

# Andrew A. Skolnick

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## Science and Medical Writer

*Experienced in print and radio reporting, writing, editing, and photography*

### Professional Experience

**Freelance Science-Medical Journalist** – My articles and photographs have been published in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, *Journal of the American Medical Association*, *Medhunters magazine*, *The New York Times*, *Editor and Publisher*, *Smithsonian*, *Natural History*, *National Geographic World*, *Ranger Rick*, and other publications (For examples: <http://www.aaskolnick.com>) I have received numerous awards for my work, including an **Amnesty International Spotlight on Media Award** and a **Pulitzer Prize nomination** for investigative reporting.

**Executive Director - Commission for Scientific Medicine and Mental Health**, Center for Inquiry, 3965 Rensch Rd., Amherst, N.Y. 14228. Directed research, educational, and journalism programs of the Commission, which publishes the *Scientific Review of Alternative Medicine* and the *Scientific Review of Mental Health Practices*. February. 2004 to March 2006.

**Contributing Editor** – *PeerView Press* and *Doctor's Guide to the Internet* (<http://www.peerviewpress.com> and <http://www.docguide.com>). Provided print and audio news reports on the latest clinical research reported at medical meetings and in peer-reviewed journals. March 2001 to January 2004.

**Associate News Editor** – *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 515 N. State Street, Chicago, Ill. 60610. Generated, reported, and wrote more than 230 news articles on medicine, medical ethics, biomedical research, and public health. Took photographs for many of the articles. (For list of work published in *JAMA*: <http://www.aaskolnick.com/jama.htm>) Edited journal's *Mortality and Morbidity Weekly Report* and "From the NIH" sections. September 1989 to November 1998.

**Rosalynn Carter Fellow for Mental Health Journalism** – The Carter Center Mental Health Program, 453 Freedom Parkway, Atlanta, Ga. 30307. September 1997 to September 1998. For the fellowship, I investigated the treatment of people with mental illness in U.S. jails and prisons. News articles for the fellowship were published in *JAMA* and *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, where they were nominated for a **Pulitzer Prize** and received an **Amnesty International USA Media Spotlight Award** and other honors.

**Professional  
Experience**  
(Continued)

**Contributing Author** – *Encyclopaedia Britannica, 1998 Medical and Health Yearbook*. Wrote article on traditional Chinese medicine coming under scientific scrutiny.

**Visiting Professor** – **Shanghai International Studies University**, Department of International Journalism, 550 Dalian Rd. West, Shanghai, 200083, People Republic of China. Taught four journalism courses. March to June 1996.

**Foreign Expert** – **Shanghai Television International Broadcasting Service**, International News Exchange Centre, 651 Nanjing Rd. West, Shanghai, 200041, PRC. Served as a language advisor, edited television news scripts, and provided voice-overs for English language news programs. April 1996.

**Contributing Author** – *Collier's Encyclopedia*. Wrote articles on spina bifida and Marfan syndrome for 1991 edition and on birth defects for the 1985 edition.

**Associate Science News Editor** – **American Medical Association**, 515 N. State St., Chicago, Ill. Wrote weekly news releases on studies in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. Conducted research and interviews, produced and edited radio news reports for *American Medical Radio News*. Assisted in selecting speakers and running annual AMA Science Reporters Conferences. November 1987 to August 1989.

**Life Sciences Editor** – **University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign News Bureau**, Champaign, Ill. Was responsible for following faculty research in agriculture, medicine, veterinary science, psychology, and other life sciences. Wrote news releases on research developments. Assisted news media in obtaining information and story ideas. March 1985 to November 1987.

**Science Writer** – **March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation**, Science Information Division, White Plains, N.Y. Researched and wrote articles, science news releases, and backgrounders on research related to birth defects. Answered queries concerning birth defects and medical research from the news media, medical professionals, educators, and the public. Attended research advisory committee meetings and reviewed grant applications in order to write lay descriptions of approved grants. December 1981 to March 1985.

**Seminar Instructor in Scientific Photography** – **Yale University**, New Haven, Conn. Designed and taught an undergraduate seminar on the history, techniques, and esthetics of scientific photography for three semesters. January 1976 to May 1977.

**Scientific Photographer**– **Yale University Biology Department**, New Haven, Conn. Performed photographic duties for human genetics research laboratory headed by Dr. Frank Ruddle, including photomicrography, macro photography, and Polaroid photography. Developed improved techniques for photographing research results. 1975 to 1977.

**Education**            **Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism**, New York, N.Y. **M.S.** in Journalism, May 1981

**Charter Oaks State College**, New Britain, Conn. **B.A.** in Liberal Arts with concentration in Natural Sciences, 1978

**Paier Art School**, Hamden, Conn. Two-year professional photography certificate program. September 1972 to June 1974.

**Fellowships/  
Scholarships**        **Rosalynn Carter Fellowship for Mental Health Journalism, 1997-1998**, Carter Center Mental Health Program, Atlanta, Ga.

**Nate Haseltine Memorial Fellowship in Science Writing**, from the Council for the Advancement of Science Writing, 1980-1981.

**Edward Butler Foundation Scholarship** for journalism studies, 1981.

**Awards**            **Robert P. Balles Annual Prize in Critical Thinking**, awarded in 2006 for “published work that best exemplifies a healthy skepticism, logical analysis, or empirical science,” for article, “Natasha Demkina: The Girl with Normal Eyes,” *Skeptical Inquirer*, May/June 2005.

**John P. McGovern Medal** for preeminent contributions to medical communication, from American Medical Writers Association, November 2000.

**Amnesty International USA’s Media Spotlight Award**, September 1999, for newspaper series on the treatment of jail and prison inmates with mental illness, September 1999 (shared with *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* reporters Bill Allen and Kim Bell).

**Goldsmith Prize for Investigative Reporting Finalist Award**, March 1999 from Harvard University, for newspaper series on the treatment of jail and prison inmates with mental illness, March 1999 (shared with *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* reporters Bill Allen and Kim Bell).

**Pulitzer Prize Nomination for Investigative Reporting** from the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, February 1999, for newspaper series on the treatment of jail and prison inmates with mental illness, (shared with *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* reporters Bill Allen and Kim Bell).

**First Prize in Community Affairs/Public Interest News Writing** from Missouri Associated Press Managing Editors, May 1999, for newspaper series on the treatment of jail and prison inmates with mental illness, (shared with *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* reporters Bill Allen and Kim Bell).

**Awards**  
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**Missouri Press Association's Best Investigative Reporting Prize for Dailies**, June 1999, for newspaper series on the treatment of prison and jail inmates with mental illness, (shared with *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* reporters Bill Allen and Kim Bell).

**Harry Chapin Media Award**, 2<sup>nd</sup> place prize for excellence in impacting hunger and poverty, from World Hunger Year, June 1996, for series, "Along US southern border, pollution, poverty, ignorance, and greed threaten nation's health," *JAMA*. 1995 May 17; 273(19):1478, 1480-82.

**Morris Fishbein Award** from the American Medical Writers Association, Greater Chicago Chapter, June 1994, for article, "Female athlete triad' risk for women," *JAMA*. 1993 Aug 25; 270(8):921-23.

**Responsibility in Journalism Award** from the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, October 1992, for article, "Maharishi Ayur-Veda: Guru's marketing scheme promises the world eternal 'perfect health'," *JAMA*. 1991 Oct 2; 266(13):1741-42, 1744-45, 1749-50.

**First Annual Community Health Award for Journalistic Excellence** from the National Association of Community Health Centers (shared with *JAMA* Medical News colleagues), September 1992, for article, "Sisters of Charity's clinic starts epidemic of caring," *JAMA*. 1991 June 19; 265(23):3089-91.

**Invited Talks**

**"The Criminalization of the Mentally Ill,"** grand rounds lecture at the University at Buffalo School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry, December 17, 2004.

**"If It Quacks Like a Duck,"** public lecture on medical quackery, Center for Inquiry, Amherst, N.Y., June 5, 2004.

**"They Prayed No One Would Notice,"** public lecture on Columbia University's fraudulent prayer study published in the *Journal of Reproductive Medicine*, Center for Inquiry, Amherst, N.Y., August 7, 2004.

**"The Assault on Scientific Medicine,"** luncheon speaker, *Science and Ethics: How Scientific Inquiry Helps Frame Value Judgments*, Center for Inquiry, Toronto, Canada, May 15, 2004.

**"Medical Issues in the Corrections System - A Chronic Illness,"** panel speaker, Missouri Association for Social Welfare at conferences in Kansas City, Jefferson City, and St. Louis, Mo., April 16-17, 2004.

**Keynote Dinner Speaker**, Marion-Polk County Medical Society Annual Meeting, Salem, Ore., Oct. 16, 2001.

**John P. McGovern Medal Award Luncheon Speaker**, American Medical Writers Association Annual Meeting, Miami, Fla., Nov. 9, 2000.

**Invited Talks**  
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**“Breaking Through the Stigma: Portrayal of Mental Illness in the Media,”** conference speaker, Carter Center, Atlanta, Ga., May 13, 1999.

**“Science Meets Alternative Medicine,”** panel speaker, Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, Philadelphia, Pa., February 26-28, 1999.

**“How Law Suits Are Used to Suppress Free Speech and Public Debate,”** speaker, *Workshop on Fighting Back*, Rocky Mountain Skeptics, Boulder, Colo., June 13, 1998.

**“Religiously-Motivated Medical Neglect of Children,”** keynote speaker, annual meeting of the American Family Foundation, Philadelphia, Pa., May 29, 1998.

**Seminar on Medical Reporting**, Swedish Council on Health Care Technology Assessment, Stockholm, Sweden, May 5, 1998.

**“Trends in Science and Health Reporting,”** panel speaker, annual meeting of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, Chicago, Ill., August 1, 1997.

**“How to Evaluate the Claims of Alternative Medicine,”** seminar speaker Center for Inquiry’s *Secrets of the Supernatural Series*, Rosemont, Ill., May 17, 1997.

**“A Journalist Eye View: Communicating Cancer Research to the Public,”** colloquium speaker, National Cancer Institute’s Division of Cancer Prevention and Control, Bethesda, Md., March 17, 1993.

**“Cancer Reporting: Getting it Right,”** panelist speaker, Florida Medical Association’s 1990 *Media & Medicine Conference*, Orlando, Fla., October 25, 1990.