

Mr. Chairman:

I am pleased to respond to your invitation and meet with you and your fellow committee members to report on how the multinational drug companies promote their prescription drug products in the United States, and how they or their affiliates or subsidiaries promote the identical products in Latin America.

I must note at the outset that I am not a physician or a pharmacist. I am a pharmacologist. I must further note that any views I may express here today are my own, and do not necessarily represent those of my university.

And, as a final prefatory statement, let me acknowledge that without the dedicated and courageous pioneering investigations conducted by you and your committee, and especially by Mr. Benjamin Gordon, much of the work that my colleagues and I have been able to accomplish over the past years in our own investigations would have been far more difficult if not impossible.

The research on which I am prepared to report today will be published tomorrow by the University of California Press under the title of The Drugging of the Americas. It involves an in-depth study of the promotion to the medical profession of 26 drugs marketed in the form of 40 products by 23 global drug companies.

Most of these firms are American. Others are based in Switzerland, France, and West Germany.

The drugs we selected for investigation are, beyond doubt, valuable and in some cases life-saving--but only when they are