



OVERDIAGNOSED:

MAKING PEOPLE SICK IN THE PURSUIT OF HEALTH

18TH ANNUAL ROBERT F.E. STIER
MEMORIAL LECTURE IN MEDICINE

FREE PUBLIC LECTURE

FRIDAY, FEB. 21, 2014 AT 4:00 P.M.

PRESENTED BY

H. GILBERT WELCH, MD, MPH



Professor of Medicine,
Community & Family Medicine
The Dartmouth Institute
The Geisel School of Medicine
at Dartmouth

Washington State University Spokane
Academic Center Auditorium, Room 20
600 N Riverpoint Boulevard

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RSVP by Feb. 19, 2014 online at

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Over the past several decades, there has been a growing enthusiasm for early diagnosis – engaging many physicians in a systematic search for abnormalities in people who are well. While most consider only the potential benefits, in this talk, Dr. Welch exposes the often-ignored harm: overdiagnosis. Diagnoses of a great many conditions, including high blood pressure, osteoporosis, diabetes, and even cancer, have skyrocketed over the last few decades, yet many of the individuals given these diagnoses are not destined to ever develop symptoms (or die) from their condition.

They are overdiagnosed. Overdiagnosed patients—Dr. Welch points out—cannot benefit from treatment since there is nothing to fix, but they can be harmed.

Understanding the trade-offs involved is critical so that health care systems don't further narrow the definition of normal and—ironically—turn more and more people into patients.

H. GILBERT WELCH, MD, MPH

Dr. Welch is a general internist whose research focuses on the problems created by medicine's efforts to detect disease early: physicians test too often, treat too aggressively and tell too many people that they are sick. Most of his work has focused on overdiagnosis in cancer screening: in particular, screening for melanoma, cervical, breast and prostate cancer. He is the author of the books, "*Should I be Tested for Cancer? Maybe Not and Here's Why*" (UC Press 2004) and more recently, "*Overdiagnosed: Making People Sick in the Pursuit of Health*" (Beacon Press 2011).

If you are a person with disabilities requiring assistance, please contact us at 509-358-7504 seven days prior to the event you will be attending to make arrangements. Advance notice is appreciated, and will help us make the best possible accommodations for your needs.

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