

## Letter to Steve Jobs

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Dear Steve,

*How to stay healthy in a sick world?* David did ask this question ... you knew him well, « the French Doctor » ... author of « Anticancer. A new way of life » ... Yes, you do wonder how to – though you thought you had the answer ... An organ donor, giving life after death, having a liver transplant and the immunosuppressive drugs, curing the disease once and for all. Gone forever, thanks to the transplant. Forever means: ten years, maybe more ... This used to be the deal, right? Okey-dokey. Now let's look at the facts, shall we ? After two years of persistent sickness, you are feeling really poorly, and the world is not better off. Are you gonna explain to us that the world needs a transplant? The whole situation doesn't feel right: on and on, you keep on fighting like a lion, inventing and turning out – out of thin air, iPads and Smartphones, but it turned out somebody else's pulling the rings... and you ended up getting kind of knocked out of the ring ... This is so unfair ...

David and Steve: *we can say goodbye several times* ... this is true, and you know it ... So if we've got some time left, we can afford to tell the truth ... You guys both like this, pulling a few strings to bail us out ...

Telling the truth? What for?

First off, wouldn't hurt to tell the truth. Nobody has ever done this, though it should have been done ... before now. You know the truth, Steve, don't you? Hard won experience, I guess ...

Having a transplant doesn't mean the disease will just disappear forever; after the transplant you're a lifetime patient ... with sometimes severe health problems ... How long will the treatment work? It's hard to tell ... So you hardly know what to expect ... Sometimes you expect ten years, but instead you end up with two ... A transplant is not a cure, you stay a long term patient ... Long term does not mean life time ... sometimes the difference is quite big ...

After the transplant, you have to take immunosuppressant drugs on a daily basis. Until you die. And knowing these drugs will eat you up. Yes, this is the side effect of the transplant. Why? It's quite plain and simple, I'm afraid. The grafted organ comes from a total stranger. If you don't want your organism to trigger a massive attack against the "stranger" and destroy him as his worst enemy, you have to reduce as much as possible your immune system – sometimes you just have to shut it down. A weakened organism causes you to catch diseases more easily. If it's a cold, or the flu, it's not the end of the world, you'll be fine. But what if it's cancer, diabetes, severe renal failure?

The surgery has eradicated your cancer. But the immunosuppressive treatment has caused it to return. In May 2009, you had this liver transplant. And now the "immuno" is killing you ... What exactly did the doctors tell you about the "immuno"'s side effects? Did they tell you that they would be able to monitor your cancer risk, to keep this issue away? Well, they were wrong.

In your case, transplant was hardly a good indication, because sooner or later it would trigger cancer. Surgical eradication was not going to work forever ...

Soon to be seen above our heads: *iHealth* clouds: a good omen, even if we Celtic people only fear one thing: our greatest fear: that the sky might fall upon our heads tomorrow ... For us innovation means delocalized manufacturing. Of course we got it totally wrong: innovation is the opposite for delocalization.

How hard is it to die? How long will it take until I can be part of these *iHealth* clouds they might be able to spot from the earth ... while I'll be sitting high over the rainbow ... That's what's on your mind, Steve, isn't it? Though you wish it wouldn't be ... not now ... it can wait ... since *we can say goodbye several times* ...

Thanks to a liver harvested from a young man who was going to die after a traffic accident, you were able to survive for two additional years ... A precious gift ... and you never underestimated its value ... You lived this gift of life to the fullest, making every minute count ... Your team had to keep up the pace ... and follow their Napoleon ... Well, that's what they did ... making sacrifices ... because one thing they knew for sure: Napoleon is demanding sacrifices ...

While trying to get ready for your new home ... I should say ... *cloud* (what a challenge, for all of us), you're thinking back: the fights you fought and won ... your team: you've always been awfully good at mobilizing people ... in order to accelerate execution, business results, "Get Change Done" ... You start to believe you are the real Napoleon ... From one cloud to another, I fancy you, Steve, chatting together with Napoleon ... You both talk about sacrifices ... just like two housewives, ladies or foodies exchanging recipes, on the wet market or on the internet. Two boys showing off their favourite toy, trying to impress each other and ... just trying to keep busy at Saint Helena ... Do you mind my asking, Steve? I'd like to write down what you guys are saying. Let me explain: I'm sitting in the room next to yours, the walls are thin ... and I'm getting upset about this conversation you're having ... Yes, I have to admit, I overheard a good number of those conversations ...

You're talking about sacrifice ... Being a visionnaire, a (marketing) revolutionist doesn't mean you lack common sense ... on the contrary, you've got loads of it ... How can you cure living people with organs harvested from cadavers? How can dead people have living organs,

suitable for transplant? Brain death differs from death. I thought there was only one kind of death: when you're no longer alive ... Just organs retrieved after death won't cure you ... You need fresher organs ... Like Napoleon, organ transplantation needs good will ... loads of it ... Molecule marketplaces feed on good will, generosity, sacrifice, call it whatever you like – just like a newborn feeds on milk ...

Swiss pharmaceutical labs, some of them are market leaders in immunosuppressant therapy, have been funding for decades donor education campaigns. Fair enough. And they still do it. The thing is: alternatives to transplant have remained hidden, for decades: organ transplantation in general and the immunosuppressant therapy in particular were not willing to “see rivals steal market shares” ... Who are these rivals? Cord blood transplant instead of bone marrow transplant (live donor); mechanical circulatory support instead of heart transplant; regenerative medicine to grow tissues and help small organs, like the liver, regenerate.

There have been a few whistleblowers ... like sociologists, talking about a worldwide “social marketing of organ donation” ... They were ignored ... There was this worldwide brainwash, to accompany a miracle: organ transplantation eradicating diseases, the gift of life after death, the “peanuts transplant” – such a minor treatment allowing to cure a major disease –, the organ transplant as an “organ lifting”, for rich elderly people who certainly don't want to die as long as they can afford medical and surgical treatment ...

Steve, you are this worldwide acclaimed marketing guru, aren't you? You were able to experience the drawbacks and limitations of this glorious transplant medicine ... What do you have to say here? Don't you think they oversell it? How are these young Chinese boys doing? You know, those boys living in impoverished small villages in China, having sold one of their kidneys (a ghoulish bargain) in order to buy some Apple products, like an iPhone and a computer... While we are talking, a few of them are dying of severe postoperative infection ...

Facing the horrors of war, just like Napoleon had to do ... Dying people being resuscitated, on and on, for the sake of organ conservation ... instead of dying peacefully, they and their family keep suffering. You see, transplant surgical team logistics management is complex and requires some time ... Some families are not ready to let go of their dying loved one, he or she looks like he or she is just asleep, breathing normally, even if he or she is on a ventilator, but, quick, the organ retrieval operation is waiting for him or her ... letting people around him or her wonder if they are abandoning him or her when most needed ... Napoleonic soldiers giving up their lives, sacrifices, dead on the field of honour (donor), having a miserable end-of-life, but making sure you can help people who are sick and waiting for an organ ... that is, if your vital organs can be retrieved soon enough ... You'd be better off dying with them? Forget it. This is not gonna help anyone ... you are just being selfish here ... Hard enough, isn't it? Now, think of the family. The relatives. They will always wonder if the organ retrieval was harmful to their loved one. There's no answer for that. Asking a surgical team if a dead organ donor did have anesthesia before the surgery ... sounds ... quite awkward ... absurd ... or even, stupid? ... See, Steve ... The truth is not that comfortable ... That's why we need the decorum: Les Invalides in Paris: that's where, when Napoleon Bonaparte came to power, he wanted to reward civilians and soldiers for their brave deeds ... and sacrifices ... The Legion of Honor medal was created in 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte ... Since we say organ donors are dead, there's no point in giving their family this medal, is there? They didn't even make a sacrifice, since their loved one was dead (cadaveric) when this organ retrieval

thing took place ... No need to go on like that for hours ... I'm quite sure you can see my point, Steve ...

Here is my point: we've all heard of this aging population trend ... Since 1980, we hear non stop about how transplant medicine is working wonders, on and on, better and better ... As a result, we think of transplant medicine as an ordinary medicine ... there's nothing special about it ... Don't forget decades of donor education campaigns ... Lobbyists for the pharmaceutical industry got the job done ... Calling *gift of life* a sacrifice ...

What we call organ donation or organ trafficking is the consequence of the pyromaniac fireman era ... What do you think triggered this worldwide organ shortage we keep hearing about? People being self-centred or the lack of innovation? The Emperor of this pyromaniac fireman era is pushing hard on organ donation. He says he wants to keep the organ trafficking away. I say he wants to keep innovation away. What do you think, Steve? You know what? Donor education programs remind me of Napoleonic campaigns ...

How, in an aging population, to afford everybody's organ lifting, with the Social Security paying for the surgery and the immunosuppressive treatment, for each and every patient? By the way, should I say patient, or impatient? No organ shortage, no organ trafficking, Mother Social Security covering the costs ... No, Steve, you're not in Paradise. This is Disneyland ...

Now, would you please move closer: see those transplant surgeons talking? They are getting ready for a surgical procedure. They might sound cynical and cruel, but they are facing tremendous challenges: everybody thinks a transplant's a cure ... so everybody wants one ... Surgeons have a duty of discretion ... so they keep everything safe, like in a Swiss bank safe ... Take the Novartis Bank, for instance, or Roche, or Sanofi ... Rumour has it that Roche has some toxic assets: this lab has been testing one of his immunosuppressant on Chinese transplant patients, knowing very well that organ trafficking in China has been booming since 2000 ... Supply and demand ... Plenty of supply: organs made in China ... Have you ever seen a very rich businessman on dialysis? No, because he cannot afford waiting forever for a kidney, with his name written on the national transplant waiting list. Time's money ... He will buy himself a kidney. He will pay for the transplant. So much for the « gratuity » of organ donation ... Do you happen to know how transplant surgeons call the brain dead organ donors? They call them the *slaves*. And how do they call the patients receiving organs? They call them the *masters*.

*Field of honour?*

*Field of horror?*

*Donor?*

*Error ...*

The Church says: repairing organs is a good action: Jesus Christ gave his life for us; with organ transplant, we have plenty of Jesus Christs, it's a miracle, like the multiplication of bread and fish in the Bible ... The Church says: transplant is fine; [transhumanism](#) is bad. Repairing Adam and Eva is fine; enhancing them is evil ... Taking body parts from a man or a woman, a little boy or a little girl to cure a patient, this is fine ... But artificial organs, stem cells, regenerative medicine, this is evil ...

Relatives feeling guilty because they said yes to a so called “post mortem” organ donation, relatives feeling they have been manipulated by a medical team orchestrating everything to obtain their consent to organ donation – manipulated then abandoned once the medical team got what they needed from them ... and were willing to obtain anyway ... no matter what ... Relatives who suffer but do not regret the sacrifice they made, even if they say “this is too hard” ... Relatives thinking they got fucked by the system ... so they are certainly not going to boast about it ... because they regret their decision now ... of course it’s too late to change the course of things ...

Organ donation is a story full of Jesus Christ and Judas ...

If you’re standing on the field of honour (donor), look for a Swiss Napoleon ... Napoleonic battles ... full of glory and blood and sorrow ...

A transplant is not a cure ...

Steve, how about you? You, and your most dedicated team ever ... Would you call yourself another Napoleon? There were times when we could see you on TV, standing next to Super Schwarzy, Governor of California, both of you promoting organ donation ... Big artillery but not much help ... Battle of organ donation, battle of Waterloo? ...

So now what? People say that when it comes to innovating, you’re the best. For better and quicker health innovation, we could use your help ... Health innovation, a job for Jobs? Byting into the Apple, to keep the doctor away ... didn’t work so well ... Maybe Apple and doctors are meant to be together ... And, between the two of us, you can thank Dick Cheney and his military putsch ... in order to fight against the “Axis of Evil” ... Meanwhile, research on regenerative medicine, under the era of Bush senior and junior, was banned and abandoned. So you got the transplant. That was Plan B.

Now it’s time to talk about Plan A. Did you know that surgeons can retrieve a tiny bit of a patient’s bladder (about the size of half a stamp), grow this tiny bit of bladder with some patient’s cells, and, after a few weeks, they get a kind of kidney they just need to graft into the patient’s body? And there we go: a new kidney. This works: see this patient: he got this surgery ten years ago, and now he’s doing very well. No need of kidney transplant and immunosuppressive drugs ([watch video](#)) ... But we keep hearing about organ shortage and organ trafficking ... Steve, do you want me to talk about 3D organ printers, for livers and kidneys? These organs can be printed, but medical research still needs some time here ... It’s not a question whether this can be done or not. We know for sure it can be done. Question is: when will it work?

In the past (is it still the case?), the market of replacement organs and tissue engineering used to be (is?) “chasse gardee”: property of some Swiss pharmaceutical labs, market leaders in immunosuppressant therapy ... Now things are about to change ... Some challengers want their share of the market ... These challengers do not produce and sell molecules. They produce and sell software, printers and bio engineering technologies ... What about the people? Are patients about to become clients, or should they remain patients?

Now why did I mention I was sitting in the room next to yours in Saint-Helena? Because organ transplant associations are driven by scientific boards having no interest in innovation

... Remember who funds them? Market leaders in immunosuppressant therapy ... The “therapy” that ate up your life ...

Look, Steve, I got to run ... I already took up too much of your time ... Who I am? Who cares. Who I am does not matter ... the only thing that matters is what I do. I’m passing on the information. I’m writing this letter for you. I’m writing it, and I know I’ll be writing it on and on, waiting for an answer ... that will never come ... or that will come from a cloud? ...

I’m not writing this letter for me, Steve. I’m writing this letter for you ...



[Catherine](#)

<http://ethictransplantation.blogspot.com>