

Addiction Medicine Report Quotes

"There is no other comparable example in medicine where you have evidence-based treatments that are not available." — Shelly Greenfield, MD, MPH, Chief Academic Officer, McLean Hospital, Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School, Director, Clinical and Health Services Research and Education Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, McLean Hospital

"One of the fundamental barriers to providing effective treatment is the fact that addiction is not integrated into medical practice. And a lot of medical people like and want it that way; they do not want to deal with addiction; they do not like to deal with the people and they do not feel effective addressing the problem." — Keith Humphreys, PhD, Professor, Stanford Medical School

"We want addiction prevention, screening, intervention, and treatment to become routine aspects of medical care, available virtually any place health care is provided." —Kevin B. Kunz, MD, Former President, American Board of Addiction Medicine (ABAM)

"Implementing screening and brief intervention would be a revolution in 21st century medical practice. It would help reduce billions of dollars annually in lost productivity, injury and social costs associated with risky behaviors. It would also encourage those with chronic conditions to get the treatment they need. But medical practices are unlikely to take action without pressure from others who would benefit. The question is, when will society demand this change?" —John C. Higgins-Biddle, PhD, Assistant Professor (Retired), Community Medicine and Health Care, University of Connecticut Health Coalition

"I would define treatment for addiction] the way I would define treatment for any medical problem--good thorough evaluation, intervention tailored for that specific person based on a good assessment, use of a range of tools--behavioral, pharmacological, family and other social support, housing, jobs." —John Rotrosen, MD, Professor, Department of Psychiatry, New York University School of Medicine, VA NY Harbor Healthcare System

"We are treating these folks with severe and persistent addiction with a time limited-treatment of three or four weeks, maybe six or eight, maybe at the most three months, if you want to include what's called aftercare. Now, why would we think that treating a chronic disorder for a few weeks would lead to improvement 10 years later or five years later or even a year later? It doesn't make any sense." —Mark Willenbring, MD, Director, Division of Treatment and Recovery, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (currently, Associate Professor of Psychiatry, University of Minnesota)

"Most doctors do not look at addiction as part of their job. They may assess, but they don't intervene." —Brian Hurley, Chair, Physicians-in-training Committee, American Society of Addiction Medicine