportunity to co-operate with CIPA
Protective Steps for U.S. Patients

- Locate Provincial license # on website
- Confirm with Provincial regulatory authority
- Bricks & mortar address in Canada
- Toll free phone # - speak to a pharmacist
- Prescription required
- Patient medical history required, allergies
- [www.ciparx.ca](http://www.ciparx.ca) – “Our CIPA Pharmacies”
- Avoid SPAM or Pop-up Ads