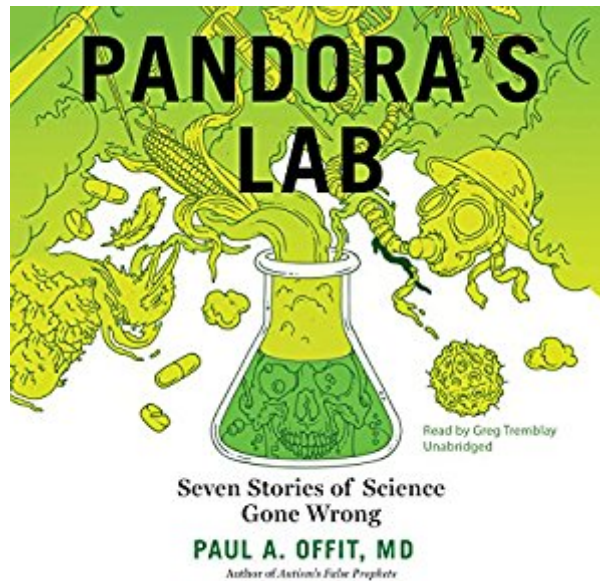




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# Pandora's Lab: Seven Stories Of Science Gone Wrong



## Synopsis

What happens when ideas presented as science lead us in the wrong direction? History is filled with brilliant ideas that gave rise to disaster, and this book explores the most fascinating - and significant - missteps. Pandora's Lab takes us from opium's heyday as the pain reliever of choice to recognition of opioids as a major cause of death in the United States; from the rise of trans fats as the golden ingredient for tastier, cheaper food to the heart disease epidemic that followed; and from the cries to ban DDT for the sake of the environment to an epidemic-level rise in world malaria. These are today's sins of science - as deplorable as mistaken ideas from the past such as advocating racial purity or using lobotomies as a cure for mental illness. These unwitting errors add up to seven lessons both cautionary and profound, explained by renowned author and speaker Paul A. Offit. Offit uses these lessons to investigate how we can separate good science from bad, using as case studies some of today's most controversial creations: e-cigarettes, GMOs, and drug treatments for ADHD. For every "Aha!" moment that should have been an "Oh no", this book is an engrossing account of how science has been misused disastrously - and how we can learn to use its power for good.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I really enjoyed this book. He talks about several well-accepted scientific facts that were later disproven. We all trust scientists, but they have been really, really wrong in these instances. Prescribing heroin as a pain-killer, telling the public that margarine is healthy, etc. This is a

fascinating book, a book I could not put down.

The author is a bit too negative. I realize that the topic is what went wrong, but nothing is all bad any more than all good. He has some great points and I recommend it.

Well written, thoughtfully researched and intended to be understood by those of us who are not scientists!

excellent review of some scientists gone wrong - not science but scientists that make mistakes - an easy but scary read

The detailed and reference backed discussion of 7 influential lives in the 20th century that change the world but not always for the better and lessons we can learn when separating science from fiction. Amazing read for anyone interested in whether to believe what the media says or not!

I found this book to be highly readable and fascinating--especially how it relates relatively recent scientific discoveries to history. A must read.

This is a must read book and should be part of everyone's basic library. Masterly done. Do not miss it.

Now, more than ever, we need a scientifically literate society. If every reader can take away just one idea from this book, it will move our society forward.

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