

All the Answers

No MD. No PhD. And Yeah, I've Got All the Answers

By August Adams

The world's full of problems, and the medical world is no exception. Rising healthcare costs, emerging diseases and drug company scandals, to name a few. Typically, we leave these problems to the experts – those with MDs, Ph.D.s, and actual experience in the field.

I think it's time for a regular guy to tackle some of these issues. What are my qualifications? Well, for starters, I've got no MD, no Ph.D., and my specialty is drinking beer and watching TBS. Plus, I write novels about robots and lasers. Which means I am creative. Extremely creative.

Perhaps creativity is the solution to the world's problems. Perhaps our experts simply aren't getting creative enough, and need to take a no-holds-barred approach. For instance, if we've got an unexpected healthcare crisis – a nationwide epidemic, say – why take the traditional approach of medical alerts, drugs, or quarantines? Let's just consider relocating. I hear Greenland's nice.

I'm just getting warmed up. There are loads of pressing medical problems that could be solved creatively. A few on the list include:

Avian Flu: One of today's hottest health concerns, this disease is carried by birds – chickens, ducks, turkeys, even parakeets. Some medical experts say it could be the next global killer. But, heat kills the virus. Hmm...let's just move the entire planet closer to the Sun, heat things up a few thousand degrees, and problem solved, never mind your melting credit card.

Cancer: Caused by malignant cells replicating out of control, it's commonly triggered by smoking, sun exposure, and old age. But it's simple: don't smoke, stay out of the sun (suddenly, my avian flu solution seems a bit problematic), and invent a giant anti-aging device. Perhaps all three of these could be combined into a popular theme-park ride. After all, everyone loves theme-parks.


Genetic Mutations: This one's especially problematic. Genetic mutations are unwanted changes to our DNA or RNA. Some result in cancer (see above for solution), and in rare cases (such as in the movies), can result in zombie outbreaks. But Hollywood has already solved this one for us. Watch films like *The Fly*, *X-Men*, or *Night of the Living Dead*, and you'll find a variety of innovative solutions for dealing with genetic mutations and zombie outbreaks.

Even everyday problems in doctors' offices and hospitals can be dealt with creatively. For instance:

Annoying Patients: Use your imagination. You've got a full arsenal of tools to keep them away. Cotton balls. Rubber gloves. Heck, it's your office. You can install trap doors, video surveillance, and guard dogs in the waiting room. Barbed wire might work.

Long Work Hours: Too many shifts at the hospital? Invent a time machine and you can work whenever you want. You can travel into the past to renegotiate better hours with the hospital director. Or travel into the future to clone yourself and then bring the clone back to present day so it can work for you while you're on vacation in Vegas.

Magazine Subscriptions: If your office is filled with too many magazines, then try turning them into paper gowns for patients or using them for automobile bio-fuel to help stop global warming. Newsweek gets at least 40 miles per gallon.

These are just a few examples of how a little creativity goes a long way. Nearly any problem big or small can be solved. Trust me. 



August Adams is a novelist and humor columnist. His first novel is *National Darkroast Day* (more info at www.nationaldarkroastday.com).

Commentary on National Darkroast Day

A tour de force of social commentary that combines the classic satire of Jonathan Swift with the gut-laughter of South Park. Confident and assured in its style, pinpoint-precise in its approach, National Darkroast Day is an impressive debut from a writer with true staying power!

- Eric Wasserman, author of *The Temporary Life*

What do evil robots, slacker baristas, marketing gurus, intrepid newspaper reporters, Mexican revolutionaries, and a plan to wipe out humanity have in common? You'll find them all in National Darkroast Day. This is a hilarious and thought-provoking romp of a novel.

- Uppinder Mehan, co-editor of *So Long Been Dreaming*

Read it over a cup of mocha latte supremo cappuccino half-skim at your local coffee shop and you'll be nervously peering over your shoulder every page of the journey.

- Jeffrey Seglin, ethics columnist, New York Times Syndicate, and author of *The Right Thing: Conscience, Profit and Personal Responsibility* in *Today's Business*