

Exploring the Frontiers of Medical Knowledge.

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December 14, 1984

The Encyclopaedia of Medical Ignorance: Exploring the Frontiers of Medical Knowledge

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JAMA. 1984;252(22):3187. doi:10.1001/jama.1984.03350220085043

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Abstract

Like its predecessors, which deal with physical science and life and earth sciences, this encyclopedia "focuses on ignorance not knowledge." The authors were asked to "state what it is they do not know," emphasize research, and possibly provide new insights.

Twenty-five scientists, most of them from the British Isles, have written two dozen essays that span the life of the person from conception to senility. Ten deal with the nervous system; psychotherapy, schizophrenia, depression, drug

dependence, multiple sclerosis, and "the hypothalamus as an aging clock" are among subjects considered. The cardiovascular, respiratory, visual, and auditory systems and their diseases also receive attention. There is a group of articles on mutation, genetic pathology, contraception, fetal diagnosis, and pregnancy ("an immunological mystery"). And, broad topics such as cancer, transplantation, immunity to viruses and parasites, and medical care are examined.

Most authors use an expected formula, succinctly reviewing their topics and indicating the

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