

APPENDIX 10: Predatory Cyber Propagandists --Weapons of Mass Deception

Vaccine stakeholders motivated by their collective intersecting business interests, have embarked on a frenzied campaign to counteract safety concerns about vaccines. In 2011, attendees at a pharmaceutical industry conference, convened by **Fondation Mérieux**, were urged to embark on a massive pro-vaccine propaganda campaign; in part, there was concern about the lack of enthusiasm by doctors and nurses. In the early phase of 2009, 77% of doctors and 60% of nurses chose to be vaccinated with the H1N1 flu vaccine; by summer's end, only 58% of doctors and 46% of nurses chose to be vaccinated.

The keynote speaker was Brian Deer who emphasized the power of fear: *"nothing travels like fear."* Another speaker was the founder of a PR communications agency and author of *Hyperthinking: Creating a New Mindset for the Digital Age*, who emphasized the need to rethink the immunization conversation. He urged participants to accept that the global communications environment has changed and to adapt their thinking accordingly: *"the Internet is the ultimate source of information, the logical conclusion is that Internet is power; the power to shape perception. Embrace social media or risk being left behind."*

Accordingly, the propagandists declare the research "controversial" and the studies: "flawed," "weak," "too small," "haphazard," "not replicated," "junk science," "unrelated." And the scientists of these studies are automatically deemed – without exception – "incompetent", "anti-vaccine" "crank", "quack", "nut" or "fraud" – simply for daring to pursue research that attempts to solve the autism puzzle by including vaccine safety issues.

The disparaged scientists include *Nobel Prize winners, neurologists, pharmacists, epidemiologists, immunologists, PhD's, chemists and microbiologists from reputable academic institutions the world over.¹ The work of legitimate scientists is, at best, ignored by the media; at worst, viciously attacked by the predictable flock of self-appointed expert "science" bloggers who often title their blogs with the word "science" or "skeptics" to confer an air of legitimacy. They have even set about to delegitimize balanced reporting about scientific issues, dismissing BBC's Charter and editorial guidelines which emphasize the importance of "due impartiality."

*The Press Gazette*² ran a feature titled: "[Why Balance In Science Journalism Can Distort Research, Create Bogus Controversy And Even Contribute To Deaths](#)" (June 2016):

"The quest for "balance" is incompatible in a world where there have been more advances in medical scientific knowledge in the last 50 years than in the previous 2,000 – since the era of Hippocrates. We are living through a head-on collision between two of the biggest drivers in contemporary life – science and preoccupation with risk. Previous generations did not ask, do cell/mobile phones cause cancer? Does living near high-voltage power lines threaten health? Should people take aspirin to avoid heart attacks? Should we vaccinate our children?"

To make the case against balanced reporting, Andrew Wakefield is cited as *"the most infamous example"* of medical malfeasance notoriety (the bogeyman) who precipitated *"a sharp fall in vaccination rates and a significant increase in incidence of measles and mumps, resulting in deaths and severe and*

permanent injuries.” However, no evidence is ever provided to back up the accusation. According to CDC data:³

“Measles incidence has continuously remained below one case per million since 1997. The majority of measles cases were unvaccinated (65%) or had unknown vaccination status (20%). Of the 911 reported measles cases, 372 (40%) were importations (on average 34 importations/year)

In 1999, of 100 cases of measles in the U.S. 33 were imported; 16 had been vaccinated; among U.S. residents 15 (17%) of 86 were vaccinated.” ([CDC Measles – U.S. 1999](#))

On the basis of these low incident findings, CDC and a panel of experts concluded in 2000 that measles has been eliminated in the United States. Since 2000, the annual number of reported measles cases ranged from 37 to 220 people. There were no deaths attributed to measles in unvaccinated children in the US or in the UK.

A spike in measles outbreaks in in the U.S. in 2014 was instantly blamed on “anti-vax” parents and celebrities like Jenny McCarthy and (invariably) on Andrew Wakefield, whose Lancet article (1998) was described as *“the gas that seemingly fueled the anti-vaccination movement for so long.”*⁴

In 2015, the first measles death in 12 years was reported in the U.S. A young adult woman who [had been vaccinated as a child](#), died because of multiple underlying health conditions and a suppressed immune system from medications that interfered with her response to an infection. She did not have rash, typical of measles and died of pneumonia.⁵

In February, 2017, Murdoch’s paper, *The Times*, ran a story attacking Polly Tommey, the founder of the not-for-profit, Autism Trust in the UK and the US: [“Autism Charity Chief At Forefront Of ‘Dangerous’ Anti-Vaccine Campaign.”](#) Her crime is holding the belief that *“the MMR vaccine caused her son’s autism.”*

The vaccine “hit squad” went into action instantly; they put up a petition calling on the UK government and the Charity Commission to: [“Investigate Autism Trust Charity For Promoting Unregulated Products and Pseudoscience.”](#) We detect shades of the Salem (1692) witch hunt hysteria; that hysteria was fueled by a ruling class whose covert motivation, then and now, is their collective intersecting business interests. The current witch hunt is a well-financed, concerted, coordinated propaganda campaign in full swing aimed at discrediting – almost instantaneously – every study that suggests or supports a possible link between vaccines and developmental abnormalities, including autism spectrum, following vaccination.

For example, Dr. Brian Hooker’s peer reviewed published reanalysis of the CDC dataset underlying the DeStefano article in *Pediatrics* (2004), including the suppressed data provided by its co-author, Dr. William Thompson, a senior CDC scientist, showed that the MMR posed an increased 3.6 relative risk of autism for African American baby boys if vaccinated prior to age 24 months.

The UK front group, [Sense About Science](#) (SAS), which purports to be a “charitable trust to promote an evidence-based approach to scientific issues in the public domain” is shown – by Source Watch – to be financially indebted to the pharmaceutical, biochemical and biotech industry. In 2015, in an effort to delegitimize an independent re-analysis of a contested CDC study, SAS issued an editorial [Media analysis](#), recommended disregarding by not reporting the controversy:

“Should the media cover anti-vaccination claims? Conventional reporting would probably do more harm than good if it did so by just reporting both sides and creating the impression of equivalency between weight of evidence and false claims. But what if the latest claim is a complex statistical analysis—and a senior CDC vaccine researcher appears to back it up?”

[Sense about Science](#) dismissed Dr. Hooker’s reanalysis out of hand without identifying any purported “errors”, even as they acknowledged:

“the one-two punch of a peer reviewed study and a credible whistleblower [whose] statements seemed to confirm that government was manipulating scientific data.” SAS also acknowledged, *“a summer of screw ups at CDC involving anthrax contamination, flu viruses, and, notably, the agency’s stumbling response to Ebola.”*

[Science Media Centre](#) (SMC) a media briefing centre founded on the back of the MMR scandal by Tony Blair’s wife in 2001, hosted by the [Royal Institution](#), enjoying close links with the British government. Its Board of Trustees includes a former President of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society. SMC is now based at the [Wellcome Trust](#) in London which through a series of mergers [created GlaxoSmithKline](#).

A description of SMC by Connie St. Louis, President of the Association of British Science Writers in the [Columbia Journalism Review](#) (2013):

“[SMC] has cast biased press briefings such as one on GMOs, funded by Monsanto and invited unwitting and time-starved journalists. The results have been catastrophic. The quality of science reporting and the integrity of information available to the public have both suffered, distorting the ability of the public to make decisions about risk. The result is a diet of unbalanced cheerleading and the production of science information as entertainment.

“Perhaps the greatest tragedy, or item of public interest, has been the complicity of successive scientifically illiterate UK governments, which have donated nearly half a million pounds of public funds to this dishonest endeavor.”

[Source Watch](#) lists the following “sister bodies” of Science Media Center, all operating under a “unified charter”: Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and Japan. SMC claims that there are “over twenty Science Media Centers around the world -- either in operation or being established,” including the [SMC of the US](#)

A sample of “fake news” propagandists include front groups identified by [Source Watch](#).

Front groups conceal their stealth funding sources from the public, pretending they are “independent”.

Genetic Literacy Project, [Statistical Assessment Service \(STATS\)](#), Center for Media and Public Affairs at [George Mason University](#) (heavily funded by the [Koch Family Foundations](#)), and the [American Council on Science and Health](#) (whom the watchdog Center for Science in the Public Interest described as purveyors of “Voodoo Science, Twisted Consumerism”), and the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#), which is heavily supported by the vaccine industry, [Sense about Science](#) (UK).

On the Democrat/Liberal side: Media Matters Action Network founded by David Brock and John Podesta’s Center for American Progress, and its sister Media Matters for America. MMA vilify Sharyl Attkisson, an investigative journalist who has criticized the Obama administration’s massive surveillance programs, the housing crisis cover-up, obstruction, and lack of transparency. When she was the CBS science reporter, she had numerous reports about vaccines and autism killed by editors because they offended the industry. ([Sharyl Attkisson](#), Loyd Grove *The Daily Beast*, 2014) In August 2014, she interviewed CDC Director of Immunization Safety, Dr. Frank DeStefano in a [taped telephone interview](#) in which he confirmed the revelations confessed by CDC whistleblower, Dr. William Thompson. [See Appendix 9]

MMA refer to Sharyl Attkisson as “disgraced reporter”. In 2016, she listed a brigade of bloggers aligned to the vaccine industry and government, who pounce on any scientist or reporter who dares question vaccine mantra at: [What the News Isn’t Saying About Vaccine-Autism Studies](#), sharylattkisson.com.

Among the bevy of individual blogger propagandists, is the particularly vicious Dr. David Gorski (who goes by different pseudonyms). An example of his screed following the premiere of Vaxxed: [“Someone didn’t nail the coffin shut: Andrew Wakefield returns to the public eye”](#).

Mainstream Media Attacked [Katie Couric](#) The topic of vaccines is exempt from regular investigative journalism, and if you ask the wrong questions, expect to be attacked just for asking the question. The public does not deserve such information – journalists know better.

Katie Couric was attacked for talking to a parent of a child who died from vaccine injuries, and a physician who was involved in bringing the vaccine to market. Clearly the attacks show the mainstream media bias and censorship that exists regarding vaccines.

Alexandra Sifferlin, writing for *Time Magazine*, was one of the first to publish a hit piece: [Is Katie Couric The Next Jenny McCarthy? A former Playboy Bunny spreading misinformation is bad enough](#)

“There is no ‘HPV Vaccine Controversy.’ At least, not when it comes to the injection’s safety. And yet, that was the title of the lead segment on Katie Couric’s daytime talk show. The damage a former Playboy Bunny has been able to do is bad enough. But Couric’s misdeeds are all the worse given that she’s taken much more seriously than Jenny McCarthy”.

Michael Hiltzik of the LA Times: [Katie Couric Puts The Anti-Vaccination Movement Into The Mainstream](#) *The anti-vaccination movement has long since become a public menace. It’s responsible for the resurgence of numerous serious diseases that were on the decline, including measles, mumps, and*

whooping cough. Now the movement has been given a big booster shot by Katie Couric, who devoted a large portion of her daily talk show Wednesday to some highly emotional and scientifically dubious claims by critics of Gardasil, a leading vaccine for human papillomavirus, or HPV.

...[the problem with the] show was its portrayal of HPV vaccination as “controversial.” Couric led the segment off by declaring that “some people say the risk (of the vaccine) may outweigh the benefits, and there are claims that it could be dangerous or in a handful of cases, even deadly.... We want to keep our kids safe, but is the vaccine the way to go?” **Merely to ask the questions is to validate them.** (Emphasis added).

A sample of these blogger industry propagandists includes:

LeftBrainRightBrain (UK), *ScienceBlogs*, *NeuroSkeptic*, *ScienceBasedMedicine*, *LizDitz*, *CrooksandLiars*, *RespectfulInsolence*, *Orac*, *HealthNewsReview*, *SkepticalRaptor*, *Skepticblog*, *Skeptics.com*, *Wired*, *BrianDeer*, *SethMnookin*, *Every Child by Two*, *Docbastard*, *Harpocrates Speaks*, *Snopes (Alex Kasprak)*, *TheSciencepost*, *thepoxesblog*, *Minitab blog*, *Voices for Vaccines*

According to the Office of Medical and Scientific Justice (OMSJ), Voices for Vaccines operates in subterfuge, pretending to be a grass roots organization of mothers; VfV started a petition against Jenny McCarthy. VfV is actually an offshoot of Task Force for Global Health, a partner organization of the CDC and Emory University.⁶ OMSJ cites a [current](#) (2013) Task Force web-page stating:

“Voices for Vaccination is a subdivision of Task Force’s Immunizations and Vaccines: Center for Vaccine Equity, Dr Alan R Hinman ([a CDC veteran](#)) being the director of both the wider operation and Voices for Vaccines (the site was down this weekend but this is an archive [snapshot](#)) with ‘Task Force for Vaccine Equity’ being funded by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Merck and [Novartis](#).”⁶

Dorit Reiss (Associate Professor, University of California) is an academic closely aligned with Voices for Vaccines. She is a proponent of the [vaccine government-academic-industrial complex](#) in all its guises and rampant institutional entrenchment. In an article in the [Harvard Law Review](#), Prof. Reiss advocated that parents of unvaccinated children should be held liable for infection. Elsewhere she laments the negative connotation of the term “captured administrative state”. The term is used by critics who view the close cozy relations between industry and regulatory agencies as a betrayal of the public interest. In captured states positions of authority are given to friends of industry; such relationships result in weakening regulations and their enforcement. Captured administrative agencies undermine the public interest to benefit industry.

This circle of predatory propagandists operates with the support of the vaccine industry and its government partners who mobilize as soon as an independent scientist’s study raising vaccine safety concerns is published. They [cite one another’s flawed critiques](#) as supposed proof that each such study has been “debunked”. Nevertheless, the independent studies continue to be published in peer-reviewed journals, and are cited in the government’s National Institutes of Health library. [See APPENDIX 11: Partial Bibliography]

¹ Boston Children’s Hospital, Yale University Child Center, Horizon Molecular Medicine at Georgia State University, University of British Columbia, City College of New York, Columbia University, New York State University at Stony Brook Medical Center, University of Northern Iowa, University of Michigan, Pennsylvania State University, Wake Forrester University, University of Arkansas Medical Sciences, Arkansas Children’s Hospital Research Institute, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Utah State University, Jackson State University of Mississippi, University of Seattle Washington, Keele University, UK, University Hospital Uppsala Sweden, Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Tel-Aviv University, Israel, National Council of Research , Institute for Science and Technology, Italy, Kinki University in Japan, Swinburne University of Technology in Australia, International teams of researchers from Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Institute of Psychiatry and Neurology in Poland, Department of Child Health Care, Children’s Hospital of Fudan University in China, Al Azhar University of Cairo, and many more.

² *The Press Gazette* is owned by Matthew Freud (Freud Communications) Freud was married to Elisabeth Murdoch, who.

³ [CDC Measles – U.S. 1999](#); [CDC Survey Manual](#); [CDC Measles Update: Measles – U.S. Jan. – July 2008](#); See also, [Cases and Outbreaks 2008 – 2017](#); CDC [Measles Data and Statistics](#), 2016; One death was reported in 2015, [US Sees First Measles Death In 12 Years](#).

⁴ [How the U.S. Went From Eliminating Measles to a Measles Outbreak at Disneyland](#), Mark Berman, *The Washington Post*, 2015

⁵ [US Sees First Measles Death In 12 Years](#), *National Public Radio*, 2015; [Woman who died of measles WAS vaccinated](#), *Daily Mail*, 2016.

⁶ [Voices for Vaccine is a Top-Down Front Operation Launched by a CDC Partner in 2008](#), Office of Medical and Scientific Justice, 2013; [The Lady Doth Protest Too Much](#), Age of Autism, 2013