Sad psychosurgery.

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It is ironic that this book should appear at a time when, despite acceptable and randomized controlled studies, there remain a plethora of advances claimed for neurosurgical treatments that have no basis whatsoever in evidence. Indeed what is fashionable often risks outstripping that which is based on hard science, as the latter becomes ever more complex and increasingly expensive to deliver. The desperate cry for innovations and protection of their instigators from litigation has led to proposals that could deny patients the security of critical evaluation and audit using sufficient rigour and appropriate disciplines. The difficulty is to control but never completely suppress the maverick protagonist; and once financial gain complicates the picture, motivation becomes even more suspect. But, in a way we need the maverick,...

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