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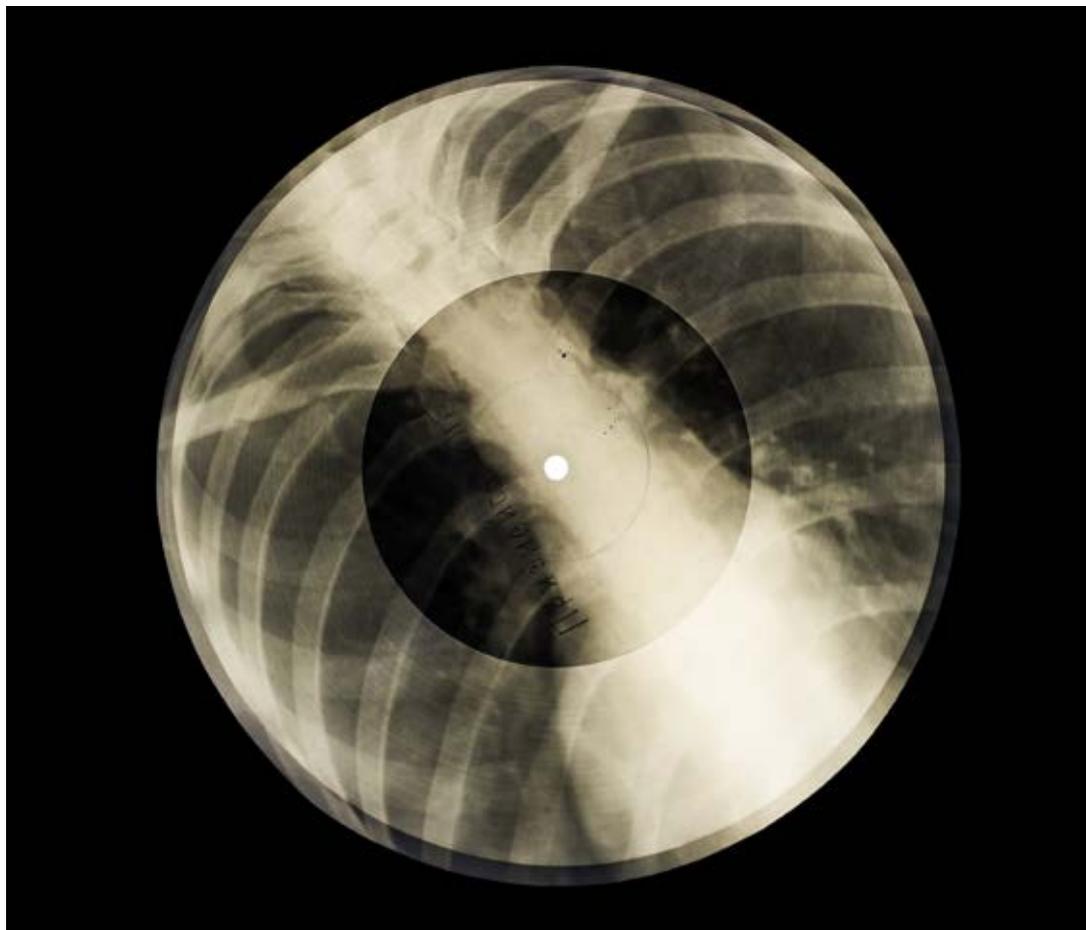
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PAUL HEARTFIELD/THE X-RAY AUDIO PROJECT

## PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Slipped discs: forthcoming book tells the story of the ghostly bootleg records of forbidden music that were made during the "cold war" era in the former Soviet Union. At a time when the state ruthlessly controlled the recording industry, music lovers found an alternative source of raw materials to make illegal recordings: used x ray plates from local hospitals, which they cut into discs and embossed with the grooves of bootlegged gramophone records. The discs, which had partial images of skeletons on them, were known as "bones" or "ribs." The recording on the disc shown here is of a Russian song: "Confess to Me" by Peter Leschchenko. See [www.x-rayaudio.squarespace.com](http://www.x-rayaudio.squarespace.com) for more details.

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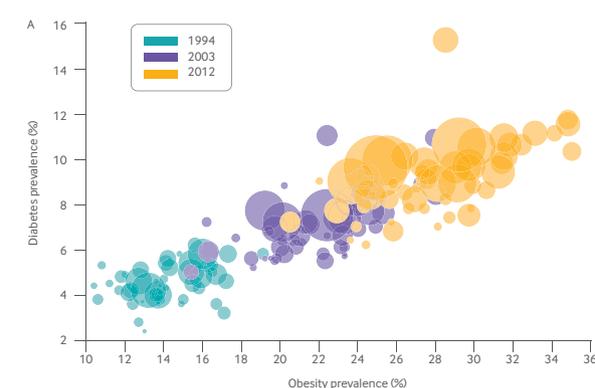


The release of five British medical prisoners of war from a camp in the German city of Magdeburg triggers calls for the reciprocal release of more captured doctors. John W Byers argues: "Unquestionably the detention of doctors who have no medical duty to perform and their treatment as prisoners of war are . . . flagrant violations of the Geneva Convention; but, unfortunately, from the way the regulations of this Convention, as well as the suggestions of the Hague Tribunal, have been treated, it is doubtful if Germany, in her present temper, would listen to any appeal based on the ground of the regulations of the Geneva Convention."

• [BMJ 1915;1:203](#)

## LATEST STATE OF THE ART REVIEW

This week's State of the Art clinical review (*BMJ* 2015; 350:g5237) focuses on obesity in the US and on the role of primary care in this setting. Obesity affects nearly one in three Americans generally, and as many as one in two in some subgroups—for example, black women. The review assesses the efficacy of treatment for obesity delivered in US primary care. Overall, consistent evidence suggests that primary care based interventions for obesity have a limited impact



on weight loss. Questions remain about the optimal role of the primary care provider in the treatment of

obesity and the prevention of weight gain, and potential systems approaches to the treatment of obesity.

## THEBMJ.COM POLL

Last week's poll asked:

**Is Lord Saatchi's medical innovation bill a "quack's charter" that will threaten patient safety?**

**YES 84%**

**NO 16%** Total votes cast: 142

This week's poll asks:

**Is the NHS your top UK general election issue**

• <http://bmj.co/1LHkNAf>

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## RESPONSE OF THE WEEK

While welcoming the editorial on predatory journals, I was concerned regarding the lack of information provided about "reputable publishers." Predatory journals are accused of having financial gain as their motive and lacking transparency. The same could be said of reputable publishers, who have been accused of making colossal profits—Reed Elsevier's profits are in the billions. Most publishers charge fees for open access publishing that ensure they continue to make huge profits, rather than covering costs. May I suggest that reputable publishers agree on publishing their profits in their journals or website on an annual basis? Also, a standard universal open access fee should be introduced. This should be set by non-profit making institutions such as PLoS.

Imti Choonara, emeritus professor in child health, University of Nottingham, Derby, UK, in response to, "Firm action needed on predatory journals"

• [BMJ 2015;350:h210](#)



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## LATEST BLOGS

### Sharing data from past clinical trials

The Institute of Medicine recently recommended that from now on, all patient level data from trials funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) should be shared. Data sharing for future trials is good, says Stuart Buck, but it is not enough. Scholars and researchers should also be able to re-analyse earlier trial data, which studies drugs still prescribed by doctors.

• <http://bmj.co/iomdata>

### Are slums creating equality?

For years, many economists have thought that slums are good—a bridge on the journey from rural poverty to urban prosperity. Jocalyn Clark unpicks this idea and asks: are slums a ticket out of poverty, or do the many slum dwellers still trapped in inhospitable and unhealthy living environments belie the reality of this theory?

• <http://bmj.co/slumsequality>



### Loneliness—the "disease" that medicine has promoted but cannot help

In our world of anomie and divorce, loneliness is one of the main causes of suffering. Yet it's a cause where medicine has nothing to offer, says Richard Smith. He suggests the best we can hope for is a greater awareness of the potency and destructiveness of loneliness and a lessening of the taboo around it.

• <http://bmj.co/loneliness>

### To apply or not to apply? Why some junior doctors are taking years out instead of going straight into training

Once again this year, the number of foundation year 2 doctors applying straight into a training post has fallen. Junior doctor Rebecca Stout considers why taking a gap year is becoming an increasingly popular choice.

• <http://bmj.co/gapyear>