Ghost-Managed Medicine
Sismondo, Sergio

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I have been doing research on and writing about the pharmaceutical industry for so long that my acknowledgments here can’t be even nearly complete. I started this research after hearing an excellent constellation of presentations by Jennifer Fishman, Jeremy Greene, David Healy and Andy Lakoff. They then introduced me to the area and some of the many other people working in it. I especially appreciated my conversations with Jeremy then and later – everybody working in this area can learn from him. Many of my other intellectual debts are in the footnotes, but I particularly want to acknowledge conversations and exchanges with Jill Fisher, Marc-André Gagnon, David Healy, C-F Helgesson, Sammi King, Joel Lexchin, Phil Mirowski, Maggie Mort, Marc Rodwin and Jamie Swift.

Upon entering the world of pharma, I was lucky to become part of a lively private listserv discussion of the pharmaceutical industry’s practices. That discussion has informed my work in many intangible ways, and has given me a wealth of pharmaceutical knowledge that I’ve been able to use to support my research.

I was also lucky to be coming from the field of Science and Technology Studies. My background encouraged me to not naturalize existing or ideological boundaries of medicine, and led me to try to understand the processes and structures through which the pharmaceutical industry was acting. Altogether, this background led me to look for – and then find – things that many people coming from medicine, bioethics and other fields studying pharma often ignore.

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