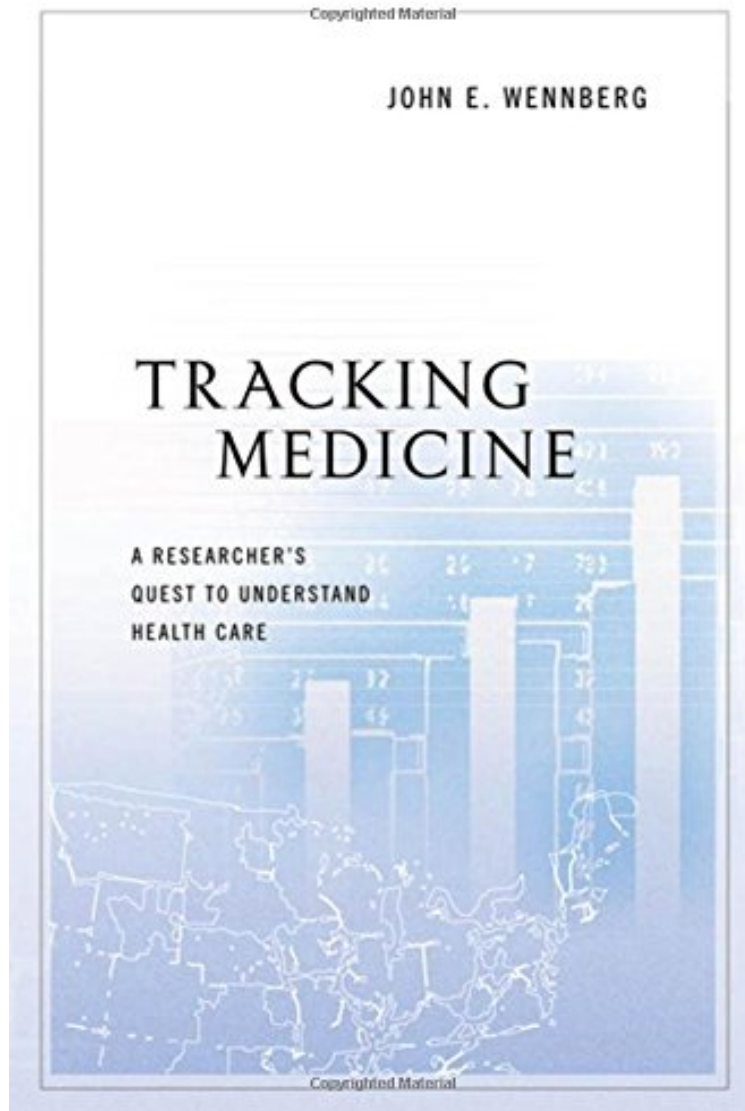


[Free] Tracking Medicine: A Researcher's Quest to Understand Health Care

# Tracking Medicine: A Researcher's Quest to Understand Health Care

*John E. Wennberg*

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**John E. Wennberg : Tracking Medicine: A Researcher's Quest to Understand Health Care** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tracking Medicine: A Researcher's Quest to Understand Health Care:

20 of 20 people found the following review helpful. Parkinson's law corollaryBy ShrimpyFascinating, well written

picture of our health care situation in 2010-- by a researcher who has spent the last 40 years studying it. Like many "new" ideas, his were initially dismissed, then ridiculed as being wrong. But his methods are impeccable and reproducible. What he has found is that the amount of health care delivered in this country is directly proportional to the supply of health providers available. That's right-- sicker patients don't necessarily get more care--it's not demand, but supply that determines health care use. And more care isn't necessarily better care; high tech medicine isn't risk free. My dad who was a research physicist would have called this a corollary to Parkinson's Law--"the work expands to meet the time available"-- updated to "the amount of health care delivered expands to meet the resources available." The last chapter has concrete suggestions for bending this curve, but given our dysfunctional political system and the strength of the medical-industrial complex, it's doubtful we'll live to see any significant change. At least when the new Health Care Law goes into effect, if we don't increase the number of hospital beds and health care providers and Dr Wennberg is right, the system should be able to absorb the influx of new patients without a decrease in care quality (but not without a lot of screaming). 8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. how to really fix America's health system By James Jaffe There's a wealth of forceful refutation of conventional wisdom here. American medicine is so expensive because we spend a lot of money 20-30% on stuff that isn't needed. Physician treatment patterns differ by geography but patients in high intensity areas don't fare any better than those in low-intensity areas, tho medicare costs in the latter are half those in former. finally, there's a suggestion that we have a physician surplus rather than shortage. If wennberg's right, and he has a wealth of data so suggesting, most public opinion on this topic is wrong. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Tracking Medicine: A Researcher's Quest to Understand Health Care (Hardcover) By JAHUR1 As a physician practicing "reactive" medicine for 40 years to read this book has been very cathartic, to say the least. It shows that more treatment is not any more effective than less treatment; that more hospital beds and more physician visits do not translate into any longer life but that this does translate into more suffering for the individual patient. People with chronic disease who live in areas of less intensive therapy support people who live in areas of high hospitalization, large numbers of physician visits and a high likelihood of dying in a place other than their home. All this information is beautifully shown to be true, in this wonderful publication.

Written by a groundbreaking figure of modern medical study, Tracking Medicine is an eye-opening introduction to the science of health care delivery, as well as a powerful argument for its relevance in shaping the future of our country. An indispensable resource for those involved in public health and health policy, this book uses Dr. Wennberg's pioneering research to provide a framework for understanding the health care crisis; and outlines a roadmap for real change in the future. It is also a useful tool for anyone interested in understanding and forming their own opinion on the current debate.

"There are many books on healthcare reform, health delivery, or systems research, but none that combine the science with practical experience like this one does." --Doody's "The cost crisis now facing the US health care system urgently calls for more effective control than the new legislation provides. That is why a new book by Dr. John E. Wennberg, Tracking Medicine, is so important and timely." --The New York of Books "Tracking Medicine should be required reading for all health care professionals, and indeed for all who are interested in truly reforming health care... Highly recommended." --Choice "The title of this book hints at a personal history: 'researcher's quest . . .' Yet, John Wennberg has been the dominant force over several decades in studies to describe and understand American medicine. Thus, this personal narrative is also an excellent summary of our current understanding of US health care." -- American Journal of Epidemiology About the Author John E. Wennberg, MD, MPH, is Peggy Y. Thomson Professor (Chair) in the Evaluative Clinical Sciences, and Founder and Director Emeritus of The Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice.