

"A Roadmap for Curing Cancer, Alzheimer's and Cardiovascular Disease"

By Paul J. Marangos, 2017, 160 pages, Elsevier, \$49.95

Review by Norman M. Goldfarb

"A Roadmap for Curing Cancer, Alzheimer's and Cardiovascular Disease" explains why our current approach to curing the major terminal diseases is not working and proposes ways to reform the process.

The author starts by asking a simple question: Given the hundreds of billions of dollars spent on medical research over the past 50 years, where are the cures for the terminal diseases that kill most people?

To greatly oversimplify, the book makes the following proposals:

- Focus the NIH on curing terminal diseases in the three most important areas: cancer, cardiovascular diseases, and degenerative neurological disease.
- Make the government and academic research enterprise accountable for achieving relevant milestones for curing these terminal diseases, rather than pursuing a disorganized and grossly inefficient process of academic inquiry into questions of basic science.
- Apply much of the government and academic research effort to an organized program of high-quality, reproducible applied science.
- Streamline the regulatory path to market for treatments that treat terminal diseases, e.g., reducing the number of required trials, loosening the proof of efficacy from $p < .05$ to $p < .10$, and shortening FDA review cycles.
- Enhance the financial incentives for developing treatments that cure terminal diseases by, for example, extending patent protection, as is currently available for drugs that treat orphan diseases.
- Reform tort law to reduce the litigation costs and risks for manufacturers of drugs that treat terminal diseases.

The book includes 11 chapters:

- The Medical R&D Fiasco
- Academia is Marching to the Wrong Drummer
- Mavericks Versus the Establishment
- The Strangled, Unincentivized Drug Industry
- The FDA Roadblock to Cures
- The Liability Barrier
- Cleaning Up the Academic Research Quagmire
- Reforming the FDA
- Enabling the Drug Industry
- Patent and Liability Reform
- The Public Will Make It Happen

Reviewer

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