

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 use sound bites to declare inconvenient research by independent scientists "controversial," "flawed," "weak," "too small," "haphazard," "not replicated," "unrelated" "junk science". And the scientists of these studies are deemed – without exception – "anti-vaccine" "cranks", "quacks", "nuts," "incompetent," or "fraudulent" – simply for daring to pursue avenues of research that attempt to solve the autism puzzle by including vaccine safety issues.

The disparaged scientists include the Nobel Prize winner Luc Montagnier, MD, who identified the HIV virus that causes AIDS in 2008. Dr. Montagnier was attacked when he launched a small clinical trial that tested the therapeutic effect of long-term antibiotic treatment of children with autism.¹ In an article posted on [AutismOne](#) website, he stated:



Dr. Luc Montagnier: *"Science is full of stories where new discoveries and new emerging concepts are at first badly received by a community of conservative scientists; the only fault to the first proponents is to have been too far in advance. I believe this is happening again to me and it is very sad that it involves Nobel Prizes laureates attacking a fellow Nobel Prize laureate... It is therefore of prime importance to study the risk factors, both environmental and genetic, which could be involved in order to prevent them."*

The scientists under attack include neurologists, pharmacists, epidemiologists, immunologists, chemists and microbiologists from reputable academic institutions the world over.² 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 feather and tar any scientist who raises concern about insufficiently examined vaccine safety issues as “anti-vaxxers”. 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*³ 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:⁴

“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 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.*”⁵

In 2015, the first measles death in 12 years was reported in the U.S. The case involved a young adult woman who had been [vaccinated as a child](#). She had multiple underlying health conditions for which she had been taking medications that suppressed her immune system, thereby compromising her ability to fight off infection. The woman she did not have a rash, typical of measles when she died. The cause of death was pneumonia, a common complication of numerous infections.⁶ At autopsy measles virus was found.

Public health officials and vaccination promoters exploited the case in a media campaign that spread fear, and propaganda to promote aggressive, non-voluntary vaccination policies to eliminate exemptions, thereby violating parental rights to choose what's best for their child:

"this tragic situation illustrates the importance of immunizing as many people as possible to provide a high level of community protection against measles." (Fox News) "the woman's death was a preventable, but predictable, consequence of falling vaccination rates...Measles has surged back in recent years as groups of like-minded parents have opted against fully vaccinating their children." (USA Today)

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 full CDC dataset underlying the DeStefano article in *Pediatrics* (2004) – including the data that had been deleted from the published *Pediatrics* article – provided by its co-author, Dr. William Thompson, a senior CDC scientist who blew the whistle on the shocking CDC actions to conceal the evidence of an MMR -autism risk for African American male children was retracted under pressure. The re-analysis showed that the MMR posed a significant increased 3.6 relative risk (i.e., 360% increased risk) of autism for African American baby boys if vaccinated prior to age 24 months. [See, [L'Affaire Wakefield: Shades of Dreyfus](#)]

Dr. Hooker's independent re-analysis of the contested CDC study, and the testimony of a senior CDC scientist who corroborated the fact that CDC scientists had deliberately concealed the evidence presented a major problem for vaccine stakeholders. They solved the problem by pressuring the journal to remove the study from its website, and by convincing the major media to ignore the entire issue, lest the evidence of an MMR risk "scare" the public into not vaccinating their children.

[Sense About Science](#) (SAS) is a UK industry front group that purports to be a "charitable trust to promote an evidence-based approach to scientific issues in the public domain". However, it is shown – by Source Watch – to be financially indebted to the pharmaceutical, biochemical and biotech industry. SAS dismissed Dr. Hooker's reanalysis as incomprehensible "for a reader to make an informed decision as to its validity", and issued an editorial [Media analysis](#) (2015) recommending that the media ignore the entire issue by not reporting it:

“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 [the] weight of evidence and false claims.”

SAS acknowledged:

“But what if the latest claim is a complex statistical analysis—and a senior CDC vaccine researcher appears to back it up? But the one-two punch of a peer reviewed study and a credible whistleblower [whose] statements seemed to confirm that government was manipulating scientific data...had just given the anti-vaccination movement an enormous boost.”

“Thompson’s statements seemed to confirm that government was manipulating scientific data, a robust meme on the right thanks to climate change; they seemed to confirm longstanding claims of a government-CDC-pharma conspiracy...and perhaps worst of all, they came after a summer of screw ups at CDC involving anthrax contamination, flu viruses, and, notably, the agency’s stumbling response to Ebola.

The entire controversy over vaccination, and its consequences—diminishing vaccination rates—has been produced by people refusing to accept ‘trust me, I’m a scientist and here’s the consensus’”.

[Science Media Centre](#) (SMC) a media briefing center founded on the back of the MMR scandal by Tony Blair’s wife in 2001, hosted by the [Royal Institution](#), enjoys 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](#)

Numerous other industry front groups that pose as authorities are popping-up on social media: [European Patients Forum](#) – is a group funded by the [European Commission](#) and by a pharmaceutical industry consortium, as well as individual pharmaceutical companies. The [European Health Parliament](#) (EHP) was created in 2017 and is situated in Brussels. EHP presents itself as:

“A set of 55 rising stars in healthcare below the age of 35 representing patients, industry, healthcare professionals. An ambitious group who want to raise Healthcare’s game. A group who are not confined by old ideas. A group who will lead European healthcare in, and into, the future.” First on its agenda: [*EHP: First impressions and Vaccination plans on the spotlight...*](#)”

EHP’s function is to spread vaccine propaganda on social media platforms. EHP is [affiliated to](#) *Johnson and Johnson, Google, POLITICO, the College of Europe, the European Patients Forum* – its major source of funding is [from most of the major pharmaceutical manufacturers](#); and [Euro40](#) (*a group of Euro Members of Parliament under the age of 40*).

Below is a sample of vaccine propagandists who conceal their stealth funding sources from the public. They pose as “independent” voices and disseminate “fake news” aimed at suppressing information contrary to the interest of the vaccine industry. Their poisonous rhetoric is aimed at discrediting those who express skepticism about the safety of vaccines. [Source Watch](#) has identified many of these blogs as industry front groups.

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 (ACSH, 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), LeftBrainRightBrain (UK), ScienceBlogs, NeuroSkeptic, ScienceBasedMedicine, LizDitz, CrooksandLiars, RespectfulInsolence, a.k.a. Orac = Dr. David Gorski, HealthNewsReview, SkepticalRaptor = Dr. Paul Offit, Skepticblog, Skeptics.com, Wired, BrianDeer, SethMnookin, Every Child by Two, Doebastard, Harpocrates Speaks, Snopes (Alex Kasprak), Thesciencepost, thepoxesblog, Minitab blog, Voices for Vaccines.

The [Office of Medical and Scientific Justice](#) (OMSJ) confirms that [Voices for Vaccines](#) operates in subterfuge, pretending to be a grass roots organization of mothers. In fact, VfV started a petition against Jenny McCarthy.⁷ VfV is actually an offshoot of *Task Force for Global Health*, as confirmed by OMSJ:

“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 with ‘Task Force for Vaccine Equity’ being funded by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Merck and Novartis.”

What’s more, the Task Force’s board of directors is chaired by Jane Fugate Thorpe, a product-liability lawyer representing corporations who has made her reputation (by her own account) “shielding product manufacturers” from individuals like the concerned parents VFV purports to represent.

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 vilified 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, Attkisson 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 of L’Affaire Wakefield, **Monumental Betrayal of Public Trust**]

MMA refers 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.

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 in December 2013 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).



Among the bevy of individual blogger propagandists who stalk the internet to pounce on anyone who raises doubt about vaccine orthodoxy, by focusing on troubling safety issues is the particularly vicious surgeon, **Dr. David Gorski**, who goes by different pseudonyms, such as *Orac*, *Respectful Insolence*. In 2012, he called Nobel Laureate Dr. Luc Montagnier of exhibiting “*disturbing signs of crankery and quackery*” and accused him of running a “*highly unethical study of long term antibiotics as a treatment for autism*” for pursuing unorthodox avenues of autism research. Gorski unleashes abusive pejoratives on anyone who questions the safety of vaccines and the content of vaccines. To cite two examples giving a flavor of Gorski’s vitriolic attacks:

- He referred to the *Age of Autism* website run by highly knowledgeable parents of autistic children as “*an antivaccine crank website [that] urges its antivaccine crank readers to write antivaccine crank letters*”.
- He hurled the following invective in 2010: “[Someone didn’t nail the coffin shut: Andrew Wakefield returns to the public eye](#)”.



Another unabashed vitriolic vaccine promoter, Dr. Paul Offit, the foremost vaccine proponent who made many millions of dollars (literally) from his rotavirus vaccine patent, a vaccine he voted to include in CDC’s recommended schedule. [See Appendix 9]. Dr. Offit conceals his identity as the blogger *Skeptical Raptor*:⁸*[who] Stalking pseudoscience on the internet jungle*. In his blogger guise, Dr. Offit issues exhortations such as: “*Time to regulate the antivaccine liars out of existence*”. He urges readers to file complaints with the government agencies against organizations that question the veracity of vaccine safety. Dr. Offit— as the *Skeptical Raptor* -- recently declared “*Gardasil prevents cancer – evidence for oral cancer protection*”.

The hazard posed by aluminum in vaccines is the focus of research by several independent groups of international autoimmune experts. Their research findings raise serious safety concerns that industry is determined to suppress. Dr. Offit’s attacks are directed at two of those independent scientists, [Dr. Christopher Shaw](#) and [Dr. Lucija Tomljenovic](#). Dr. Offit called these scientists “*contemptible University of British Columbia anti-vaccine pseudoscience extremists. Shaw and Tomljenovic are well known for*

pushing garbage science to further their anti-vaccine religion. Of course, their “scientific articles” keep getting retracted, despite being published in low ranked journals” [Their articles were republished.]

A recently obtained email correspondence cache (dated 2013—2017) between two extremist vaccine promoters: Dr. Paul Offit (whose most vitriolic attacks are hurled under his pseudo-identity, *Skeptical Raptor*), and **Dorit Rubinstein Reiss**, an academic who teaches at Hastings Law School which is in partnership with Kaiser Permanente, the managed care consortium that was commissioned by Merck to study the post-marketing effects of its HPV vaccine Gardasil. Reiss is an ardent, extreme vaccine promoter who is closely aligned with *Voices for Vaccines*. The correspondence reveals how the two plotted to counter arguments against those whose concern about vaccine safety threatens vaccination policy. The correspondence shows how they conspired to fight against the court affirmed legal right of exemptions from vaccination. Reiss suggested:



“in practical terms, what the hospital should do is remove any exemption except medical. The grounds [validated by the court] are discrimination [sic] so the hospital can treat everyone equally and not grant any exemption.”

Reiss, an Associate Professor, University of California, is a proponent of the [vaccine government-academic-industrial complex](#) in all its guises and rampant institutional entrenchment. The email correspondence, now posted at the website [Natural News](#), shows clearly that Prof. Reiss uses her University teaching position to inculcate pro-vaccination agenda in students.

In an email exchange dated April 2016, Dr. Offit stated:

“I find that the students (undergraduate and graduate) are generally pretty good on the subject. Haven’t found any closet anti-vaxxers. Maybe you have to be a parent before you become unreasonable.”

Reiss replied: *“My exam question is about a parent who did not vaccinate her child and the child got hurt (the mother is actually suing the doctors who didn’t diagnose a problem quickly enough after she claimed the child was vaccinated). I hope I have no closet anti-vaxxers in my class who will have trouble coping.”*

In an article in the [Harvard Law Review \(2013\)](#), 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 spurious critiques](#) as supposed proof that each study that raises concerns about vaccine safety 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] Their latest target for suppression are the small, specialized scientific journals that publish independent research studies.

¹ [Trial Draws Fire: Nobel Laureate To Test Link Between Autism And Infection](#), *Nature*, 2010

² 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 Forrest 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.

³ *The Press Gazette* is owned by Matthew Freud (Freud Communications) was married to Elisabeth Murdoch.

⁴ [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](#).

⁵ [How the U.S. Went From Eliminating Measles to a Measles Outbreak at Disneyland](#), Mark Berman, *The Washington Post*, 2015

⁶ [US Sees First Measles Death In 12 Years](#), *National Public Radio*, 2015; [Woman who died of measles WAS vaccinated](#), *Daily Mail*, 2016.

⁷ [Big Pharma's Faking a "Grass-Roots" Campaign to Keep Jenny McCarthy Off "The View"](#) by Steve Schneider, *News from Underground*, 2013

⁸ Sources for this unmasking includes: [NaturalNews.com](#), [ChildHealthSafety.wordpress.com](#), [MedicineNews](#), [InvestmentWatchblog.com](#), [TheDailyCoin.org](#), [SovereignMind.net](#), [JunkScienceWatch.com](#), [TruthWiki.org](#), [Scienceblogs.com](#), [Oncology.News](#), [QZ.com](#), [SkepticalRaptor.com](#), [TheRefusers.com](#)