

From: [Stanley Plotkin](#)
To: [Reiss, Dorit R.](#)
Subject: Automatic reply: Anyone who does pro-vaccine advocacy in France?
Date: Saturday, June 14, 2014 9:02:32 AM

I will be traveling until June 15. I will be reading emails sporadically. Urgent messages can be left on voice mail at 1 215 262 3665

From: [Stanley Plotkin](#)
To: ["Paul Offit"; Reiss, Dorit R.](#)
Subject: FW: letter to the editor
Date: Thursday, May 31, 2018 5:11:25 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

I will try for the AAP News
Stanley

From: First, Lewis R [mailto:lewis.first@med.uvm.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 10:55 PM
To: stanley.plotkin@vaxconsult.com
Cc: Plemmons, Mark
Subject: RE: letter to the editor

Dear Dr. Plotkin,

Thank you for your email inquiring as to whether we would publish your letter in our journal. As Mr. Plemmons noted, our editorial board's policy regarding letters is only to publish letters that are initially comments posted online in regard to responses to an article we have published. Thus publishing a letter like yours, though important, opens a door to many others who also want to alert pediatricians as to what is going on in regard to other groups that are out to convince families to disregard scientific evidence on a variety of issues relevant to child health. Thus I would recommend you consider one of the following options:

1. Publish your letter in AAP News instead, where letters like yours can appear.
2. Wait until we have a vaccine study published or vaccine hesitancy study—and submit your letter as an online comment in regard to that article (that could become a published Letter to the Editor)
3. Convert your letter into an unsolicited commentary (a "Pediatric Perspectives" piece) which would require peer review but would if accepted appear in our journal.

I hope you find at least one of these options helpful.

Best,

Lewis First

Lewis R. First, MD, MS
Editor-in-Chief, *Pediatrics*
Professor and Chair
Department of Pediatrics
University of Vermont
Larner College of Medicine
Chief of Pediatrics
University of Vermont Children's Hospital
Given Courtyard S-250
Burlington, Vermont 05405
O: 802-656-0027
Fax: 802-656-2077
Email: lewis.first@uvm.edu

From: Plemmons, Mark <MPlemmons@aap.org>

Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 2:04 PM

To: First, Lewis R <lewis.first@med.uvm.edu>

Subject: FW: letter to the editor

Dr. First,

Please see the attached comment and emails below. If you'd like me to respond to him further, let me know.

Sincerely,

Mark Plemmons || Publications Editor
American Academy of Pediatrics
Division of Journal Publishing
345 Park Blvd, Itasca, IL 60143
Phone: 630-626-6347

cid:image001.png@01D22532.4B9EDA60



Stay Connected On The New Clinical Research and News Network
Gateway.aap.org || [Blog](#)

From: Stanley Plotkin <stanley.plotkin@vaxconsult.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 1:00 PM

To: Plemmons, Mark <MPlemmons@aap.org>

Subject: RE: letter to the editor

I take it that you will send the letter to Dr. First. I would appreciate it if you would transmit this attachment in order that he understands the value of the letter to Pediatrics.

Thank you,
Stanley Plotkin

From: Plemmons, Mark [<mailto:MPlemmons@aap.org>]

Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 1:26 PM

To: Stanley Plotkin

Subject: RE: letter to the editor

Hi Dr. Plotkin,

Comments can only be posted in response to an article. We don't have anywhere to post comments that stand alone apart from an article. Was there a specific article this was in response to?

The "Letters to the Editor" feature in the *Pediatrics* journal published some online comments that have been chosen by the editors. Very few comments are chosen to be published in the journal; selection depends upon what the editors feel is timely and significantly contributes to the conversation regarding the article/topic. If your posted comment were selected, we'd be in touch to acquire a copyright release form before publication.

Sincerely,

Mark Plemmons || Publications Editor
American Academy of Pediatrics
Division of Journal Publishing
345 Park Blvd, Itasca, IL 60143
Phone: 630-626-6347

cid:image001.png@01D22532.4B9EDA60



Stay Connected On The New Clinical Research and News Network
Gateway.aap.org || [Blog](#)

From: Stanley Plotkin <stanley.plotkin@vaxconsult.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 12:00 PM

To: Plemmons, Mark <MPlemmons@aap.org>

Subject: letter to the editor

Dear Dr. Plemmons:

I have had great difficulty in navigating the Pediatrics website in order to submit a letter to the Editor on a subject that should interest AAP members. I attach the letter and I realize it might be published only online but would still request your help to do so, as I think it carries some importance to the membership.

Thank you,
Stanley Plotkin

From: [Stanley Plotkin](#)
To: [Reiss, Dorit R.](#)
Subject: FW: [VACSAFETY] New Hooker analysis
Date: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 7:05:12 AM

Dear Dorit:

Thank you for this, which led me to Orac, which enabled me to read his comments on Shannon Kroner, who is trying to get me to participate in a debate on vaccines and autism, which I will not do.

Stan

From: Vacsafety [mailto:VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG] **On Behalf Of** Reiss, Dorit R.
Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 9:27 AM
To: VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG
Subject: [VACSAFETY] New Hooker analysis

Hi All,

In case people need a rebuttal, Orac went through this paper.

<https://respectfulinsolence.com/2018/12/12/brian-hookers-antivaccine-pseudoscience-has-risen-from-the-dead-to-threaten-children-again/>

"As for the analysis, unsurprisingly Hooker finds what he describes as a statistically significant correlation between MMR vaccination and autism diagnosis, but it depends on age of first MMR vaccination. For instance, for receipt of first MMR dose at 18 months or earlier, there is no statistically significant relationship. At 24 months, there is a weakly statistically significant ($p=0.03$) relationship with an odds ratio of 1.82. However, there were only 23 cases, which is a small number for a case-control study like this. At 36 months, the odds ratio was 3.86, but this is based on only 7 cases. You can see the problem with this. It's the same problem that Hooker had with his previous result and the same reason that DeStefano et al didn't think the correlation was real; the numbers are so small that this is almost certainly a spurious result, particularly given that it wasn't seen in any other subgroup and there is no biologically plausible mechanism why MMR would increase the risk of autism in only African-American males who received the MMR after 24 months.

...

In other words, it sounds as though Hooker, faced with annoying potential corrections for confounders (covariates), simply dispensed with correcting for them in his reanalysis. "

best,
Dorit.

Dorit Rubinstein Reiss
Professor of Law
UC Hastings College of the Law
415-5654844

reissd@uchastings.edu

To unsubscribe from the VACSAFETY list, click the following link:

<http://listserv.immunize.org/scripts/wa-IMMUNACT.exe?SUBED1=VACSAFETY&A=1>

From: [Stanley Plotkin](#)
To: [Reiss, Dorit R.](#)
Subject: michigan
Date: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 1:17:15 PM

Dear Dorit:

I've asked you this before, but how long can the judge in Michigan stall without giving a decision?

Stan

From: [Stanley Plotkin](#)
To: ["Julie Murphy"](#); ["Frank DeStefano"](#); ["Paul Offit"](#); [pickering007@bellsouth.net](#); [Reiss, Dorit R.](#)
Subject: RE: ACIP discussion - PLEASE HOLD THE DATE
Date: Friday, November 02, 2018 8:53:05 AM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.jpg](#)

Please, please change that to 10:30 am. Or I will be unable to attend.

Stanley

From: Julie Murphy [mailto:Julie@immunize.org]
Sent: Friday, November 02, 2018 11:51 AM
To: Frank DeStefano (fdestefano@cdc.gov); Paul Offit (paul.offit@gmail.com); pickering007@bellsouth.net; stanley.plotkin@vaxconsult.com; Dorit Reiss reissd@uchastings.edu
Cc: Julie Murphy
Subject: ACIP discussion - PLEASE HOLD THE DATE

Hello,

Thank you for providing me with your availability for a conference call to discuss ACIP.

I am still waiting for a number of people to respond to my request, but it looks like **Monday, November 12, 2018, at 10 am CT/11 am ET** will work best.

Please tentatively hold this date/time and I hope to send a confirmation invitation within the next couple of days.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Kindest regards,

Julie

Julie Murphy, MA
Senior Administrator for Grants and Leadership
Immunization Action Coalition
651-647-9009

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Sign up at www.immunize.org/subscribe/



DISCLAIMER: The Immunization Action Coalition (IAC) intends this confidential message solely for the listed recipients. No contract is implied unless confirmed in a separate communication by an authorized agent of IAC. The content of this message does not constitute medical advice.

From: [Stanley Plotkin](#)
To: [Reiss, Dorit R.](#)
Subject: RE: Anyone who does pro-vaccine advocacy in France?
Date: Saturday, June 14, 2014 9:07:52 AM

Can't hurt

From: Reiss, Dorit R. [mailto:reissd@uchastings.edu]
Sent: Saturday, June 14, 2014 11:58 AM
To: Stanley Plotkin; 'Deborah L. Wexler'
Cc: 'Amy Pisani'
Subject: RE: Anyone who does pro-vaccine advocacy in France?

Bad news indeed. Whether specific to HPV, or general.

Would it be appropriate to reach out to Dr. Autran and ask whether any of our social media groups can help, or at least offer support?

best,
Dorit.

From: Stanley Plotkin <stanley.plotkin@vaxconsult.com>
Sent: Friday, June 13, 2014 11:46 PM
To: 'Deborah L. Wexler'; Reiss, Dorit R.
Cc: 'Amy Pisani'
Subject: RE: Anyone who does pro-vaccine advocacy in France?

The situation is indeed bad. After discussion with French vaccinologists, it appears that they are in disarray as there is no government support of vaccination, which has become political, and few people willing to speak out in favor of science. There is an organization called Corevac, headed by Dr. Brigitte Autran brigitte.autran@psl.aphp.fr, but they have not been able to do much. The current government is unpopular and unlikely to take a strong stand. I was to meet the head of the French technical committee akin to the ACIP, but he failed to show up at the pro-vaccine meeting where I spoke and where he was supposed to speak, which gives you an idea of the situation.
Stanley

From: Deborah L. Wexler [mailto:Deborah@immunize.org]
Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 12:27 PM
To: Reiss, Dorit R.; Stanley Plotkin, MD
Cc: Amy Pisani (amyp@ecbt.org)
Subject: RE: Anyone who does pro-vaccine advocacy in France?

We can ask Stan Plotkin. I am going to cc him. He spends a fair amount of time in France. Stanley, can you help Dorit with her question?
Deborah

Deborah L. Wexler, MD
Executive Director
Immunization Action Coalition
deborah@immunize.org

From: Reiss, Dorit R. [<mailto:reissd@uchastings.edu>]
Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 11:06 AM
To: Deborah L. Wexler; Amy Pisani
Subject: Anyone who does pro-vaccine advocacy in France?

Hi Deborah and Amy,

Does either of you know any pro-vaccine advocate in France? This is making the rounds in the anti-vaccine community: <http://sanevax.org/france-aluminum-adjuvants-hpv-vaccines-debate/> and I'd like to get the real story and the meaning of it.

best,

Dorit Rubinstein Reiss
Professor of Law
UC Hastings College of the Law
415-5654844
reissd@uchastings.edu

From: [Stanley Plotkin](#)
To: ["Deborah L. Wexler"](#); [Reiss, Dorit R.](#)
Cc: ["Amy Pisani"](#)
Subject: RE: Anyone who does pro-vaccine advocacy in France?
Date: Friday, June 13, 2014 4:46:09 PM

The situation is indeed bad. After discussion with French vaccinologists, it appears that they are in disarray as there is no government support of vaccination, which has become political, and few people willing to speak out in favor of science. There is an organization called Corevac, headed by Dr. Brigitte Autran brigitte.autran@psl.aphp.fr, but they have not been able to do much. The current government is unpopular and unlikely to take a strong stand. I was to meet the head of the French technical committee akin to the ACIP, but he failed to show up at the pro-vaccine meeting where I spoke and where he was supposed to speak, which gives you an idea of the situation.

Stanley

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Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 12:27 PM
To: Reiss, Dorit R.; Stanley Plotkin, MD
Cc: Amy Pisani (amyp@ecbt.org)
Subject: RE: Anyone who does pro-vaccine advocacy in France?

We can ask Stan Plotkin. I am going to cc him. He spends a fair amount of time in France. Stanley, can you help Dorit with her question?

Deborah

Deborah L. Wexler, MD
Executive Director
Immunization Action Coalition
deborah@immunize.org

From: Reiss, Dorit R. [mailto:reissd@uchastings.edu]
Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 11:06 AM
To: Deborah L. Wexler; Amy Pisani
Subject: Anyone who does pro-vaccine advocacy in France?

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best,

Dorit Rubinstein Reiss
Professor of Law
UC Hastings College of the Law

415-5654844

reissd@uchastings.edu

From: [Stanley Plotkin](#)
To: ["Deborah L. Wexler"](#); [Reiss, Dorit R.](#)
Cc: ["Amy Pisani"](#)
Subject: RE: Anyone who does pro-vaccine advocacy in France?
Date: Monday, June 02, 2014 9:33:02 AM

I am well aware of the controversy in France, where a surprising amount of antivaccination sentiment exists. I am going there tomorrow and will meet some of the people who participated in the May 22 debate. At the end of the week I can give some insight about it.

Stanley

From: Deborah L. Wexler [mailto:Deborah@immunize.org]
Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 12:27 PM
To: Reiss, Dorit R.; Stanley Plotkin, MD
Cc: Amy Pisani (amyp@ecbt.org)
Subject: RE: Anyone who does pro-vaccine advocacy in France?

We can ask Stan Plotkin. I am going to cc him. He spends a fair amount of time in France. Stanley, can you help Dorit with her question?

Deborah

Deborah L. Wexler, MD
Executive Director
Immunization Action Coalition
deborah@immunize.org

From: Reiss, Dorit R. [mailto:reissd@uchastings.edu]
Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 11:06 AM
To: Deborah L. Wexler; Amy Pisani
Subject: Anyone who does pro-vaccine advocacy in France?

Hi Deborah and Amy,

Does either of you know any pro-vaccine advocate in France? This is making the rounds in the anti-vaccine community: <http://sanevax.org/france-aluminum-adjuvants-hpv-vaccines-debate/> and I'd like to get the real story and the meaning of it.

best,

Dorit Rubinstein Reiss
Professor of Law
UC Hastings College of the Law
415-5654844
reissd@uchastings.edu

From: [Stanley Plotkin](#)
To: [Reiss, Dorit R.](#)
Subject: Re: michigan
Date: Thursday, December 13, 2018 4:25:08 AM

Thanks. Don't spend a lot of time on it as I guess there's nothing we can do
Stan

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 13, 2018, at 12:10 AM, Reiss, Dorit R. <reissd@uchastings.edu> wrote:

Dear Stanley,

I apologize for the delay in answering. I reached out to a couple of colleagues with expertise in civil procedure, and the (less than satisfactory) answer is that it really depends on the locality and area, and there may not be any rules setting timing - and my colleagues are not sufficiently familiar with the specific rules that apply to that court. I can dig deeper or reach out to the lawyer, but it will take a few days.

best,
Dorit.

Dorit Rubinstein Reiss

Professor of Law

UC Hastings College of the Law

415-5654844

reissd@uchastings.edu

From: Stanley Plotkin <stanley.plotkin@vaxconsult.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 9:17 PM
To: Reiss, Dorit R.
Subject: michigan

Dear Dorit:

I've asked you this before, but how long can the judge in Michigan stall without giving a decision?

Stan

From: [Stanley Plotkin](#)
To: [Reiss, Dorit R.](#)
Cc: [Offit, Paul](#)
Subject: Re: Op-ed on vaccines
Date: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 4:57:45 AM

If you want mine it will have to wait until Friday as I am in DC
Stan

Sent from my iPhone

On May 30, 2018, at 7:39 AM, Reiss, Dorit R. <reissd@uchastings.edu> wrote:

Small headshot. They put it next to the piece. Like what you use for conferences.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 30, 2018, at 4:16 AM, Offit, Paul <OFFIT@email.chop.edu> wrote:

Edits are fine. What pictures do you want?

From: Reiss, Dorit R. <reissd@uchastings.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 5:46 PM
To: Offit, Paul; Stanley Plotkin
Subject: Fw: Op-ed on vaccines

- A. Are the edits okay?
- B. Do you have pictures you can send - either to Ben directly, or to me and I will forward?
- C. I think my signature covers all of us, but will let you know if that's not the case.

best,
Dorit.

Dorit Rubinstein Reiss

Professor of Law

UC Hastings College of the Law

415-5654844

reissd@uchastings.edu

From: Ben Armistead <Ben_Armistead@dailyjournal.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 9:17 PM

To: Reiss, Dorit R.

Subject: RE: Op-ed on vaccines

Thanks Dorit! Minor edits attached. Do you have photos of each author we can use? (Have ours on file.)

Also, our freelance agreement is [here](#).

Best,

Ben

From: Reiss, Dorit R. [<mailto:reissd@uchastings.edu>]

Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 11:59 AM

To: Ben Armistead <Ben_Armistead@dailyjournal.com>

Subject: Re: Op-ed on vaccines

Dear Ben,

Please see attached my piece. As you will see, it's a multi-author piece. Please tell me if it fits the Daily Journal, or if it would fit after specific changes.

I appreciate your help in this, once again.

best,

Dorit.

Dorit Rubinstein Reiss

Professor of Law

UC Hastings College of the Law

415-5654844

reissd@uchastings.edu

From: Ben Armistead <Ben_Armistead@dailyjournal.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 5:10 PM

To: Reiss, Dorit R.

Subject: RE: Op-ed on vaccines

That'd be great.

From: Reiss, Dorit R. [<mailto:reissd@uchastings.edu>]

Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 10:03 AM

To: Ben Armistead <Ben_Armistead@dailyjournal.com>

Subject: Re: Op-ed on vaccines

Hi Ben,

Thank you! I can send you a draft either today or tomorrow?

best,

Dorit.

Dorit Rubinstein Reiss

Professor of Law

UC Hastings College of the Law

415-5654844

reissd@uchastings.edu

From: Ben Armistead <Ben_Armistead@dailyjournal.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 4:03 PM

To: Reiss, Dorit R.

Subject: RE: Op-ed on vaccines

Hi Dorit –

Sure, that'd be great! When do you think you can have it by?

Best,

Ben

From: Reiss, Dorit R. [<mailto:reissd@uchastings.edu>]

Sent: Monday, May 28, 2018 9:48 PM

To: Ben Armistead <Ben_Armistead@dailyjournal.com>

Subject: Op-ed on vaccines

Dear Ben,

I wonder if you would be interested in an op-ed describing a problem that came up in family law cases where one parent wants to vaccinate and another does not, and a new resource prepared to respond to that?

best,

Dorit.

Dorit Rubinstein Reiss

Professor of Law

UC Hastings College of the Law

415-5654844

reissd@uchastings.edu

From: [Stanley Plotkin](#)
To: [Reiss, Dorit R.](#)
Subject: RE: Op-ed on vaccines
Date: Thursday, May 31, 2018 5:05:54 PM
Attachments: [photo Plotkin 1013.jpg](#)

From: Reiss, Dorit R. [mailto:reissd@uchastings.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 5:46 PM
To: Paul Offit ; Stanley Plotkin
Subject: Fw: Op-ed on vaccines

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- B. Do you have pictures you can send - either to Ben directly, or to me and I will forward?
- C. I think my signature covers all of us, but will let you know if that's not the case.

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Dorit.

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Dorit.

Dorit Rubinstein Reiss
Professor of Law
UC Hastings College of the Law
415-5654844
reissd@uchastings.edu

From: Ben Armistead <Ben_Armistead@dailyjournal.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 5:10 PM
To: Reiss, Dorit R.
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Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 10:03 AM
To: Ben Armistead <Ben_Armistead@dailyjournal.com>
Subject: Re: Op-ed on vaccines

Hi Ben,
Thank you! I can send you a draft either today or tomorrow?

best,
Dorit.

Dorit Rubinstein Reiss
Professor of Law
UC Hastings College of the Law
415-5654844
reissd@uchastings.edu

From: Ben Armistead <Ben_Armistead@dailyjournal.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 4:03 PM

To: Reiss, Dorit R.

Subject: RE: Op-ed on vaccines

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Best,

Ben

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Sent: Monday, May 28, 2018 9:48 PM

To: Ben Armistead <Ben_Armistead@dailyjournal.com>

Subject: Op-ed on vaccines

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best,

Dorit.

Dorit Rubinstein Reiss

Professor of Law

UC Hastings College of the Law

415-5654844

reissd@uchastings.edu



From: [Stanley Plotkin](#)
To: [Reiss, Dorit R.:](#) "Paul Offit "
Subject: RE: Potential Submission to the Family Advocate
Date: Friday, June 01, 2018 9:29:49 AM

I agree, we want to get the word out to the largest audience.

Stan

From: Reiss, Dorit R. [mailto:reissd@uchastings.edu]
Sent: Friday, June 01, 2018 9:39 AM
To: Paul Offit ; Stanley Plotkin
Subject: Fw: Potential Submission to the Family Advocate

So, the Family Advocate is the more fitting outlet, I think - we do not have a full law review article planned - but it's a long process. My inclination is to start it anyway, because this is a population we want to reach (family lawyers), while working to get the word out in other ways. But if a year ahead seems too long to you, I won't bother.

Thoughts?

Dorit

From: lisa_comforty@comforty.com <lisa_comforty@comforty.com>
Sent: Friday, June 1, 2018 11:54 AM
To: Reiss, Dorit R.
Subject: RE: Potential Submission to the Family Advocate

Hello, Dorit:

Thank you very much for your inquiry. As you may know, *Family Advocate* is the Section's magazine—articles are short (2,500 words), not footnoted, conversational in tone, and oriented towards the practitioner. The legal analysis is still, of course, required to be rigorous and accurate. *Family Law Quarterly*, on the other hand, is our law journal, with the typical footnoted and more academically oriented (though still practical) format. Articles are often 10,000 words or so. It would seem that you could write for either, of course.

That said, *Family Advocate* is planned very far in advance and in accordance with specific themes--authors have to wait a year or two sometimes just to be assigned a place in an issue. *FLQ* slots are a bit more flexible. I could put you in touch with either of the editors in chief. Do you have a preference?

Lisa

Lisa V. Comforty
Lisa Comforty Consulting, LLC

Managing Editor
Family Advocate/Family Law Quarterly
ABA Section of Family Law
Email: lisa_comforty@comforty.com
Telephone: 224-425-6833

From: Reiss, Dorit R. <reisssd@uchastings.edu>
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2018 10:10 PM
To: lisa_comforty@comforty.com
Subject: Potential Submission to the Family Advocate

Dear Ms. Comforty,

I am a professor of law in UC Hastings College of the Law. Over the past five years my focus has been on law and policy related to vaccines. In that role I have been watching and communicating with family lawyers in cases in which the parents debate whether to vaccinate or not.

I would like to write an article about the legal situation in such cases and the potential pitfalls, with some advice. Does that sound like something that might be of interest? I am not a lawyer. But I have received multiple queries over the years from family law lawyers wanting to discuss it.

best,
Dorit.

Dorit Rubinstein Reiss
Professor of Law
UC Hastings College of the Law
415-5654844
reisssd@uchastings.edu

From: [Vacsafety](#) on behalf of [Stanley Plotkin](#)
To: VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG
Subject: Re: [VACSAFETY] ACCV Webinar Notes 12.6.18
Date: Friday, December 07, 2018 1:49:39 PM

Was there no mention of why adult claims have risen? I believe it relates to shoulder injuries from influenza vaccine, which is often being given to high in the arm.

Stanley Plotkin

From: Vacsafety [mailto:VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG] **On Behalf Of** Banks, Dominique
Sent: Friday, December 07, 2018 4:31 PM
To: VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG
Subject: [VACSAFETY] ACCV Webinar Notes 12.6.18

Hi All,

APCO listened in on the Advisory Commission on Childhood Vaccines (ACCV) webinar meeting yesterday. You can find a full meeting agenda [here](#). Below are the key highlights from the webinar and a summary of each presentation.

Advisory Commission on Childhood Vaccines (ACCV)

Teleconference and Adobe Connect

December 6, 2018

Meeting Summary:

Federal health agencies are working to improve public awareness of vaccine adverse effects by providing information on available resources.

The Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP) reported that the first two months of the 2019 fiscal year show a drastic increase in claims, following a trend that has persisted for several years.

Key Highlights:

- The Vaccine Injury Compensation Program reports that adult claims are backlogged.
- Just two months into 2019 fiscal year, 203 claims have been filed – up 17% from the 2018 fiscal year.
- The Department of Justice recorded 375 total petitions filed this fiscal year in US Courts – 23 for minors and 352 for adults.
- The ACCV work group is focusing on increasing public awareness and education about influenza, HPV vaccines and resources available to the public when vaccine adverse effects do occur. The work group is considering TV commercials, social media campaigns, and other activations to better reach the public.
- The CDC and Prevention Immunization Safety Office updated ACCV on the advances in influenza prevention. Both cream and nasal spray formulations are currently in phase one of clinical trials.
- The FDA recently approved a supplement for HPV.

ACCV Work Group Update

- The ACCV work group plans to create a survey measuring public knowledge and education about resources for vaccine adverse effects
- The survey was sparked by the lack of public awareness of ACCV's existence

- Survey should boost parent knowledge of ACCV
 - Survey should not contain leading questions
 - Most important question to answer: “how did you find out about ACCV?”
- Better outreach is necessary to communicate ACCV’s original mission-- helping children
 - Updates are needed for the legislative processes of ACCV
 - Public ads, constant marketing brand, or email campaign are all possibilities to boost awareness
 - Handouts distributed after vaccinations that detail adverse effects are often discarded
 - With the growth of misinformation online, there is need for more reliable resources on vaccines

Report from the Division of Injury Compensation Programs

- Overall, Vaccine Injury Compensation Programs (VICP) claims are continuing to increase rapidly every month.
 - Between FY 2008-2018, annual claims grew from 417 to 1,238
- So far in FY 2019, 203 claims have been filed
 - In FY 2018, 574 claims were filed
- Backlog of claims continue to be a concern for VICP
 - The current backlog does not have a breakdown of minors versus adults
 - There is ongoing backlog from FY 2018 (only adults claims, no pediatric ones)
- FY 2018 – Petitioners Award \$199,658,492 and Attorney Claims \$26,969,807 – the highest increase from previous years
- Total Vaccine Injury Compensation Trust Fund: \$3,857,743,855 as of 9/30/18

Report from the Department of Justice

- The total number of claims filed at US courts is 375: 23 are cases involving minors and the remaining 352 are adults. All are entitlement cases.
- Many of the claims are pending at the federal level but the majority are expected to settle
- Department is recommending increased funding to support the VICP

Update on the Immunization Safety Office (ISO), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Vaccine Activities

- Introducing an initiative to administer the Hepatitis A vaccine to homeless people who are especially at risk
 - The Hepatitis A vaccine is considered especially effective – data suggests it is useful through age 45
- A study conducted by the CDC focused on adolescents, who are most commonly given the HPV vaccine
 - Study found the vaccine effectiveness decreases in adults but still helpful
 - Health economic models analyzing cost-benefit of the HPV vaccine in adults are ongoing
- The Influenza vaccine had historically low uptake in 2017 – agencies are trying to boost immunizations this year
 -

During pregnancy, influenza vaccine is still 40% effective in preventing illness

- The CDC conducted a study where children received a full dose of the influenza vaccine
 - Many countries give children a higher dose and have reported higher effectiveness
 - Study results showed that giving the full dose to children resulted in a similar immunization than half a dose
- Although many providers don't stock both the Tdap and the Fluzone vaccines, both should be available

Update on the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), National Institutes of Health (NIH) Vaccine Activities

- NIH is conducting a study with a imiquimod cream that can boost immune response to the influenza vaccine
 - Approved for a potential influence, if made available it is thought to prevent dangerous outbreak
 - Currently in the phase 1 clinical state
- NIH is testing the safety and immune-stimulating ability of nasal spray

Update on the Center for Biologics, Evaluation and Research (CBER), Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Vaccine Activities

- FDA approved supplement for human papillomavirus (HPV)

Update from the National Vaccine Program Office (NVPO)

- NVPO is continuing efforts to improve influenza vaccine coverage in the US
 - This week is National Influenza Vaccine Week
 - Social media campaign #WhyIFightTheFlu is ongoing; telling stories of personal experiences
 - Continuing outreach efforts to get people vaccinated against influenza
- September meeting takeaways:
 - Agency broadly focused on innovation
 - Focus on stakeholder meeting to spark ideas for outreach
 - Collaboration with other organizations is important and effective
 - Continuing to use social media intentionally, particularly Twitter

###

Dominique Banks
Associate Consultant

APCO Worldwide
30 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 1270
Chicago, IL 60606

(t) +1 312 368 7543 (m) +1 312 833 6102

dbanks@apcoworldwide.com
[@apcoworldwide](#)

::::: [Top Places to Work in PR, 2018](#) - PR News :::::

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From: [Vacsafety](#) on behalf of [Stanley Plotkin](#)
To: VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG
Subject: Re: [VACSAFETY] Another Autism/Vaccine Study
Date: Tuesday, November 11, 2014 7:37:57 AM

Deisher is a well-known anti-vaccine person and the journal is one of those open access journals that publishes without review.

S Plotkin

-----Original Message-----

From: Vacsafety [<mailto:VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG>] On Behalf Of Litjen Tan
Sent: Sunday, November 02, 2014 1:14 PM
To: VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG
Subject: [VACSAFETY] Another Autism/Vaccine Study

FYI

L.J

Litjen (L.J) Tan, MS, PhD
Chief Strategy Officer
Immunization Action Coalition

Co-Chair, National Adult Immunization Summit and National Influenza Vaccine Summit

Phone: (651) 647-9009
Direct: (708) 660-9573
Email: lj.tan@immunize.org

Follow IAC at:
Twitter: @ImmunizeAction
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/VaccineInformation>

Follow L.J at:
Linked In: <http://www.linkedin.com/in/ljtan/>
Twitter: @lj_tan

-----Original Message-----

From: Ann Lewandowski [alewandowski@RWHC.COM]
Received: Sunday, 02 Nov 2014, 12:06pm
To: IZCOALITIONS@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG [IZCOALITIONS@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG]
Subject: Another Autism/Vaccine Study

Hey everyone,

I wanted to give you all a heads up about an article that was published in the Journal of Public Health and Epidemiology called Impact of Environmental Factors and the Prevalence of Autistic Disorders after 1979. of The long and short of it is that it finds a correlation between autism and the use of

fetal cells in vaccines. As we all know, a correlation does not equal causation! Also of note is the group that sponsored the article is called Sound Choice Pharmaceutical institute. Part of their mission is to eliminate the use of fetal cells in vaccines, so their bias definitely shows.

Just wanted to give everyone a heads up in case you get questions or comments stemming from this.

Have a great rest of your weekend,
Ann

http://academicjournals.org/article/article1411048618_Deisher%20et%20al.pdf

#####

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Version: 2014.0.4765 / Virus Database: 4189/8496 - Release Date: 11/02/14

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From: [Vacsafety](#) on behalf of [Stanley Plotkin](#)
To: VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG
Subject: Re: [VACSAFETY] Autism Investigated Post
Date: Friday, June 15, 2018 7:58:56 AM

One particular point I want to call attention to, and that is in Paragraph 5, where he talks about package inserts and what they say or don't say. I have been pushing FDA and the manufacturers to add more safety data to the insert, not sentences such as those that imply safety was only monitored for days. I have urged the AAP and PIDS to support those changes. One point I do agree with Kennedy about: there should be more safety studies, financed by the vaccine tax money that pays for the compensation system. Then there could be fewer law suits.

Stanley Plotkin

From: Vacsafety [mailto:VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG] **On Behalf Of** Reiss, Dorit R.
Sent: Friday, June 15, 2018 10:51 AM
To: VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG
Subject: Re: [VACSAFETY] Autism Investigated Post

The article was published in several places before - Common Dreams, The World Mercury Project's own site - and that's where you'll find the comments. Autism Investigated is activist Jake Crosby's blog, and he quite often republishes articles from other sources there.

Dorit.

From: Vacsafety <VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG> on behalf of Banks, Dominique <dbanks@APCOWORLDDWIDE.COM>
Sent: Friday, June 15, 2018 2:34 PM
To: VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG
Subject: [VACSAFETY] Autism Investigated Post

Hi all,

In case you haven't seen, we wanted to share the following blog post on, "Autism Investigated" by Robert Kennedy, Jr. focused on vaccine manufacturers relationship with the government. Of note, the article mentions Pfizer. The blog post was posted on the evening of June 14 and currently, there are no public comments.

ROBERT F. KENNEDY JR: Vaccine Safety and the (Flawed) Liberal Mind

Autism Investigated

June 14, 2018

<https://www.autisminvestigated.com/robert-kennedy-jr-vaccines-liberal/>

Instead of demanding blue-ribbon safety science and encouraging honest, open and responsible debate on the science, too many online outlets are silencing critics and shutting down discussion on this key public health and civil rights issue.

Late last year, *Slate* published an [investigative report](#) detailing how pharmaceutical giant, Merck, used "flawed" and "unreliable" pre-licensing safety studies to push through approval of its multi-billion-dollar bonanza, the HPV vaccine. For veteran safe vaccine advocates, like myself, the most shocking aspect of

the expose was that *Slate* published it at all. *Slate* and other liberal online publications including *Salon*, *Huffington Post* and *The Daily Beast* customarily block articles that critique vaccine safety in order, they argue, to encourage vaccination and protect public health. Motivated by this noble purpose, the liberal media—the supposed antidote to corporate and government power—has helped insulate from scrutiny the burgeoning vaccine industry and its two regulators, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Both agencies have pervasive and potentially corrupting financial entanglements with the vaccine manufacturers, according to extensive [congressional investigations](#).

Ironically, liberals routinely lambaste Pharma, and its FDA enablers for putting profits over people. Recent examples include Vioxx ([100,000 injured](#)—Merck paid more than [\\$5 billion](#) in fines and settlements), Abilify (Bristol Myers Squibb paid [\\$515 million](#) for marketing the drug to nursing homes, knowing it can be fatal to seniors), Celebrex and Bextra (Pfizer paid [\\$894 million](#) for bribing public officials and false advertising about safety and effectiveness) and, of course, the opioid crisis, which in [2016](#) killed more Americans than the 20-year Vietnam War. What then, makes liberals think that these same companies are immune from similar temptations when it comes to vaccines? There is plenty of evidence that they are not. Merck, the world's largest vaccine maker, is currently fighting multiple [lawsuits](#), brought by its own scientists, claiming that the company forced them to falsify efficacy data for its MMR vaccine.

“The absence of critical attention to this exploding industry by liberal online sites is particularly troubling since pharma, using strategic investments, has effectively sidelined, not just Congress, lawyers and courts, but virtually all of our democracy’s usual public health sentinels.”

The *Slate* article nowhere discloses that FDA licenses virtually all vaccines using the same mawing safety science deficiencies that brought us Gardasil. FDA claims that “vaccines undergo rigorous safety testing to determine their safety.” But that’s not true. FDA’s choice to classify vaccine makers as “biologics” rather than “drugs” opened a regulatory loophole that allows vaccines to evade any meaningful safety testing. Instead of the multi-year double-blind inert placebo studies—the gold standard of safety science—that the FDA requires prior to licensing other medications, most vaccines now on the CDC’s recommended childhood vaccine schedule were safety tested for only a few days or weeks. For example, the [manufacturer’s package insert](#) discloses that Merck’s Hep B vaccine (almost every American infant receives a Hep B shot on the day of birth) underwent, not five years, but a mere five days of safety testing. If the babies in these studies had a seizure—or died—on day six, Merck was under no obligation to disclose those facts.

Furthermore, many vaccines contain dangerous amounts of known neurotoxins like [mercury](#) and [aluminum](#) and carcinogens like [formaldehyde](#), that are associated with neurodevelopmental disorders, autoimmune problems, food allergies and cancers that might not be diagnosed for many years. A five-day study has no way of spotting such associations. Equally shocking, FDA does not require vaccine manufacturers to measure proposed vaccines against true inert placebos, further obscuring researchers’ capacity to see adverse health effects and virtually guaranteeing that more subtle injuries, such as impaired immune response, loss of IQ or depression, will never be detected—no matter how widespread. Furthermore, the CDC has [never studied](#) the impacts on children’s health of combining 50 plus vaccines.

These lax testing requirements can save vaccine manufacturers tens of [millions of dollars](#). That’s one of the reasons for the “gold rush” that has multiplied vaccines from three, when I was a boy, to the 50 plus vaccines that children typically receive today.

There are other compelling reasons why vaccines have become Pharma’s irresistible new profit and growth vehicle. For example, manufacturers of the 50 plus vaccines on CDC’s childhood schedule enjoy what has become a trapped audience of 74 million child consumers who are effectively compelled to purchase an expensive product, sparing vaccine makers additional millions in advertising and marketing costs.

But the biggest economic boon to vaccine makers has been the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act ([NCVIA](#)). In 1986, Congress [awash in pharmaceutical dollars](#)—Big Pharma is, by far, the [top](#) Capitol Hill

lobbying group—passed NCVIA giving pharmaceutical companies what amounts to blanket immunity from liability for any injury caused by vaccines. No matter how toxic the ingredients, how negligent the manufacturer or how grievous the harm, vaccine-injured children cannot sue a vaccine company. That extraordinary law eliminated a principal cost associated with making other drugs and left the industry with little economic incentive to make vaccines safe. It also removed lawyers, judges and courts from their traditional roles as guardians of vaccine safety. Since the law's passage, industry revenues have skyrocketed from \$1 billion to [\\$44 billion](#).

The absence of critical attention to this exploding industry by liberal online sites is particularly troubling since pharma, using strategic investments, has effectively sidelined, not just Congress, lawyers and courts, but virtually all of our democracy's usual public health sentinels. Pervasive financial entanglements with vaccine makers and the other alchemies of agency capture have transformed the FDA and CDC into industry sock puppets.

Strong economic drivers—pharmaceutical companies are the biggest network [advertisers](#)—discourage mainstream media outlets from criticizing vaccine manufacturers. A network president once told me he would fire any of his news show hosts who allowed me to talk about vaccine safety on air. "Our news division," he explained, "gets up to 70% of ad revenues from pharma in non-election years."

Furthermore, liberal activists including environmental, human rights, public health and children's advocates also steer clear of vaccine safety discussions. On other core issues like toxics, guns and cigarettes, the CDC has a long record of friendly collaboration with these advocates who have thereby acquired a knee-jerk impulse to protect the agency from outside criticism.

In this vacuum, online liberal news sites are the last remaining barrier to protect children from corporate greed, yet they have become self-appointed arbiters against exposing the public to negative information about vaccine manufacturers and regulators. Liberal voices are not just sidelined, they are subsumed in the orthodoxy that all vaccines are always good for all people—and the more the better. Working with Pharma reps and their tame politicians, liberal news reporters and columnists across America are laboring in nearly every state to make the CDC vaccine schedule compulsory for children and to eliminate religious, philosophical and even medical exemptions.

As a result, the government/Big Pharma combination has gained unprecedented power to override parental consent and force otherwise healthy children, and other unwilling consumers, to undergo compulsory vaccinations, a shocking advance along the road to a corporate totalitarianism which seeks absolute control, even of our bodies. Keep in mind that there is no authentic dispute that vaccination is a risky medical intervention. It was the wave of lawsuits arising from injuries suffered from the Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis (DTP) vaccine in the 1980s, that caused Congress to pass the NCVIA bestowing immunity on the pharmaceutical industry, which threatened, otherwise, to stop making vaccines. In upholding that law, the Supreme Court declared NCVIA justified because "vaccines are unavoidably unsafe." Since then, the Federal Vaccine Court, created by NCVIA, has paid out [\\$3.8 billion](#) to vaccine-injured individuals. That number dramatically understates the true gravity of the harm. A Department of Health and Human Services funded report acknowledges that "fewer than [1% of vaccine](#) adverse events are reported."

Supporting a law that forces Americans to relinquish control of their bodies to a corporate/state behemoth is an odd posture for liberals, who once championed the precept of "informed consent," as the mainstay of the [Nuremberg Code](#) and the declarations of [Helsinki](#) and [Geneva](#) which protect individuals against all coerced medical interventions.

Science suggests that we might have made a big mistake by not aggressively safety testing our mandatory vaccines. Chronic diseases like ADHD, asthma, autoimmune diseases and allergies now affect [54 percent](#) of our children, up from [12.6 percent](#) in 1988, the year NCVIA took effect. And those data measure only the injuries characterized in digital medical records. Health advocates warn that we may be missing subtler injuries like widespread losses in reading and IQ and in executive and behavioral functions.

The suspicion that the neurotoxins in vaccines may be negatively affecting a generation is not wild speculation. Numerous studies point to the once ubiquitous use of [leaded gasoline](#) as the cause of widespread IQ loss and violence that bedeviled the generations from the 1960s-1980s. Is it not possible that dramatically increased infant exposures to aluminum and ethyl mercury—a far more potent neurotoxin than lead—might be significantly debilitating the post NCVIA generation?

The CDC claims that the cause of the sudden explosion in neurodevelopmental disorders, autoimmune illnesses and food allergies that began in the [late 1980s](#), is a mystery. However, vaccine court awards, manufacturers' package inserts and reams of [peer-reviewed science](#) all recognize that many of the chronic diseases that suddenly became epidemic in our children following the passage of NCVIA can be caused by vaccines or their ingredients.

The Institute of Medicine (now the National Academy of Medicine), the ultimate arbiter of federal vaccine safety science, has listed 155 diseases potentially associated with vaccination and scolded the CDC for failing to study [134](#) of them. School nurses who have spent decades in their jobs say they are seeing the sickest generation in history. The epidemic has not proven a problem for the vaccine industry. On the back end of the chronic disease explosion, vaccine companies like Merck are making a killing on the EpiPens, antidepressants, stimulants, asthma inhalers and anti-seizure drugs. Instead of demanding blue-ribbon safety science and encouraging honest, open and responsible debate on the science, liberal blogs shut down discussion on this key public health and civil rights issue, and silence critics, treating faith in vaccines as a religion; the heresy of questioning dogma meets with anathema and excommunication.

The core of liberalism is a healthy skepticism toward government and business. So why do vaccines get a mulligan?

Dominique Banks
Project Consultant

APCO Worldwide
30 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 1270
Chicago, IL 60606

(t) +1 312 368 7543

dbanks@apcoworldwide.com
[@apcoworldwide](#)

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From: [Vacsafety](#) on behalf of [Stanley Plotkin](#)
To: VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG
Subject: Re: [VACSAFETY] Colorado HB 1288 Amendment
Date: Friday, April 18, 2014 6:04:19 AM

Yes, a Senator wrote me saying the amendment eliminated compulsory education of parents reluctant to vaccinate.

Stanley

-----Original Message-----

From: Vacsafety [<mailto:VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG>] On Behalf Of Vogel, Alexa
Sent: Thursday, April 17, 2014 9:36 AM
To: VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG
Subject: [VACSAFETY] Colorado HB 1288 Amendment

Hi, All -

We are attempting to confirm a report from Chalkbeat Colorado that Colorado HB 1288 received a significant amendment yesterday from the Senate State Affairs Committee. Has anyone heard of this?

<http://co.chalkbeat.org/2014/04/16/teeth-pulled-from-immunization-bill/>

The requirement that parents seeking a non-medical exemption receive education on vaccination or complete an online educational course was supposedly removed. Instead, the bill creates several duties for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, including:

- Creation of a website containing information about the benefits and risk of immunizations
- Issuance of rules on how often child care centers and schools should collect exemption forms
- Working with other state agencies to develop a common policy on immunization data collection
- Providing technical assistance to child care centers and schools on how to analyze immunization data

Thanks for your help,

Alexa

Alexa Vogel

Project Assistant
APCO Worldwide
700 12th Street NW
Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20005

(w) +1.202.478.3588 | (m) +1.202.431.7081
avogel@apcoworldwide.com<<mailto:avogel@apcoworldwide.com>> |
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From: [Vacsafety](#) on behalf of [Stanley Plotkin](#)
To: VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG
Subject: Re: [VACSAFETY] Ever Wonder Where They Get Their Money?
Date: Friday, February 06, 2015 8:01:37 AM

Indeed, this is very interesting. The Dwoskin Foundaton is based in Orange County, not surprisingly, but I think we need some more information about who these people are. In addition, and I admit that I probably have missed this, is there a concise analysis of the data on vaccination and autism that is written for lay people?

Stanley

From: Vacsafety [mailto:VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG] **On Behalf Of** Amy Pisani
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2015 10:49 AM
To: VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG
Subject: Re: [VACSAFETY] Ever Wonder Where They Get Their Money?

The story we've all been waiting for! We have started a hash tag #behindthecurtain

Let's all work on making this story go far and wide on twitter, facebook, etc!

Amy Pisani

Executive Director, Every Child By Two

860/536-3366 (o)
202/277-7587 (c)

Follow ECBT at:

Web: www.VaccinateYourBaby.org
www.ecbt.org

Find Us On:

Facebook: [Vaccinate Your Baby](#)

Join Our Blog Conversation: ShotOfPrevention.com

Twitter: @EveryChildBy2

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to **Every Child By Two Inc** whenever you shop on [AmazonSmile](#).

From: Vacsafety [mailto:VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG] **On Behalf Of** DeWald, Erica
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2015 10:33 AM
To: VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG
Subject: [VACSAFETY] Ever Wonder Where They Get Their Money?

CNN uncovered the anti-vaccine movement's funding:

<http://money.cnn.com/video/news/2015/02/05/the-money-behind-the-vaccine-medical-myth.cnnmoney/>

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"If you connect the measles it spells out 'My parents are idiots.'"

From: [Vacsafety](#) on behalf of [Stanley Plotkin](#)
To: VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG
Subject: Re: [VACSAFETY] Fwd: Daily Clips
Date: Monday, February 02, 2015 11:30:16 AM
Attachments: [~WRD000.jpg](#)
[image001.jpg](#)
[image002.jpg](#)
[image003.jpg](#)
[image004.jpg](#)
[image005.jpg](#)
[image006.jpg](#)
[image007.jpg](#)
[image008.jpg](#)
[image009.jpg](#)
[image010.jpg](#)
[image011.jpg](#)
[image012.jpg](#)
[image013.jpg](#)
[IMG_0848.JPG](#)

I thought everybody would enjoy this from the New Yorker.
Stanley Plotkin

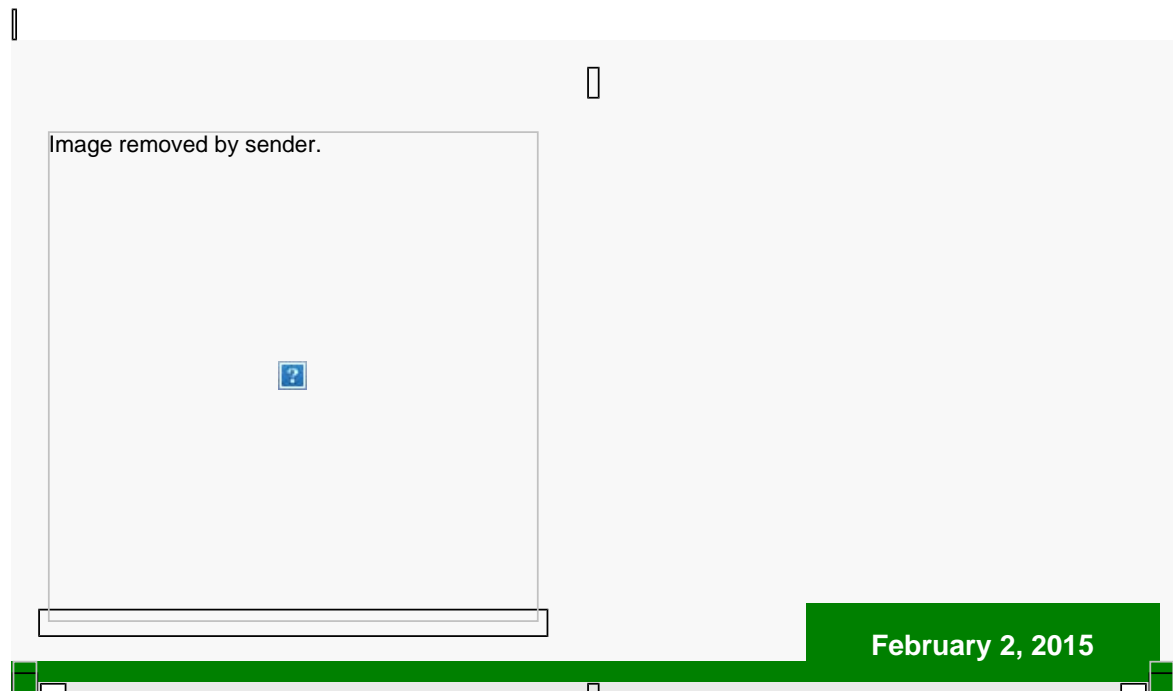
From: Vacsafety [mailto:VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG] **On Behalf Of** Amy Pisani
Sent: Monday, February 02, 2015 2:22 PM
To: VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG
Subject: [VACSAFETY] Fwd: Daily Clips

Ian here are today's daily clips. We have no landline power or internet at home today due to storm

Amy Pisani, Executive Director, ECBT

Begin forwarded message:

From: Every Child By Two <info@ecbt.org>
Date: February 2, 2015 at 11:59:13 AM EST
To: amyp@ecbt.org
Subject: Daily Clips
Reply-To: info@ecbt.org



Daily Clips

Below are the day's news and blog clips discussing vaccines. This service is provided to immunization partners nationwide to encourage proactive engagement of local print and television reporters on vaccine issues. We also encourage our partners to comment on blog posts listed within the clips. Thank you for your support!



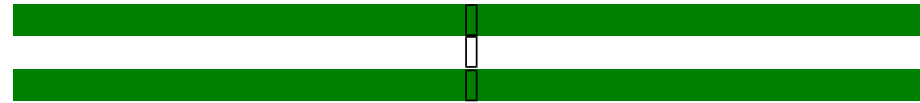
1) "A Discredited Vaccine Study's Continuing Impact on Public Health" *The New York Times* (February 1, 2015) - "In the churning over the refusal of some parents to immunize their children against certain diseases, a venerable Latin phrase may prove useful: Post hoc, ergo propter hoc. It means, 'After this, therefore because of this.' In plainer language: Event B follows Event A, so B must be the direct result of A. It is a classic fallacy in logic. It is also a trap into which many Americans have fallen. That is the consensus among health professionals trying to contain recent spurts of infectious diseases that they had believed were forever in the country's rearview mirror. They worry that too many people are not getting their children vaccinated, out of a conviction that inoculations are risky. Some parents feel certain that vaccines can lead to autism, if only because there have been instances when a child got a shot and then became autistic. Post hoc, ergo propter hoc. Making that connection between the two events, most health experts say, is as fallacious in the world of medicine as it is in the field of logic."

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/02/us/a-discredited-vaccine-study-continuing-impact-on-public-health.html?_r=0

2) EDITORIAL: "The measles vaccine is a shot of common sense" *The Washington Post* (January 31, 2015) - "DR. JAY Gordon, a pediatrician in Santa Monica, Calif., appeared in a 'CBS Evening News' broadcast the other day, talking about the measles outbreak that began at Disneyland and now has infected 67 people in 11 states. Dr. Gordon has signed 'personal belief exemptions' allowing parents in California to avoid vaccinating their children against the disease. 'This measles outbreak does not pose a great risk to a healthy child,' he said. 'And quite frankly, I don't think it poses any risk to a healthy child.' He added that measles 'is an almost always benign childhood illness.' This thinking is dangerous. Measles is a highly infectious, acute viral illness that

threatens people who are unvaccinated. Dr. Gordon would be right to say it is not a great risk to children who have been inoculated. But he and others who enable people to avoid vaccination are trafficking in poor information that could lead to more cases of a disease that was eliminated in the United States 15 years ago."

http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-measles-vaccine-is-a-shot-of-common-sense/2015/01/31/bb071ca8-a8a3-11e4-a7c2-03d37af98440_story.html



3) "'Get your kids vaccinated,' Obama tells parents doubting 'indisputable' science" *Washington Post* (February 2, 2015) - "In the face of a growing measles outbreak, President Obama is urging parents to heed modern science and vaccinate their children. 'There is every reason to get vaccinated - there aren't reasons to not,' Obama said in an interview with NBC News. Excerpts from the interview were aired Sunday night and Monday morning. 'I just want people to know the facts and science and the information,' the president said. 'And the fact is that a major success of our civilization is our ability to prevent disease that in the past have devastated folks. And measles is preventable.'"

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2015/02/02/get-your-kids-vaccinated-obama-tells-parents-doubting-indisputable-science/>



4) "White House Urges Measles Vaccinations as Number of Infected Passes 100" *TIME* (January 31, 2015) - "The White House said on Friday that parents should be "listening to our public health officials," who urge vaccinations against measles, as it emerged the disease has now infected more than 100 people in the U.S. White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest said that President Obama thinks parents should ultimately make their own decision whether or not to vaccinate their children, Reuters reports, but added that the science clearly points to vaccinating. 'People should evaluate this for themselves with a bias toward good science and toward the advice of our public health professionals,' said Earnest. According to new numbers from the California Department of Public Health, 91 of the confirmed cases are in California, ground zero for the recent U.S. measles outbreak that began in December."

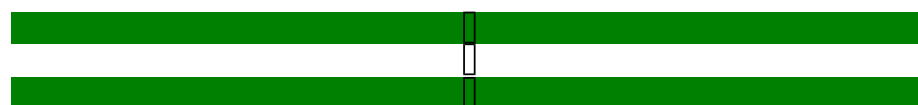
<http://time.com/3691079/measles-vaccinations-white-house/>



5) "Obama urges vaccination of children, says NFL should consider officials controlling footballs" *U.S. News & World Report* (February 1, 2015) - "President Barack Obama on Sunday encouraged parents to vaccinate their children and said the U.S. is doing everything in its power to rescue a 26-

year-old woman held by the Islamic State, speaking in a wide-ranging interview also covering football and politics. Obama's comments to NBC came as the U.S. grapples with a measles outbreak traced back to California's Disneyland theme park and a day after the release of video that purportedly showed the beheading of a Japanese journalist held by the militants... On the measles outbreak that has spread to more than 100 people, Obama said children who are not vaccinated are putting infants and other people who can't get vaccinations at risk. 'You should get your kids vaccinated,' Obama said directly. Some parents continue to believe debunked research linking vaccines to autism and refuse to vaccinate their children. 'I understand that there are families that, in some cases, are concerned about the effect of vaccinations,' Obama said. 'The science is, you know, pretty indisputable.'"

<http://www.usnews.com/news/politics/articles/2015/02/01/obama-nfl-should-consider-officials-controlling-game-balls>



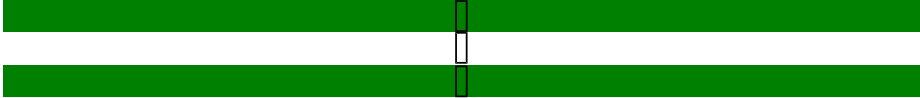
6) "Amid growing vaccination debate, measles continues to spread and is now in New York state" *Washington Post* (January 31, 2015) - "Health officials announced that a college student diagnosed with measles recently traveled across New York on a train, potentially exposing untold numbers of travelers to the virus, according to news reports. The infected individual, a student at Bard College, boarded a 1:20 p.m. Sunday Amtrak train from New York City's Penn Station to Rhinecliff, N.Y., according to ABC News. The train stopped in Albany before traveling on to Niagara Falls, ABC reported. 'Anyone traveling on Amtrak train #283 from Penn Station in NYC to Albany on January 25, 2015, and who is not immune to measles or not sure of their measles immunity, should contact their primary care physician if they become ill with fever,' the New York State Department of Health said in a statement, according to the Associated Press."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-nation/wp/2015/01/31/amid-growing-vaccination-debate-measles-continues-to-spread-and-is-now-in-new-york-state/>



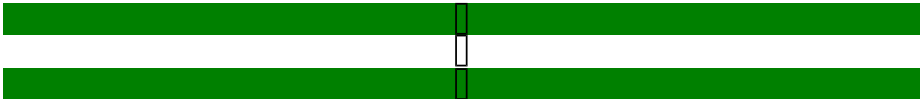
7) "As Measles Cases Spread in U.S., So Does Anxiety" *New York Times* (January 30, 2015) - "The mother of a measles-infected child said she was shocked and scared when doctors gave her the diagnosis. Kellie Krueger's son Uriah is one of the at least 84 confirmed measles cases in a multi-state outbreak that started in December at Disneyland amusement park in California. Krueger said she was surprised when doctors told her that her son had measles. Uriah was given one dose of the MMR vaccine that helps protect against the measles virus, but was too young to get the recommended second dose that would help further his protection."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/31/us/as-measles-spreads-in-us-so-does-anxiety.html>



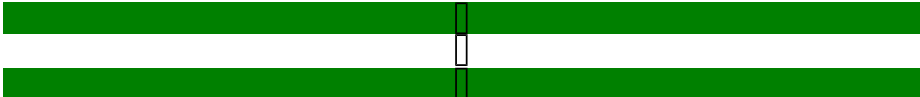
8) **"Measles outbreak grows to 107 cases, latest in Marin County"** *Los Angeles Times* (January 30, 2015) - "The California-centered measles outbreak has spread to Marin County, as the number of cases climbed to 107 in 10 California counties, seven other states and Mexico. The California Department of Public Health confirmed Friday that there are now 91 cases in the state, 58 of which can be linked to visitors or employees at Disneyland or those who came in contact with them during the holidays. The two confirmed measles patients in Marin County were both unvaccinated, officials said, and parents have been alerted that children without proof of immunity will be ordered to stay away from school for 21 days if a case occurs on campus."

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-measles-outbreak-hits-marin-county-20150130-story.html>



9) **"Vaccine Critics Turn Defensive Over Measles"** *The New York Times* (January 30, 2015) - "Their children have been sent home from school. Their families are barred from birthday parties and neighborhood play dates. Online, people call them negligent and criminal. And as officials in 14 states grapple to contain a spreading measles outbreak that began near here at Disneyland, the parents at the heart of America's anti-vaccine movement are being blamed for incubating an otherwise preventable public-health crisis. Measles anxiety rippled thousands of miles beyond its center on Friday as officials scrambled to try to contain a wider spread of the highly contagious disease - which America declared vanquished 15 years ago, before a statistically significant number of parents started refusing to vaccinate their children."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/31/us/vaccine-critics-turn-defensive-over-measles.html>



10) **"Chris Christie Calls for 'Balance' in Vaccine Debate"** *NBC News* (February 2, 2015) - "New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie on Monday said the government needs to strike a 'balance' between public health and parental choice in making decisions about vaccinating kids, even as an outbreak of measles is spreading among unvaccinated people in the United States. 'We vaccinate ours [kids], and so, you know that's the best expression I can give you of my opinion,' Christie said when asked if he would urge Americans to vaccinate their children. 'You know it's much more important what you think as a parent than what you think as a public official. And that's what we do. But I also understand that parents need to have some measure of choice in things as well, so that's the balance that the government has to decide.'"

<http://www.nbcnews.com/politics/elections/chris-christie-calls-balance-vaccine-debate-n298386>



11) "30 percent of Americans agree with Chris Christie on vaccines; 13 percent of scientists do." *Washington Post* (February 2, 2015) - "New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie (R) has turned up the burner on a long-simmering issue in American society: vaccinations. In saying that parents should have 'some measure of choice' in deciding whether their children should be vaccinated, Christie finds himself among a not-insignificant minority of Americans. And this group includes about equal numbers of Republicans and Democrats. A Pew Research Center study released just last week shows 30 percent of Americans say that vaccines should be a matter of parental choice, while 68 percent say the vaccines should be required."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/the-fix/wp/2015/02/02/30-percent-of-americans-agree-with-chris-christie-on-vaccines-13-percent-of-scientists-do/>



12) "CDC Director Says Measles Vaccine Is Safe" *The Wall Street Journal* (February 1, 2015) - The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention director, Thomas Frieden, defended the safety of measles vaccines, saying children who aren't vaccinated put their families and neighbors at risk. 'We've had over one billion vaccines given and study after study has shown that there are no negative long-term consequences,' Dr. Frieden said Sunday on ABC's 'This Week.' 'It's a serious disease and it would be terrible if we have preventable illness, even death, from this disease that's preventable with a safe and effective vaccine.' His comments come amid an outbreak of about 100 measles cases originating at Disney theme parks in December, the CDC has said. The outbreak has been attributed to some parents who have opted out of the vaccinations for their children amid concerns about a possible link between vaccines and autism, which has been debunked by scientists."

<http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2015/02/01/cdc-director-says-measles-vaccine-is-safe/>



13) "Doctor 'fires' patients who refuse to vaccinate their kids" *Associated Press* (January 30, 2015) - "With California gripped by a measles outbreak, Dr. Charles Goodman posted a clear notice in his waiting room and on Facebook: His practice will no longer see children whose parents won't get them vaccinated. 'Parents who choose not to give measles shots, they're not just putting their kids at risk, but they're also putting other kids at risk - especially kids in my waiting room,' the Los Angeles pediatrician said. It's a sentiment

echoed by a small number of doctors who in recent years have "fired" patients who continue to believe debunked research linking vaccines to autism. They hope the strategy will lead parents to change their minds; if that fails, they hope it will at least reduce the risk to other children in the office."

<http://nypost.com/2015/01/30/doctor-fires-patients-who-refuse-to-vaccinate-their-kids/>



14) "Meet the Latest Driver of the Anti-Vaccine Clown Car (Who Thinks You're a 'Bad Mother')" *TIME* (January 30, 2015) - "Vanity doesn't die; misinformation doesn't die; arrogance and narcissism and opportunism don't die. But you know what does die? Children. That's worth keeping in mind as the latest carnival barker from the anti-vaccine community steps up for his ignoble hour of attention. The new medical reprobate is Dr. Jack Wolfson, an Arizona-based cardiologist and practitioner of holistic medicine. Until recently, he was a largely unknown character-which was a very, very good thing. But in the wake of the California measles outbreak that originated in Disneyland and has so far infected 93 people in eight states and Mexico, he has picked up the megaphone of social and mainstream media to inveigh against vaccines as unsafe, unnecessary, stuffed with toxins and, well, never mind. You know this drill."

<http://time.com/3689645/wolfson-antivaccine-measles/>



15) "5 things to know about measles" *CNN* (January 30, 2015) - "Each year, on average, about 60 people in the United States are reported to have measles, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. However, this year is on track to be one of the worst for measles in more than a decade, and health officials say people who refuse to vaccinate their children are behind the increase. The number of cases reported through August 24 is 159 -- the second-highest number of cases since 2000, when measles was declared eliminated from the United States. In 2011, there were 222 cases. As of November, there have been 175 cases reported, according to CDC Director Dr. Thomas Frieden."

http://www.cnn.com/2013/12/05/health/measles-5-things/?sr=google_news



16) OPINION: "The Vaccine Lunacy" *The New York Times* (January 31, 2015) - "You've probably heard or read about the recent outbreak traced to the theme park. But there's a chance that you're unaware, because it hasn't received nearly the coverage that, say, Ebola did, even though some of the dynamics at work here are scarier. It started in mid-December and is now believed to be responsible for more than 70 cases in seven states and Mexico; 58 of those are in

California, which of course is where the park is - in Orange County, to be more specific. As it happens, there are affluent pockets of that county where the fraction of schoolchildren whose parents have cited a 'personal belief' to exempt them from vaccinations is higher than the statewide average of 2.5 percent. That's also true of some affluent pockets of the San Francisco and Los Angeles areas...FRANK BRUNI"

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/01/opinion/sunday/frank-bruni-disneyland-measles-and-madness.html>

17) **"Measles continues to spread as scientists urge parents to vaccinate children" *Yahoo! News* (January 31, 2015)** - "Health officials confirm that more than 100 people have been infected with measles in the United States since December. There are 91 confirmed cases in California alone, most linked to an outbreak at Disneyland, but the virus has made its way to New York as well. A student at Bard College in Dutchess County, N.Y., sent shivers throughout the state Friday, after it was discovered that he had boarded an Amtrak train in Manhattan's bustling Penn Station earlier in the week. The infected individual traveled about 100 miles north and got off in Rhinecliff, N.Y., possibly exposing other commuters to the disease, ABC News reported."

<http://news.yahoo.com/measles-continues-to-spread-as-scientists-urge-parents-to-vaccinate-children-194701325.html>

18) **COLUMN: "Vaccines Kill And Damage, Yes, But Less Than The Diseases They Prevent" *Forbes* (February 1, 2015)** - "Given the ongoing outbreak of measles in the United States it's perhaps worth laying out the hard headed economic case in favour of vaccination. This is the economics of health care, yes, but also of vaccine production. And the problems lie in the fact that vaccines really do harm some people. Which means that we need to have a public policy over what we're going to do about this fact. And so we end up in a situation which is all too often found in economics, that we don't in fact have a single solution at all. Indeed, this is often considered to be the basic lesson of economics itself. The universe is simply sufficiently complicated that there are no solutions, only trade offs. And so it is with vaccines. They really do carry some small danger in and of themselves. And yet those dangers are smaller than allowing the diseases they protect against to rampage throughout the population. We thus end up with public policy being determined by that utilitarian ethos of the greatest good of the greatest number. Vaccinate and then deal with the smaller number of problems instead of do not vaccinate and have a larger number...TIM WORSTALL"

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/timworstall/2015/02/01/vaccines-kill-and-damage-yes-but-less-than-the-diseases-they-prevent/>

19) COLUMN: "Measles Vaccination: A Response From Dr. Bob Sears" *Forbes* (February 2 2015) - "In my last post, I called for the licenses of anti-vaccination doctors. In response to my request, I received an email from Dr. Bob Sears. I was asked to post it only in its entirety. However, in the long-standing internet tradition of 'fisking' I will comment on it extensively. It begins: I didn't read the story, but I can certainly speak to the question posed in the title. Although I am a pro-vaccine doctor, I don't think anti-vaccine doctors should lose their licenses. Whether or not Dr. Bob is 'anti-vaccine' could be said to be a matter of opinion, but an examination of the facts based on his statements and writing leads me to conclude otherwise. I suppose it depends on what you choose to define as 'anti-vaccine.' For my purposes, an anti-vaccine doctor is one who consistently recommends against following the science-based guidelines on vaccination for people who should otherwise follow it. In my opinion, Dr. Sears is most certainly anti-vaccine...PETER LIPSON"

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/peterlipson/2015/02/02/measles-vaccination-a-response-from-dr-bob-sears/>

20) "'Ow, Ow, Ow': Child's Bout With Measles Makes Parents Glad for Vaccine" *NBC News* (January 30, 2015) - "...Measles causes a high fever, cough, muscle aches and, about four days after the first symptoms, it causes a painful red rash. Uriah was in the middle of a classic measles episode. It's no laughing matter, doctors say. About one in 1,000 people with measles will get pneumonia. And between one and three in 1,000 will die of pneumonia, a brain inflammation called encephalitis, or another complication. On a first visit, Uriah's pediatrician diagnosed flu. ;They brought him back in on Thursday because it wasn't getting any better and the pediatrician immediately looked at him and said, 'You've got to get out of here. You've got to get to the hospital', Kellie said."

<http://www.nbcnews.com/nightly-news/ow-ow-ow-childs-bout-measles-makes-parents-glad-vaccine-n297236>

21) "Measles outbreak reopens vaccination fight" *The Hill* (January 31, 2015) - "An outbreak of measles that started in California's Disneyland has quickly led to a nationwide debate over child vaccinations. More than 100 cases of measles have been reported, including 91 in California, according to a report by Reuters. The California Department of Public Health has traced at least 58 of the contagious disease cases to the Disneyland outbreak. While no deaths have been reported, attention to the health scare has been steadily building and reached the White House on Friday, where spokesman Josh Earnest defended vaccinations as sound science."

<http://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/231363-measles-outbreak-reopens-fight-over-vaccinations>



22) "Pro-Life Groups say Merck is Partly to Blame for Measles Outbreaks" *The Wall Street Journal's Pharmalot Blog* (January 30, 2015) - "As the measles outbreak focuses attention on parents who object to vaccination, some pro-life groups argue one culprit contributing to the problem is actually Merck, which makes the only measles vaccine available in the U.S. And some have begun a new campaign this week to pressure the drug maker to alter the composition of its vaccine. At issue is the MMR - or measles, mumps and rubella - combination vaccine sold by Merck. Pro-life groups say they object to the rubella component on religious grounds because it was made using cell lines derived from aborted fetuses. As a result, the groups say pro-life supporters have avoided the MMR vaccine ever since Merck ended production in 2009 of a dedicated measles vaccine."

<http://blogs.wsj.com/pharmalot/2015/01/30/pro-life-groups-say-merck-is-partly-to-blame-for-measles-outbreaks/>



23) "Why Children's Author Roald Dahl Was Pro-Vaccine" *Forbes* (February 1, 2015) - "Roald Dahl remains one of my all-time favorite children's book authors. The novelist is best known for works like Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, James and the Giant Peach, and Matilda, but he penned plenty of other masterpieces, from The Witches to The Twits to The Big Friendly Giant... In 1988, Dahl also penned a rather heartbreaking account of why he supports vaccines, and the measles vaccine in particular. Think of it as his way to urge the stubborn anti-vaccine crowd onto a better path. His daughter, Olivia, came down with measles when she was seven-the same age as my own daughter. Things seemed fine at first... Olivia died in 1962. Her death haunted Dahl even decades later. Even in the late 80s when Dahl penned his letter, anti-vaccine sentiment was a problem (in the UK where he lived.)"

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/erikkain/2015/02/01/why-childrens-author-roald-dahl-was-pro-vaccine/>



24) "Anti-Vaccine Movement Causes Worst Measles Epidemic In 20 Years" *Forbes* (February 1, 2015) - "Measles is now spreading outward from Disneyland in California, in the worst outbreak in years. The epidemic is fueled by growing enclaves of unvaccinated people. The CDC reports that in just the past month, 84 people from 14 states contracted measles, a number that is certainly an under-estimate, because the CDC doesn't record every case."

California alone has 59 confirmed cases, most of them linked to an initial exposure in Disneyland. A majority of people who have gotten sick were not vaccinated. For years, scientists (including me) have warned that the anti-vaccination movement was going to cause epidemics of disease. Two years ago I wrote that the anti-vaccine movement had caused the worst whooping cough epidemic in 70 years. And now it's happening with measles."

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/stevensalzberg/2015/02/01/anti-vaccine-movement-causes-worst-measles-epidemic-in-20-years/>



25) "Arizona clinic discovers earlier measles exposure" *USA Today* (January 30, 2015) - "A pediatric health-care center here is reeling with the discovery of a second measles case about a week and a half earlier than one in which almost 200 people may have been exposed. Officials at Phoenix Children's East Valley Center, a specialty and urgent care center here, say they have no idea how many people may have been exposed to the highly contagious virus Jan. 11 when the patient came in, but Maricopa County Health Department officials say it is a much smaller number of people who potentially could get sick."

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2015/01/30/arizona-measles/22612453/>



26) "Mom of 3-Year-Old Measles Patient Calls Diagnosis 'Shocking'" *ABC News* (January 31, 2015) - "The measles outbreak tied to Disneyland continued to spread anxiety Friday as two new cases emerged overnight in Marin County in California - along with at least one in Nebraska - while Arizona officials warned that at least 1,000 people may have been exposed to the virus through seven others in that state. Since Jan. 1, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have confirmed 84 measles cases in 14 states. California's health department, which is updating a measles count more frequently, has found more than 90 cases in the United States and Mexico so far, with 52 linked to the Disneyland outbreak."

<http://abcnews.go.com/Health/mom-year-measles-patient-calls-diagnosis-shocking/story?id=28630801>



27) "A Grandmother on 'Watch the Needle and Just Say Ouch'" *Huffington Post* (January 30, 2015) - "Eighty-eight and counting, the number of measles cases reported so far in the 'Disneyland' outbreak, is a lot -- the largest single eruption since 2000, when the United States was declared

essentially measles-free. On the other hand, eighty-eight cases aren't many, considering the population as a whole and compared to the past. Before measles vaccines became commonplace in 1963, according to CDC there were three to four million cases a year with four to five hundred of those people dying. Measles is only part of a larger picture. Visualize the world I was a child and then parented in. Many of the vaccines available to us now, such as the one for measles, mumps and rubella (MMR), were not yet developed...MARGARET SULLIVAN"

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/margaret-sullivan/a-grandmother-on-watch-th_b_6576378.html



28) VIDEO: "Passenger With Measles Takes Amtrak Train from Penn Station" *ABC News* (January 31, 2015)

<http://abcnews.go.com/GMA/video/passenger-measles-takes-amtrak-train-penn-station-28626173>



29) "Measles Is A Killer: It Took 145,000 Lives Worldwide Last Year" *NPR* (January 30, 2015) - "The number of measles cases from the outbreak linked to Disneyland has now risen to at least 98. But measles remains extremely rare in the United States. The rest of the world hasn't been so fortunate. Last year roughly 250,000 people came down with measles; more than half of them died. Currently the Philippines is experiencing a major measles outbreak that sickened 57,000 people in 2014. China had twice that many cases, although they were more geographically spread out. Major outbreaks were also recorded in Angola, Brazil, Ethiopia, Indonesia and Vietnam."

<http://www.npr.org/2015/01/30/382716075/measles-is-a-killer-it-took-145-000-lives-worldwide-last-year>



30) "Measles outbreak sparks debate over unvaccinated patients" *CBS News* (January 31, 2015) - "The measles outbreak that started last month at Disneyland is not slowing down. It's now up to at least 114 cases in 14 states. A growing number of doctors are now refusing to treat patients who are not vaccinated. It's a policy that puts them at odds with some leaders in the medical community. Dr. Margaret Van Blerk is a pediatrician in Orange County, California, home to 27 confirmed cases of measles and one of the largest groups of unvaccinated children in the state."

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/measles-outbreak-sparks-doctors-debate-over->

[unvaccinated-patients/](#)

31) LETTERS: "Limit Vaccination Exemptions for Better Public Health"

***The Wall Street Journal* (January 30, 2015)** - "...If you want to change vaccination rates in California, allow schools the option to require all children to be vaccinated, with only medically necessary exceptions and no personal-beliefs exceptions. Parents could then choose whether they want their kids in a school with unvaccinated children...JENNIFER MICHAEL...Attacking the rationality of self-interested parents will never result in universal vaccination. Rather, legislative removal of religious and philosophical exemptions is the only sure course for the medical community to pursue...JONATHAN L. FOX"

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/limit-vaccination-exemptions-for-better-public-health-letters-to-the-editor-1422664331>

32) "1 in 5 millennials thinks vaccines cause autism" *Vox* (January 31, 2015) - "Americans ages 18 to 29 are more likely to oppose mandatory childhood vaccination and say vaccines can cause autism, according to a new survey. A survey of 1,000 US adults by YouGov, conducted between January 26 and January 28, found 21 percent of young adults believe the long-debunked idea that vaccines cause autism, while just 13 percent of all US adults agree. The empirical research on this issue is clear: there is no connection between vaccines and autism. The Lancet, a British medical journal, in 2010 retracted a high-profile study from 1998 that falsely claimed to find a link between vaccines and autism, discrediting the one major piece of evidence vaccine skeptics cited in the past. "

<http://www.vox.com/2015/1/31/7954725/vaccines-autism-young-adults>

33) "New Measles Cases Confirmed In Marin And San Mateo Counties"

***CBS SF (CA)*(January 30, 2015)** - "Health officials Friday evening announced that they have confirmed a third case of measles in San Mateo County, bringing the total new cases announced in the Bay Area Friday to three. The announcement follows the news that two unvaccinated siblings have contracted the first cases of measles in Marin County since 2001. The Marin County children were exposed outside the county as part of the Disneyland Resort outbreak and were not in contact with any children at their school at the time they could have transmitted the disease, county Public Health Officer Dr. Matt Willis said."

<http://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2015/01/30/new-measles-cases-confirmed-in->

34) "Whoopi Goldberg Has the Perfect Response to Anti-Vaxxer

Parents" *Mic* (January 31, 2015) - "Anti-vaxxers, 'Save your emails and your tweets,' because Whoopi Goldberg is about to drop some truth on you, and she doesn't care who hears. The EGOT-winning comedian was discussing the anti-vaccination movement on *The View* with co-host Rosie O'Donnell and guests Mario Cantone and Padma Lakshmi on Thursday. The panel was debating the story of Oakland, California, mother Jennifer Simon and Livia, her infant daughter. Livia was forced into a four-week quarantine after visiting a doctor who had treated a child with measles earlier in the day. Livia, too young to be vaccinated, is now waiting out a quarantine to ensure that she doesn't become the latest victim of a disease that used to be all but eradicated in the Western world. California has been hit by a high-profile measles outbreak following a trip to Disneyland by an unvaccinated family.

<http://mic.com/articles/109560/whoopie-goldberg-has-the-perfect-response-to-anti-vaxxer-parents>

35) "White House, CDC warn about measles" *NY Daily News* (January 30, 2015) - "More measles cases have been reported this month than the total median number of cases in recent years, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Thursday. The outbreak has gotten so serious that the White House has chimed in. 'The president's view is that people should evaluate this for themselves, with a bias toward good science and toward the advice of our public health professionals, who are trained to offer us exactly this kind of advice,' President Obama's spokesman Josh Earnest said Friday. In a telebriefing Thursday, Anne Schuchat, assistant surgeon general for the U.S. Public Health Service and the CDC's national Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, said that more adults - not just kids - are falling ill with the virus, and in more states."

<http://www.nydailynews.com/life-style/health/white-house-cdc-warn-measles-article-1.2098277>

36) "Private schools putting NYC at risk for measles outbreak" *NY Post* (January 31, 2015) - "The Disneyland measles outbreak, in which at least 84 people in 14 states have contracted the disease, should be a wake-up call for New York City. Thanks to pockets of anti-vaccinators exploiting loopholes in state policy, particularly on the Upper East Side, outbreaks here are inevitable, health experts say. NYC public schools require vaccinations for all students and

grant religious and medical exceptions rarely. Only 0.19 percent of public school students received the religious exemption this year, while 0.01 percent were granted a medical exemption. But private schools may accept nearly any medical and religious exception they deem worthy, and more than 90 private schools in the city report vaccination rates for their children below the recommended 95 percent last year. For 24 of those schools, the rates dipped below 80 percent."

<http://nypost.com/2015/01/31/private-schools-putting-nyc-at-risk-for-measles-outbreak/>



37) "US Measles Outbreak Worrisome, CDC Official Says" *Medscape* (January 30, 2015) - "The current measles outbreak in the United States should serve as a wake-up call, a federal health official said yesterday. This measles outbreak 'worries me,' said Anne Schuchat, MD, assistant surgeon general, US Public Health Service, and director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, during a hastily called media briefing. 'We need to do everything possible to prevent measles from getting a foothold in the United States and becoming endemic again,' Dr Schuchat said. 'Measles is extremely contagious. It can be a very serious disease, and people of all ages need to be protected. The MMR [measles/mumps/rubella] vaccine is safe and effective and highly recommended.'"

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/838966>



38) "84% Of Kindergartners Not Up-To-Date On Vaccines At A Marin School, Majority Of Students Unprotected At Many Private Schools" *CBS SF (CA)*(January 30, 2015) - "New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie (R) has turned up the burner on a long-simmering issue in American society: vaccinations. In saying that parents should have 'some measure of choice' in deciding whether their children should be vaccinated, Christie finds himself among a not-insignificant minority of Americans. And this group includes about equal numbers of Republicans and Democrats. A Pew Research Center study released just last week shows 30 percent of Americans say that vaccines should be a matter of parental choice, while 68 percent say the vaccines should be required."

<http://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2015/01/30/84-of-kindergartners-not-up-to-date-on-vaccines-at-a-marin-school-majority-of-students-unprotected-at-some-private-schools/>



39) "Parents claiming 'religious' exemption can skip vaccines in Alabama" *AL.com* (January 30, 2015) - "Alabama doesn't make it as easy as other states to opt out of vaccinations for children. But a survey of kindergartners from 2013-2014 showed that parents of 447 students claimed a religious exemption from vaccines that are required for attendance at public school. The measles vaccination rate for incoming kindergartners is 92 percent, which is relatively high compared to most states in the region. Herd immunity occurs when vaccination rates reach 95 percent, which means that people who are too sick or too young to be vaccinated are also protected by the immunity of those around them. 'Our overall vaccination rate in Alabama is high,' said Dr. Karen Landers, a pediatrician and consultant for the Alabama Department of Public Health. 'But we remain concerned that if we do not maintain a high vaccination rate, we could also experience outbreaks like the one from Disneyland.'"

http://www.al.com/news/index.ssf/2015/01/parents_claiming_religious_exe.html



40) OPINION: "Epidemic of irresponsibility widens measles threat" *Orange County Register* (CA) (January 30, 2015) - "Somebody went to Disneyland in December with a case of the measles, and at least 94 people got sick. Several cases have appeared in eight other states and Mexico, too. Hundreds more people have been quarantined. Public health officials worry that the epidemic could get worse as tens of thousands of sports fans converge on Phoenix for Super Bowl XLIX. And all of it could have been prevented, if not for the blinkered attitudes of a few. The California Department of Health this week confirmed 79 cases of measles in the state, of which 52 have been linked directly to last month's outbreak at the Happiest Place on Earth. Health officials know for certain that at least 34 patients were unvaccinated, three were partly vaccinated, and five were fully vaccinated...BEN BOYCHUK"

<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/measles-649737-people-children.html>



41) "Outbreaks Remind Us of Dangers of Disease and Benefits of Vaccines" *Shot of Prevention* (January 30, 2015) - "...All you have to do is look at history to see how many millions of lives have been lost, or how many people have been permanently disabled, by infectious diseases. It's no small number. And, there's a long list of diseases that we can now prevent that have been leading killers in the past. Today, vaccination greatly reduces disease, disability, death and inequity worldwide. Vaccines given to infants and young children in the U.S. over the past two decades will prevent 322 million illnesses, 21 million hospitalizations and 732,000 deaths over the course of their lifetimes. While it's hard to see what doesn't occur, the fact remains that vaccines save lives and prevent suffering...No matter how much scientific evidence there is to prove vaccines are responsible for the incredible reduction of disease worldwide, there will always be some people who will run from the truth."

<http://shotofprevention.com/2015/01/30/outbreaks-remind-us-of-dangers-of->

42) "Antivaccine cardiologist Jack Wolfson and the resurrection of false balance about vaccines...again!" *Respectful Insolence* (February 2, 2015) - "...Indeed, Dr. Wolfson has to be one of the most vile antivaccinationists I've ever encountered, and I slammed the local Phoenix NBC affiliate, USA TODAY, and CNN for featuring this pathetic excuse for a physician, particularly CNN, which featured him in the classic 'debate' of pseudoscience that provides false balance, the impression that there is a scientific disagreement about vaccines when there is none. Oops, CNN did it again. Yesterday. In a story by Elizabeth Cohen and Debra Goldschmidt entitled Arizona measles exposure worries parents of at-risk kids CNN couldn't resist giving the vile Dr. Wolfson more national exposure."

<http://scienceblogs.com/insolence/2015/02/02/antivaccine-cardiologist-jack-wolfson-and-the-resurrection-of-false-balance-about-vaccines-again/>

43) "Enraged By 2015 Measles In America" *Seattle Mama Doc* (February 1, 2015) - "...My patience with vaccine hesitancy has pivoted. I'm embarrassed to say it took an outbreak of measles stemming at Disney to move me from impatient and passionate to hands-on-my-hips fired-up and disappointed. Today I feel a bit of outrage that unvaccinated families are not pounding on the door to get their MMR vaccine, even on Superbowl Sunday. In my mind they should be doing so selfishly (for personal protection) and they should be doing so altruistically (for others who really count on them). I expect both from the public. Read Charlie and the Chocolate Factory author Roald Dahl's 1988 message about his daughter's death from measles - insane that it rings true today. I feel somewhat enraged that many parents with babies in the United States are nervous right now about their infants getting measles."

<http://seattlemamadoc.seattlechildrens.org/enraged-by-2015-measles-in-america/>

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From: [Vacsafety](#) on behalf of [Stanley Plotkin](#)
To: VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG
Subject: Re: [VACSAFETY] Fwd: This Week in Vaccine Hesitancy: September 28, 2018
Date: Friday, September 28, 2018 12:03:37 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.jpg](#)
[image003.jpg](#)

I highly recommend this newsletter as it shows you the arguments that anti-vaccinationists will use and the facts needed to refute them.

Stanley Plotkin

From: Vacsafety [mailto:VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG] **On Behalf Of** Karen Ernst
Sent: Friday, September 28, 2018 2:54 PM
To: VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG
Subject: [VACSAFETY] Fwd: This Week in Vaccine Hesitancy: September 28, 2018

Hi folks!

Voices for Vaccines has a new weekly newsletter about what fears are currently circulating among the vaccine hesitant. The intended audience is both providers who might be hearing these fears in clinic and the general public who might encounter them wherever, and the purpose is to give folks some tools to help assuage those fears.

I invite you to sign up for this (and all the) newsletters by joining VFV at www.voicesforvaccines.org/join-us.

Karen Ernst

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Karen Ernst <kernst@voicesforvaccines.org>
Date: Fri, Sep 28, 2018 at 10:01 AM
Subject: This Week in Vaccine Hesitancy: September 28, 2018
To: <householdsix@gmail.com>

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September 28, 2018



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Did you miss last week's issue? You can find it [here](#).

The Flu Vaccine Causes Miscarriage

An article from the [Australian National Review](#) asserts that a new study concludes that women who received flu vaccines during pregnancy were seven times more likely to have a miscarriage. Despite the normally low impact of this publication and 2017 date in the study in question, the article is being shared widely now.

The fact: The [study](#) cited, looking at women who had flu vaccines two seasons in a row, states: "This study does not and cannot establish a causal relationship between repeated influenza vaccination and SAB." While the study signals an area for more study, it is important to note that many other studies have shown [no association](#) between vaccines and miscarriage. Also, influenza during pregnancy can be [devastating](#).

Doctors Refuse Vaccines for Their Own Children

A [Natural News](#) article promoting an old conspiracy theory about doctors refusing to vaccinate their own children has gained [attention](#). This time, the doctors in question are scientists working in [Los Alamos](#), New Mexico.

The facts: The article is based on the tiniest grain of truth: Los Alamos schools have the [highest rate of vaccine exemptions](#) in the state. Of course, that rate is 2.3%, meaning that 97.7% of schoolchildren are immunized. And, of course, [the majority](#) of doctors do vaccinate their children. *Parents want to hear from their children's doctors that they, too, vaccinate their own children.*

HPV Vaccines Cause Infertility

Earlier this summer, a [study](#) claimed that women who had received the HPV vaccine were less likely to conceive a child than women who had not. The study is gaining more attention as proof that the HPV vaccine causes infertility in women.

The facts: [Bloggers](#) have raised concerns about the author's methodology, specifically about her omitting information about birth control. Much large-scale research on the effects of HPV vaccines on fertility issues have been done, and they show that the vaccine is not associated with [ovarian failure](#), and may be associated with [improved fertility](#) for some women.

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From: [Vacsafety](#) on behalf of [Stanley Plotkin](#)
To: VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG
Subject: Re: [VACSAFETY] Heads up - new organization called Vaccine Awareness
Date: Sunday, June 04, 2017 10:26:10 AM

Dear Amy:

I need to talk to you about our visit to Price's assistant with Walt and Paul and Victor Dzau. Can you call me tomorrow at 215 297 9321? Anytime except 2-3 and 4-5 pm.

Thanks,

Stanley

From: Vacsafety [mailto:VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG] **On Behalf Of** Amy Pisani
Sent: Friday, June 02, 2017 5:24 PM
To: VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG
Subject: Re: [VACSAFETY] Heads up - new organization called Vaccine Awareness

if anyone else gets the call perhaps we should just ask for the donor envelope and then report back

Amy Pisani, MS
Executive Director, Every Child By Two
202-277-7587
www.ECBT.org
www.VaccinateYourFamily.org
[blog:](#)
www.Shotofprevention.com

-

[facebook: VaccinateYourFamily](#)
[twitter: EveryChildBy2](#)

From: Vacsafety <VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG> on behalf of Reiss, Dorit R.
<reissd@UCHASTINGS.EDU>
Sent: Friday, June 2, 2017 4:49 PM
To: VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG
Subject: Re: [VACSAFETY] Heads up - new organization called Vaccine Awareness

Asking one possible source, the Thinking Person's Guide to Autism people do not know them, and advise caution.

Best,
Dorit.

From: Vacsafety <VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG> on behalf of Deborah L. Wexler

<Deborah@IMMUNIZE.ORG>

Sent: Friday, June 2, 2017 8:28 PM

To: VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG

Subject: [VACSAFETY] Heads up - new organization called Vaccine Awareness

Dear all,

I just received a phone call solicitation at home from someone named Ashley who said she is from "Autism Awareness," and would I like to contribute \$100 or \$75 to this important cause? They said they would send me a donor envelope. She said they are going to ask Congress to double the funding currently available to help children with autism. I said I hadn't ever heard of her organization, how long had they been in existence. She hesitated, then said she didn't really know but would get a supervisor on the phone to answer my question. I waited, she checked back with me a couple of times to see if anyone came on the line. So I waited for maybe 5-7 minutes and the call suddenly disconnected.

Sounded like a huge phone bank of voices, lots of them, in the background.

Has anyone received calls from "Autism Awareness?"

Does anyone know anything about them?

I found a Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/AutismAwarenessPage/>

but I have no idea if this is the organization.

Anyone know anything about them?

Deborah

Deborah L. Wexler, MD

Executive Director

Immunization Action Coalition

Phone: 651-647-0043 (direct)

Email: Deborah@immunize.org

www.immunize.org

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From: [Vacsafety](#) on behalf of [Stanley Plotkin](#)
To: VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG
Subject: Re: [VACSAFETY] Social media info from VFV
Date: Wednesday, July 11, 2018 9:43:44 AM

Great work! Thanks
Stanley

From: Vacsafety [mailto:VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG] **On Behalf Of** Karen Ernst
Sent: Wednesday, July 11, 2018 11:53 AM
To: VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG
Subject: [VACSAFETY] Social media info from VFV

Hello everyone,

In the latest episode of Vax Talk, our guest was Dr. Jen Golbeck from the Social Intelligence Lab at University of MD. We discussed some really interesting intricacies about social media and vaccines. We learned so much just talking to Dr. Golbeck, and I feel strongly that this is an important episode from everyone--even people who are not sure what a hashtag is.

I also want to mention that during the month of August, we will be publishing 4 podcast episodes. We are currently scheduling sessions with Heidi Murkoff (What to Expect), a teen author, a throat cancer survivor, and Dr. Bob Jacobson.

We are actively seeking sponsors for these episodes, so please contact me if you'd like more info.

Here's where to listen to the latest episode!

<https://www.voicesforvaccines.org/hashtag-how-do-i-social-media-about-vaccines/>

Subscribe now at [Apple Podcasts](#), [Google Play](#), [PodBean](#) or [Stitcher](#). You can also listen to these episodes on [Cast](#).

Thank you!
Karen Ernst

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From: [Vacsafety](#) on behalf of [Stanley Plotkin](#)
To: VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG
Subject: Re: [VACSAFETY] Tucker carlson of Fox News did extensive interview with RFK tonight
Date: Friday, April 21, 2017 5:25:10 AM

I agree he should be countered. However, that means someone(s) in the Vacsafety group would have to undertake a surveillance of what he says and issue timely refutations as press releases. An alternative would be an OpEd article for the NY Times citing his accusations and why they are wrong.
Stanley Plotkin

-----Original Message-----

From: Vacsafety [<mailto:VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG>] On Behalf Of Susan Peschin
Sent: Friday, April 21, 2017 8:19 AM
To: VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG
Subject: Re: [VACSAFETY] Tucker carlson of Fox News did extensive interview with RFK tonight

I completely agree. He is a press draw and every time he comes out and there is nothing to counter him, we take a step back.

Best,
Sue Peschin
President and CEO
Alliance for Aging Research

-----Original Message-----

From: Vacsafety [<mailto:VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG>] On Behalf Of Amy Pisani
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2017 9:53 PM
To: VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG
Subject: [VACSAFETY] Tucker carlson of Fox News did extensive interview with RFK tonight

It was just awful. I know many feel we should not give RFK our attention, but he is not going away. We must refute the lies he is telling.

Amy Pisani, Executive Director
Every Child By Two
202-277-7587

#####

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From: [Vacsafety](#) on behalf of [Stanley Plotkin](#)
To: VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG
Subject: [VACSAFETY] debate
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2015 8:07:22 AM

In the recent debate between a physician and the head of an anti-vaccination organization featured in the video that ended in a shouting match, the anti-vacc person alludes to a Cochrane Database paper. The paper concludes that although it is not likely that MMR causes autism, it cannot be excluded. The reason for this is that there are no huge placebo-controlled studies comparing the rates of autism in vaccinated or unvaccinated children. They ignore all of the many epidemiologic studies. This is the great defect of the Cochrane analyses: their results can be cited to maintain unproven allegations despite the existence of non-placebo controlled but numerous studies coming to the same conclusion.

Stanley Plotkin

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Vaccination

A jab in time

Some Western countries have lower vaccination rates than poor parts of Africa. Anti-vaxxers are not the main culprits

ERADICATING a disease is the sort of aim that rich countries come up with, and poor ones struggle to reach. But for some diseases, the pattern is reversed. These are the ailments for which vaccinations exist. Many poor countries run highly effective vaccination programmes. But as memories of the toll from infectious diseases fades across the rich world, in some places they are making a comeback.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) reckons that vaccines save 2.5m lives a year. Smallpox was eradicated in 1980 with the help of a vaccine; polio should soon follow. In both cases, rich countries led the way. The new pattern looks very different.

The trend is most evident for measles, which is highly contagious. At least 95% of people must be vaccinated to stop its spread (a threshold known as “herd immunity”). Although usually mild, it can lead to pneumonia and cause brain damage or blindness. The countries with the lowest vaccination rates are all very poor, but many developing countries run excellent programmes (see chart on next page). Eritrea, Rwanda and Sri Lanka manage to vaccinate nearly everyone. By contrast several rich countries, including America, Britain, France and Italy, are below herd immunity.

Last year Europe missed the deadline it had set itself in 2010 to eradicate measles, and had almost 4,000 cases. America was declared measles-free in 2000; in 2014 it had hundreds of cases across 27 states and last year saw its first death from the disease

in more than a decade. The trends for other vaccine-preventable diseases, such as rubella, which can cause congenital disabilities if a pregnant woman catches it, are alarming, too.

This sorry state of affairs is often blamed on hardline “anti-vaxxers”, parents who refuse all vaccines for their children. They are a motley lot. The Amish in America spurn modern medicine, along with almost everything else invented since the 17th century. Some vegans object to the use of animal-derived products in vaccines’ manufacture. The Protestant Dutch Reformed Church thinks vaccines thwart divine will. Anthroposophy, founded in the 19th century by Rudolf Steiner, an Austrian mystic-cum-philosopher, preaches that diseases strengthen children’s physical and mental development.

In most countries such refuseniks are only 2-3% of parents. But because they tend to live in clusters, they can be the source of outbreaks. A bigger problem, though, is the growing number of parents who delay vaccination, or pick and choose jabs. Studies from America, Australia and Europe suggest that about a quarter of parents fall into this group, generally because they think that the standard vaccination schedule, which protects against around a dozen diseases, “overloads” children’s immune systems, or that particular vaccines are unsafe. Some believe vaccines interfere with “natural immunity”. Many were shaken by a claim, later debunked, that there was a link

Also in this section

68 Who should get the HPV vaccine?

between autism and the MMR vaccine, which protects against measles, mumps and rubella.

In America, some poor children miss out on vaccines despite a federal programme to provide the jabs free, since they have no regular relationship with a family doctor. Some outbreaks in eastern Europe have started in communities of Roma (gypsies). Members of this poor and ostracised minority are shunned by health workers and often go unvaccinated.

Several governments are trying to raise vaccination rates by making life harder for parents who do not vaccinate their children. A measles outbreak last year that started with an unvaccinated child visiting Disneyland and spread from there to seven states prompted California to make a full vaccination record a condition of entry to state schools. The previous year, in a quarter of schools too few children had been vaccinated against measles to confer herd immunity. A dozen other states are considering similar bills. After a toddler died from measles last year, Germany recently started to oblige parents who do not wish their children to be vaccinated to discuss the decision with a doctor before they can enroll a child in nursery. Australia’s new “no jabs, no pay” law withdraws child benefits from parents who do not vaccinate, unless they have sound medical reasons.

Persuasion, a fine art

There is, however, surprisingly little evidence that tough laws make a big difference to vaccination rates. European countries that are similar in most respects (such as the Nordics) may have similar rates for jabs that are mandatory in one country but not in another—or very different rates despite having the same rules. Rates in some American states where parents can easily opt out are as high as in West Virginia and Mississippi, which have long allowed only ▶▶

HPV vaccines

The cost of embarrassment

A jab to ward off cervical cancer is standard for girls. Should boys have it, too?

THE causes of many cancers are mysterious. Not so for cervical cancer: in nearly all cases the villain is the human papillomavirus (HPV), a common sexually transmitted infection. In more than 60 countries girls are routinely vaccinated against the strains that cause the majority of cases. But in only a handful, including Austria, Australia, America, Switzerland, and some regions of Canada and Germany, are boys vaccinated, too.

To decide who should get the jab, health authorities use mathematical models that tally the costs of various vaccination protocols and expected benefits. Vaccinating boys means that fewer will catch the virus and transmit it to girls; whether that is worth the cost depends on how many of those girls have already received the vaccine. A high vaccination rate among girls alone does much more to protect girls than a lower one among both girls and boys, says Paulus Bloem from the World Health Organisation (WHO). An analysis of America's programme, published in 2011, concluded that gaining an extra year of healthy life by vaccinating boys cost eight times more if three-quarters of girls are covered than if only a fifth are.

Unsurprisingly, the price of the HPV vaccine also influences the result of

cost-benefit analyses. A price break was reportedly influential in Australia's decision to include boys in the national programme. Price negotiations are usually confidential, but the WHO is trying to strengthen governments' bargaining positions by publishing what some say they paid. Also helping to bring costs down is recent research showing that two doses at age 9-14 are as good as the standard three at age 16-25. Several countries have already switched.

The most recent cost-benefit analyses also include the rarer cancers that HPV causes in men, including of the penis, anus and throat. These are much more common in gay men: their rate of anal cancer is the same as the rate of cervical cancer for women who are not screened for it. Tests that spot precursors to cervical cancer have saved many lives by catching cases early; there are no such tests for some of HPV's male cancers.

Some gay-rights activists lament that this argument for giving the jab to boys is ignored because even liberal politicians prefer not to talk about the realities of gay sex. Women had to campaign hard to break through the embarrassment that meant cancers of the breast and reproductive organs often went undiagnosed. The lesson is that such silence can kill.

► medical exemptions.

And strict rules may even harden anti-vaccination attitudes. Australia had previously made exemption conditional on speaking to a doctor or nurse about the benefits of vaccines. The new rules mean fewer chances to change parents' minds. Research suggests that making it harder to avoid the most important vaccines may make it more likely that people who strongly oppose vaccination in general shun optional ones, says Cornelia Betsch of the University of Erfurt.

More important, say public-health experts, is to boost confidence in the safety of vaccines and trust in the authorities that recommend them—both badly damaged in many European countries by past public-health mis-steps, such as a scandal with contaminated blood supply in France from the late 1990s. The best way to handle a vaccine scare is to express empathy and promptly share the results from investigations of alleged adverse reactions, says Heidi Larson of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. British authorities' dismissive response to the MMR scare failed to reassure worried parents.

whelmed by information that they regard as inconclusive or contradictory. One mother seeks advice on how to get around California's "fascist" new rule. Another casts doubt on a study on severe allergic reactions to vaccines: 33 cases from 25m jabs, she says, seems "fishily low".

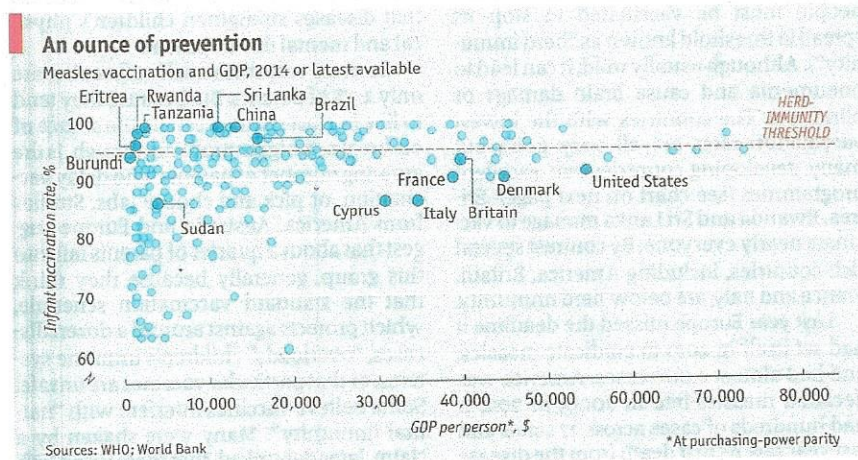
Some countries are starting information campaigns that treat such concerns with respect. A parents' organisation in Bulgaria launched one recently, under the auspices of the ministry of health and the national association of paediatricians. Its website is jargon-free and easier to navigate than unwieldy official hubs. France is launching a national dialogue on vaccines this spring, with a website where citizens can swap gripes, worries and advice.

Although vaccine-hesitant parents often search for answers on the internet, their most trusted sources are doctors and nurses. The WHO recently developed guidelines to help health workers figure out, through a questionnaire, which type of worrier a parent is—and how to alleviate specific concerns. But recent research from several European countries shows that many doctors and nurses are also hesitant about vaccines, for much the same reasons as their patients. In a survey conducted in 2014, 16-43% of French family doctors said they never or only sometimes recommended some of the standard vaccines.

An additional problem is that many adults were not immunised as children and have not caught up since. In the 1970s and 1980s, when the measles vaccine was new, many children did not receive it, or got just one shot, which is now known not to be reliable in conferring immunity. Some countries offer free catch-up jabs to some adults when outbreaks flare up—usually parents with small children and health workers in affected areas.

But such efforts have, on the whole, been too little, too late. The return of easily preventable diseases that had all but disappeared is a shame. A bigger shame would be for governments to continue blaming it all on ignorant parents. ■

One promising new approach is to keep track of the vaccine myths circulating in cyberspace and rebut each one as it appears. This requires tracking information from search engines and following anti-vaccination websites and parents' forums. On one such forum, worriers say they have scoured government and vaccine-manufacturer websites but feel over-



From: [Vacsafety](#) on behalf of [Stanley Plotkin](#)
To: VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG
Subject: [VACSAFETY] economist article
Date: Friday, April 15, 2016 8:36:34 AM
Attachments: [economist.pdf](#)

An interesting and largely accurate article in the Economist.
Stanley Plotkin

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From: [Vacsafety](#) on behalf of [Stanley Plotkin](#)
To: VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG
Subject: [VACSAFETY] FW: Jenner Museum, UK -- needs modest booster dose of funds to remain open
Date: Sunday, February 05, 2017 11:27:29 AM

FYI

Museum At Birthplace Of Vaccination Needs Booster Dose of Funds to Stay Open

[Forbes](#) | 31 January 2017

"Vaccines have saved more lives than nearly any other medical technology in the world. And 220 years after the first vaccine developer tested the first vaccine, his home, now a museum, may have to close to forever. Its trustees don't have the funds to keep it open."

Robert

Robert Steinglass

Director

JSI Immunization Center

1616 North Fort Myer Drive, 16th Floor

Rosslyn, VA 22209

USA

email: rsteinglass@jsi.com

phone: 703-310-5110

www.jsi.com/immunization

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From: [Vacsafety](#) on behalf of [Stanley Plotkin](#)
To: VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG
Subject: [VACSAFETY] FW: Political Action Committee for Science and Technology
Date: Saturday, August 22, 2015 8:52:44 AM

Ladies and Gentlemen, this has a peripheral relation to vaccination, but the hope is that science educated politicians will have a better attitude than ignoramuses.

Stanley

Here is the website of the 314 PAC I was telling you about. We have contributed to it, and I think in addition to Bill Foster (with or without the email site that contacted you) this is something that scientists should be aware of. After you look at it, let me know what you think, because I think if the email came from you, your peers would take a look at this group, no matter what their political affiliation.

314pac.com

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From: [Vacsafety](#) on behalf of [Stanley Plotkin](#)
To: VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG
Subject: [VACSAFETY] houston
Date: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 8:17:44 AM

My understanding is that there is a Texas House race going on in Houston that opposes an anti-vaccinationist named Susan Dukokil against a pro-vaccination Sarah Davis. I have just sent the latter a donation, but aside from that the situation in Texas is dire with some 50,000 vaccine exemptions. I'm sure some of you are from Texas and might be able to help organize opposition to Dukokil and to the anti-vaccination wave, fostered in part by Andrew Wakefield, who was kicked out of England only to land where outlaws are tolerated.

Stanley Plotkin

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From: [Vacsafety](#) on behalf of [Stanley Plotkin](#)
To: VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG
Subject: [VACSAFETY] Jenner House
Date: Sunday, February 05, 2017 9:15:18 AM

Dear All:

The Edward Jenner House is in dire financial straits and is in danger of closing.
Contributions can be made via
www.jennermuseum.com .

Stanley Plotkin

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From: [Vacsafety](#) on behalf of [Stanley Plotkin](#)
To: VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG
Subject: [VACSAFETY]
Date: Friday, January 13, 2017 7:17:58 AM

Does everybody know that there is already an autism committee at HHS, under the chairmanship of a Dr. Joseph Gordon from Columbia?

Stanley Plotkin

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From: [Vacsafety](#) on behalf of [Stanley Plotkin](#)
To: VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG
Subject: [VACSAFETY]
Date: Friday, January 13, 2017 7:25:48 AM

I hope that the committee will react to the Kennedy thing, although adding him to the committee might be a way to neutralize his venom.

S

From: Vacsafety [mailto:VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG] **On Behalf Of** Alison Singer
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2017 10:24 AM
To: VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG
Subject: [VACSAFETY]

In fact that committee, called the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee, is meeting today! I serve on the committee. Alison

On Jan 13, 2017, at 10:20 AM, Litjen Tan <lj.tan@IMMUNIZE.ORG> wrote:

Thanks Stan!

L.J)

<image002.jpg>

Litjen (L.J) Tan, MS, PhD

Chief Strategy Officer

Immunization Action Coalition

Co-Chair, National Adult Immunization Summit and National Influenza Vaccine Summit

Phone: (651) 647-9009

Direct: (708) 660-9573

Email: lj.tan@immunize.org

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Web: www.immunize.org

Follow NAIIS at:

Twitter: @SummitNAIIS

Web: www.izsummitpartners.org

Follow L.J at:

Linked In: <http://www.linkedin.com/in/ljtan/>

Twitter: @lj_tan

From: Vacsafety [<mailto:VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG>] **On Behalf Of** Stanley Plotkin
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2017 9:18 AM
To: VACSAFETY@LISTSERV.IMMUNIZE.ORG
Subject: [VACSAFETY]

Does everybody know that there is already an autism committee at HHS, under the chairmanship of a Dr. Joseph Gordon from Columbia?
Stanley Plotkin

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