Today’s piece is prepared by Lydia Wright, MD, in reference to a NY Times article, “The Selling of Attention Deficit Disorder”

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/12/15/health/the-selling-of-attention-deficit-disorder.html>

This article discusses the increasing rates of diagnosis in children of ADHD in the last 20 years and investigates promotional influence of pharmaceutical companies. The author specifically comments on the general agreement among medical professionals and good scientific evidence that stimulant medication can provide benefit to many patients with ADHD, but focuses on perceived drug companies’ efforts to market stimulants beyond their likely appropriate use including potential drug company influence on design, publication and marketing of multiple research studies and the suggested distortion by drug companies in presenting scientific evidence in their marketing of stimulants to doctors, parents, and teachers. The journalist opens powerfully by presenting an alleged opinion by Keith Conners, PhD (arguably the country’s most influential popular ADHD clinician) repudiating the legitimacy of the current prevalence of ADHD reported on the article and peppers the article with multiple anecdotes from patients and parents who report that their children were wrongly diagnosed with ADHD or pressured to put their child on stimulants. This article provides an important perspective but downplays the potential benefits provided by stimulants. This skew may confuse or worry parents and delay or prevent proper treatment for children with ADHD.

**RESOURCES ON ADHD:**

National Institutes of Mental Health: ADHD <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/attention-deficit-hyperactivity-disorder-adhd/index.shtml>

AACAP

<http://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Families_and_Youth/Facts_for_Families/Facts_for_Families_Pages/Children_Who_Cant_Pay_Attention_ADHD_06.aspx>

And that’s today’s Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics: IN THE NEWS!