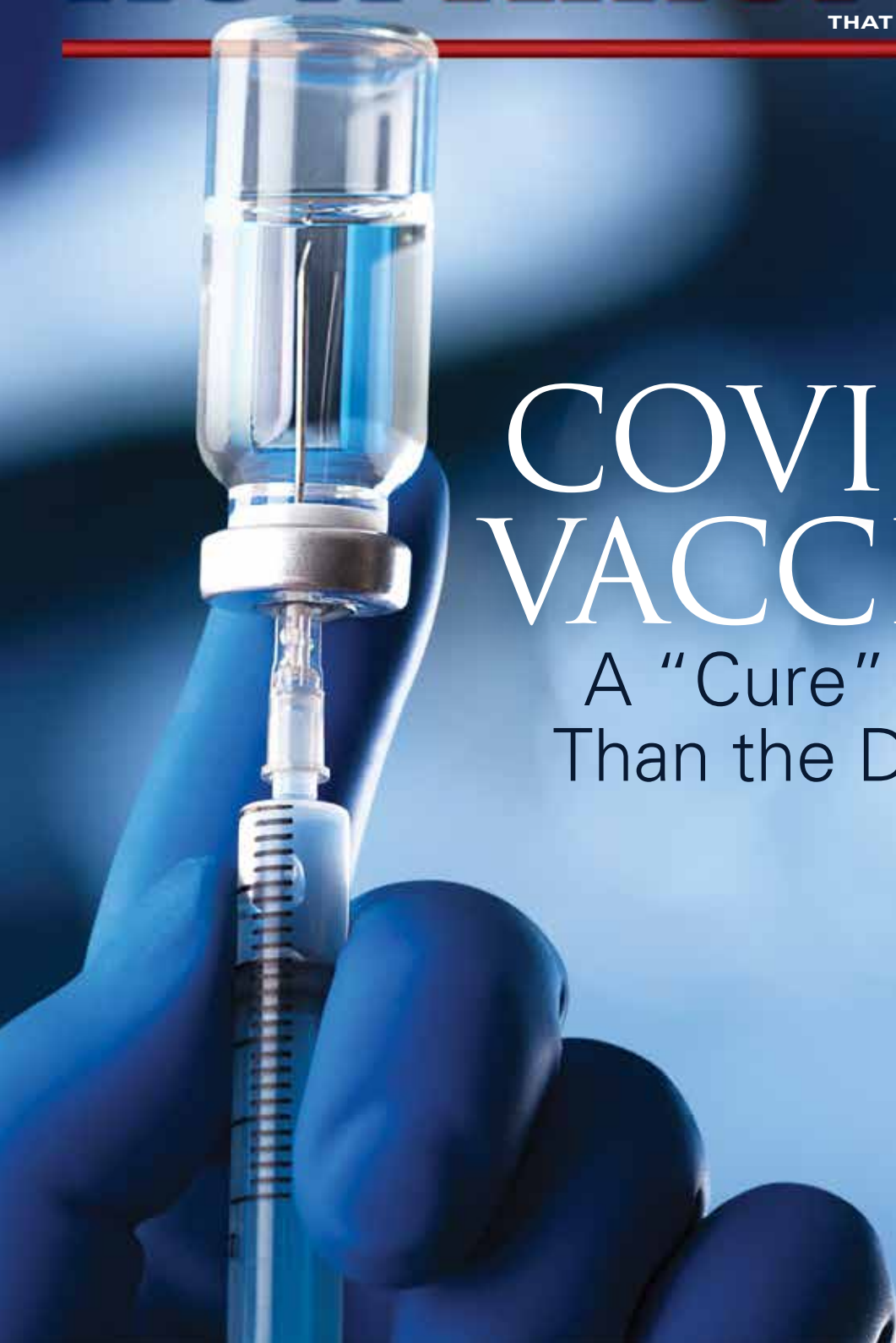


Doctors Debunk the Medical "Consensus" • COVID Lab-leak Theory: Media Lied, People Died

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## Retired Top Brass Have Right to Freedom of Speech

Regarding the article “Top Brass Not Above the Law” in the May 24 issue, while I agree with General Brewster’s assertions that there has been some inappropriate conduct by some government officials who are currently in the military service or are retired military officers, I disagree with the author’s suggested solution to use the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) as the method of correcting the problem. If any legal action is to be taken regarding the current government employees who participated in politically motivated verbal attacks on President Trump, it should be done under the Hatch Act, a federal law designed to restrict the use of federal employees for partisan political activities.

The author cites Article 88 of the UCMJ, noting that it authorizes courts-martial for officers who utter contemptuous words against the president or certain other high government officials. While the spirit of this statement is upright, the word “contemptuous” can be ambiguous. Fortunately, our country has not experienced what the German people experienced when the Nazis used similar wording to interpret the word “contemptuous” as meaning any criticism of Adolf Hitler or any member of the Nazi government.

In 1964, the Republican candidate for president, Barry Goldwater, was a major general in the Air Force Reserve. Fortunately, Goldwater was allowed to speak his mind as a candidate. Of course, the liberal news media gave little coverage of the issues he raised while much of the news coverage portrayed him as unfit to serve if he were elected. The Goldwater campaign attempted to point out many mistakes that were made in Washington, D.C., such as Castro’s rise to power in Cuba, the failed Bay of Pigs Invasion, the no-win policy in Vietnam, and others. Fortunately, Goldwater was not recalled to active duty to face a court-martial for making these criticisms.

There are credible beliefs that if Senator Robert A. Taft had won the Republican nomination for president in 1952, he would have selected retired General Douglas MacArthur as his running mate. Numerous other retired military officers have sought public office, including

General Curtis E. LeMay, USAF (Ret.). I advocate for their freedom of speech whether I agree or disagree with their opinions.

The article mentions that retired members of the U.S. military can be recalled to active duty to face court-martial, even for non-duty related crimes committed off-base. The recent U.S. Supreme Court case of *Larrabee v. United States* affirmed that. Not all laws that are constitutional are necessarily wise, and I believe the *Larrabee* case should be used as an example for changing the UCMJ to ensure that civilian law and civilian courts should have sole jurisdiction over crimes that are committed off-base and are non-duty related, even if the defendants are retired military or military reservists. Whether or not the defendant was guilty is not the issue. This case was an expansion in the size and scope of the federal government in the area of local or state civilian law enforcement. In my opinion, this precedent could be a stepping-stone leading eventually to further court precedents allowing military police to be involved in civilian crime investigations based on the potential that one or more of the suspects might be eligible to be prosecuted under the UCMJ. This would be a step toward a national police force.

Whether one agrees or disagrees with anti-Trump statements, freedom of speech is not just for those with whom one agrees. If the statements made were partisan and were made by people who were employees of the federal government at that time, then any legal action should be done under the Hatch Act. For those who are reservists or retired military officers, I say let them have freedom of speech, let their critics also have freedom of speech, and let history judge all involved based on what they said, not by prosecuting them for having said it.

KURT HYDE  
Lt. Col., USAF (Ret.)  
*Sent via e-mail*

**CORRECTION:** In “Quick Quotes” for our May 24, 2021 issue, we inadvertently published a photo of George Floyd family lawyer Ben Crump that was intended to be (and mislabeled as) a photo of Senator Tim Scott. We apologize for the mistake.




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## \$400B Stolen in COVID Unemployment Fraud

According to recent reports, as much as half of unemployment benefits paid out as part of government-issued COVID relief funds may have been stolen through fraud. And allegedly much of that money has left U.S. shores through the scheming of international criminals. In total, America may have been cheated out of more than \$400 billion due to fraudulent claims.

The reports — from fraud-detection services ID.me and LexisNexis Risk Solutions — are both shocking and damning. Blake Hall, CEO of ID.me, told Axios June 10 that America has lost more than \$400 billion to fraudulent claims. As much as 50

percent of all unemployment monies might have been stolen, said Hall. And Haywood Talcove — CEO of LexisNexis Risk Solutions — estimates that at least 70 percent of the money was hijacked by impostors who ultimately left the country, much of the wealth ending up in the hands of criminal syndicates in China, Nigeria, Russia, and elsewhere. “These groups are definitely backed by the state,” he said.

With long-term unemployment payments now being issued on a massive scale as a result of the government’s COVID response, criminals are seeing an opportunity to cash in. Add to that the simple fact that — like nearly everything else related to government handling of COVID over the past year — states were unprepared for unemployment claims on a gigantic scale never before seen.

The sheer numbers of unemployment claims overwhelmed the system, and the typical checks and balances put in place to weed out fraud fell apart. The result was state-sponsored criminal organizations around the world cashing in on a financial stimulus plan Democrats told America we needed because of a financial crisis they created.

Government created a crisis then produced money out of thin air to “solve” the crisis. Par for the course, government could not be bothered to keep up with that newly created money.

Perhaps the real crime is not that \$400 billion in unemployment was stolen, but that it was created in the first place.



NoDerog/Stock/GettyImages Plus

## Medical Journal: “Whiteness” Is a “Parasitic Pathology”

The *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association* has officially declared “whiteness” to be a parasitic pathology that has no known cure.

The May 27 article, titled “On Having Whiteness,” was written by Dr. Donald Moss, a white man who is a faculty member of both the New York Psychoanalytic Institute and the San Francisco Center for Psychoanalysis.

Moss defines whiteness as a “condition one first acquires and then one has — a malignant, parasitic-like condition to which ‘white’ people have a particular susceptibility. The condition is foundational, generating characteristic ways of being in one’s body, in one’s mind, and in one’s world.”

“Parasitic Whiteness” writes Moss, “renders its hosts’ appetites voracious, insatiable, and perverse. These deformed appetites particularly target nonwhite peoples. Once established, these appetites are nearly impossible to eliminate.”

Moss offers some treatments for the condition, the most effective of which includes “a combination of psychic and social-historical interventions.” Such interventions “reasonably aim only to reshape Whiteness’s infiltrated appetites — to reduce their intensity, redistribute their aims, and occasionally turn those aims toward the work of reparation.” Even then, Moss laments, there “is no guarantee against regression” and “there is not yet a permanent cure.”

Moss’s claims were so astounding that some observers specu-

lated that the journal article was fictional and perhaps satirical of anti-white wokeness. But the peer-reviewed study is real, and the former New York University educator appears to have plenty of like-minded “experts” in mental-health circles.



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## Dutch Politician Warns of Tyrannical, COVID-19-enabled Globalism



AP Images

Thanks to the reaction to COVID-19, the machinery for tyranny is more firmly in place. In fact, the so-called disease-mitigation efforts have “been a practice to train obedience,” and now the “globalist plans can be carried out — and the next step towards mass surveillance and total control can be taken.”

So said Dutch politician Thierry Baudet, founder and leader of the Netherlands’ Forum for Democracy (FVD) party, in a viral video of a recent speech he gave before his nation’s parliament. In his five-minute talk, he even cited “a 2010 Rockefeller Founda-

tion Report that laid out the pandemic and its aftermath, that is eerily like what the world has just experienced,” as the Gateway Pundit put it in a June 6 article.

Baudet certainly wasn’t politically correct in his speech. As he stated at its conclusion: “I hope there will be a moment that we wake up. That we will realize this is a collective psychosis. That the locking down of the entire country, half the world for 1.5 years because of a flu variety is insane. That walking around with those silly useless masks is insanity.... This COVID phase has been a practice to train obedience.... The globalist plans can be carried out — and the next step towards mass surveillance and total control can be taken.”

Earlier in his speech, Baudet had cited the aforementioned 2010 Rockefeller Foundation report. Relating this, Baudet said that national “leaders all over the world would strengthen their power with laws, rules, and restrictions, from the requirement to wear masks to body temperature checks on entering train stations, planes, buildings.”

What’s for certain is that the China virus situation is being used to advance political agendas. This claim is often called a “right-wing conspiracy theory,” but note here that leftist Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau admitted this himself last September while speaking to the United Nations. “This pandemic has provided an opportunity for a reset,” he unabashedly stated. “This is our chance to accelerate our pre-pandemic efforts to reimagine economic systems.”

## Missouri Nullifies Federal Gun Control With New Law

On June 12, Missouri Governor Mike Parson signed into law H.B. 85, titled the Second Amendment Preservation Act, or SAPA. With the bill’s enactment, Missouri joins the growing number of states and localities with “Second Amendment Sanctuary” laws nullifying gun-control laws that violate the Constitution.

Constitutional activists had been trying to pass SAPA since 2013, when the legislature passed the bill only to see it vetoed by then-Governor Jay Nixon, a Democrat. SAPA’s enactment marks the culmination of these efforts. Indeed, Missouri’s SAPA is one of the strongest and broadest “Second Amendment Sanctuary” laws in the country.

The law makes several declarations, including support for a limited federal government as stipulated in the 10th Amendment, the invalidity of federal powers not enumerated in the Constitution, and an elaboration of what policies the federal government and the Missouri state government can and cannot constitutionally enforce.

Next, the law gives a list of policies, which might be contained in “federal acts, laws, executive orders, administrative orders, court orders, rules, and regulations,” that violate the U.S. Constitution’s Second Amendment and Article I, Section 23, of Missouri’s constitution. These include any tax that might discourage firearm purchases or ownership; gun confiscation laws; laws that prohibit law-abiding individuals from owning, using, or transfer-

ring firearms; and laws mandating the tracking and registration of firearms, gun owners, gun accessories, or ammunition.

Most importantly, the law nullifies both past and future unconstitutional firearm restrictions. Additionally, while SAPA does not name any specific federal laws, the Tenth Amendment Center reported June 12 that the 1934 National Firearms Act and the 1968 Gun Control Act are included among the nullified laws.

The rest of the law primarily ensures that government officials at the state and local levels do not enforce the listed unconstitutional federal gun-control policies and provides citizens with a means of redress if their self-defense rights are violated. ■



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### Senator Manchin Defies Democrat Leaders

“I believe that partisan voting legislation will destroy the already weakening binds of our democracy, and for that reason, I will vote against the For the People Act. Furthermore, I will not vote to weaken or eliminate the filibuster.”

*A veteran Democrat from deeply Republican West Virginia, Senator **Joe Manchin** let the country know that he will not go along with the Democrat plan to destroy state-created provisions seeking to limit early and mail-in voting. His added commitment to preserving the Senate’s filibuster capability surely added to the anger aimed at him by the revolutionary leaders of the Democratic Party.*



Joe Manchin

AP Images

### Chinese Communist Government Now Encourages Mothers to Have Three Children

“This should be regarded as a crisis for the survival of the Chinese nation, even beyond the pandemic and other environmental issues. There should never have been a birth restriction policy in the first place.”

*A demography expert at the Beijing-based Center for China and Globalization, **Huang Wenzheng** obviously speaks for the Communist government, which mandated a one-child-per-family policy in 1980, followed by a two-child policy in 2015. In four decades, the Chinese regime created a shortage of newborns who grow into a labor force.*



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

AP Images

### Ocasio-Cortez Proves Her Absence of Common Sense

“If we want to reduce the number of people in our jails, the answer is to stop building more of them.”

*Backed by several of her “progressive” allies, Representative **Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez** (D-N.Y.) didn’t say anything about what should be done with convicted criminals when already-overcrowded jails are full.*

### If No Election Fraud Existed, Why Are Democrats Seeking to Block the Arizona Audit?

“Obviously, there was massive election fraud. If there was no fraud and the state’s Electoral College votes were legitimately won by the Democratic Party’s candidate, the Democrats would welcome an audit.”

*Columnist **Paul Craig Roberts** made the same logical conclusion about the left-leaning mass media that have been working to discredit any examination of the Arizona results.*

### Seven Oregon Counties Approve Measures Seeking to Become Part of Idaho

“This election proves that rural Oregon wants out of Oregon.”

*A leader of the plan to leave Oregon and become part of Idaho, **Mike McCarter** delightedly acknowledged the positive results of the May 18 voting. Residents of Malheur, Sherman, Grant, Baker, and Lake counties approved measures asking county officials to pursue the change. Oregon’s Jefferson and Union counties approved similar requests earlier. The rural residents of the eastern portion of the state are tired of having to live with and help pay for the left-wing excesses imposed on the entire state by the people residing in the more heavily populated areas of western Oregon.*

### Fisherman Survived Being in Mouth of a Whale, Then Spit Out

“I was completely inside; it was completely black. It tried to eat me. I thought to myself: There’s no way I’m getting out of here. I’m done.”

*Fisherman **Michael Packard** was lobster diving when he ended up in the mouth of a 30- to 35-foot-long humpback whale. Fortunately for Packard, the whale obviously disliked him, and spit him out after approximately 35 seconds. ■*



Michael Packard

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# COVID-19 VACCINES

A "Cure" Worse  
Than the Disease?

The COVID-19 vaccines were released on an emergency basis before being properly tested. With the passage of time, the effects of these experimental drugs look increasingly dismal.



by Dr. Lee Merritt

Many Americans have heard the news account of Dr. Gregory Michael, a 56-year-old Florida physician who, after receiving his first dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID vaccine on December 18 of last year, was hospitalized with a blood disorder and spontaneous bleeding. In spite of being treated by a team of physicians, he died of a brain bleed due to total loss of his platelets — the little blood cells that stop bleeding. By February 10, 2021, 36 similar cases were reported in the mainstream media. Pfizer said in a statement that it was “aware of the death,” adding, “We are actively investigating this case, but we don’t believe at this time that there is any direct connection to the vaccine.”

Pfizer made this “finding” despite several unusual circumstances of the case. First, the low-platelet disorder known to most doctors as idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP) most commonly affects children, and generally follows a viral illness. Only 10 percent of ITP cases occur in adults, who usually present with a slow onset form of the disorder, referred to as chronic ITP. The disorder usually starts by easy bleeding, such as slow oozing from gums or the nose, or bruises showing up without trauma. Rarely do platelets drop below 20,000 per microliter (normal levels are 200,000-500,000 per microliter), and generally treatment either reverses the disease or prolongs life for years in spite of the problem.

What happened to this physician and the others seems to be a new problem related to COVID vaccines, despite the manufacturers’ claims. This is further substantiated by the following case: After receiving the second dose of the Pfizer vaccine, a woman breast-fed her healthy one-month-old baby, who then died of thrombocytopenia.

Increasingly, vaccine manufacturers and government officials are following the sar-

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*Dr. Lee Merritt has been in the private practice of orthopaedic and spinal surgery since 1995, has served on the board of the Arizona Medical Association, and is past president of the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons. She is a lifelong advocate for patients’ right to choose their own medical care without government intervention.*

Many people who wouldn’t purchase the first edition of a new car model are lining up to take an injection they know nothing about ... that could never meet the required “safety level” for a “drug,” and that is unapproved for the prevention of COVID except as an emergency experiment.



**Get your vaccines:** While many Americans have already received their COVID-19 vaccines, many remain skeptical about the safety and effectiveness of the shot despite massive amounts of government and media propaganda aimed at reducing “vaccine hesitancy.”

castic maxim from Samuel Shem’s novel of medical residency entitled *The House of God*: “If you don’t take a temperature you can’t find a fever.” In other words, if we don’t critically look at the actual recorded patient damage, we won’t find our products to be defective. Predictably, the major media — most of whose advertising money comes from Big Pharma — is increasingly getting on board, condemning “vaccine hesitancy” and pushing everyone to get vaccinated for COVID, discounting any dangers. But in the practice of medicine, we are supposed to employ the foundational principle of *primum non nocere* — first, do no harm.

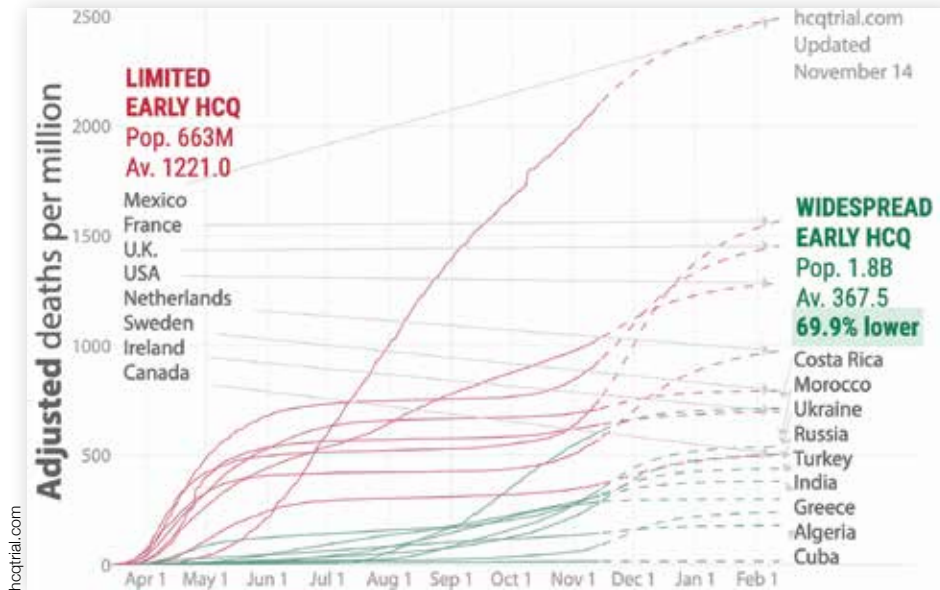
### **Are These Really “Vaccines,” and Are They Necessary?**

Moderna and Pfizer COVID-19 “vaccines” are experimental, employing a genetic

technology never before used on humans. Ironically, many people who wouldn’t purchase the first edition of a new car model are lining up to take an injection they know nothing about, that has never successfully passed animal trials, that could never meet the required “safety level” for a “drug,” and that is unapproved for the prevention of COVID except as an emergency experiment. Legally, those who get the vaccine are unnamed participants in a Stage IV Food and Drug Administration (FDA) trial.

Moreover, a vaccine is supposed to prevent disease. By that definition, these agents are not vaccines. They are more properly termed “experimental unapproved genetic agents.” By admission of the manufacturers themselves, both the Pfizer and Moderna products only lessen the symptoms of COVID; they don’t prevent transmission.

As to the claims of the efficacy of the experimental “vaccines,” the declaration of 95-percent effectiveness of the Pfizer product was shown to be false by Dr. Peter Doshi, the associate editor of the *British Medical Journal*.



**Safe and effective:** As this graph shows, countries that used hydroxychloroquine widely to treat COVID-19 saw much lower death rates than those countries that restricted its use.

Vaccination was first invented to treat smallpox, which had a fatality rate of up to 60 percent. Then other diseases such as typhoid and polio were similarly addressed. But vaccination should not be used when the death rate is low and effective, safe treatment is available. Although censorship has confused the public understanding, overwhelming evidence dating back to the 1970s shows that we have had success in treating viruses with lysosomotropic agents such as chloroquine. The current truth is that hundreds of papers have shown that chloroquine, and its later version hydroxychloroquine, is very effective in treating this virus if given early. A worldwide open architecture online review of COVID survival (hcqtrial.com) showed that the COVID death rate was 69.9-percent lower in those countries where hydroxychloroquine was used early and often.

Multiple large studies done in outpatient settings show excellent results with hydroxychloroquine and other drugs such as ivermectin. In Mumbai, India, a study was done of the city police force of 10,000 officers. No deaths were recorded in the 4,600 officers taking a small dose of hydroxychloroquine each week. All the deaths were in the untreated group. Using Worldometer statistics, COVID deaths per capita in New York State are 2,770 per million population; in New Jersey they are 2,966 per million population. In India the rate is 273 per million, and in Uganda it is only 10 per million. Neither India nor Uganda used social distancing in any real way. But they do use hydroxychloroquine and ivermectin. New York (except for Dr. Zev Zelenko and a few others) has not used hydroxychloroquine. Recently, as the COVID death

rate was increasing in India, the country defied WHO guidelines and started giving asymptomatic and mild COVID cases 200 mcg/kg of ivermectin daily for three to five days, and using both ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine for treatment. The disease and death rate immediately plummeted. Indian medical professionals cite 219 peer-reviewed studies proving the effectiveness of hydroxychloroquine, and 93 studies (54 peer-reviewed) that similarly show ivermectin’s benefit.

As to the claims of the efficacy of the experimental “vaccines,” the declaration of 95-percent effectiveness of the Pfizer product was shown to be false by Dr. Peter Doshi, the associate editor of the *British Medical Journal*. After doing an independent review of the data submitted to the FDA, Dr. Doshi reported that only about 19 percent of test subjects experienced the slightest benefit (symptom reduction). Absolute risk reduction — in other words, stopping transmission — he estimated at less than one percent. Interestingly, his excellent critique has been scrubbed from the Internet. (I have preserved a paper copy for any fact-checkers out there).

Every medical intervention is made after a risk-benefit analysis, i.e., do the potential risks outweigh the potential benefits? As seen above, the benefits have been highly overrated. During the first four months after the rollout of Pfizer and Moderna “vaccines” in 2021, 97 percent of deaths from vaccines recorded in the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) were for those agents, meaning only three percent of reported deaths involved all other vaccines combined. Here are the total deaths for all vaccines reported to VAERS, from January through April, during the years 2018-2021:

2018: 22 deaths  
2019: 27 deaths  
2020: 26 deaths  
2021: 3,661 deaths

According to openvaers.com, as of this writing the VAERS database contains 5,888 reports of deaths following the COVID shots.

In Israel, where the Pfizer “vaccine” is being used exclusively and a major push is on to vaccinate the entire population, an independent review of government data after two months of the vaccine program was done by the Aix-Marseille University



Faculty of Medicine Emerging Infectious and Tropical Diseases Unit's Dr. Hervé Seligmann and engineer Haim Yativ. They showed that when 12.5 percent of Israelis were vaccinated, 51 percent of the deaths from COVID were in the vaccinated group. Additionally, in the over 65-year-olds, vaccination resulted in death from COVID 40 times more than in unvaccinated people. In other words, the Pfizer shot is not protecting people from COVID, but increasing fatalities from the disease — not to mention having other side effects.

If the truth were known, most sane, thinking people would not likely take part in such an experiment. With the truth suppressed, threats of travel bans, an unwarranted fear of COVID, and pressure from employers and the politicization of COVID in general, Americans have been throwing caution to the wind.

### Bleeding and Thrombocytopenia

To understand what is actually happening to people after receiving the COVID “vaccines,” I reviewed bleeding and

thrombocytopenia data in VAERS — an open-source searchable database of possible vaccine side effects reported by both providers and patients. According to the CDC website:

VAERS is used to detect possible safety problems — called “signals” — that may be related to vaccination. If a vaccine safety signal is identified through VAERS, scientists may conduct further studies to find out if the signal represents an actual risk.

The main goals of VAERS are to:

- Detect new, unusual, or rare adverse events that happen after vaccination
- Monitor increases in known side effects, like arm soreness where a shot was given
- Identify potential patient risk factors for particular types of health problems related to vaccines
- Assess the safety of newly licensed vaccines

- Watch for unexpected or unusual patterns in adverse event reports
- Serve as a monitoring system in public health emergencies

The CDC acknowledges limitations of the system, including:

- Reports submitted to VAERS often lack details and sometimes contain errors.
- Serious adverse events are more likely to be reported than mild side effects.
- It is generally not possible to find out from VAERS data if a vaccine caused the adverse event.

I searched the VAERS database using keywords that would identify bleeding problems and thrombocytopenia (low or absent platelets). Entries are defined by age groups and sex with a narrative account of the injury. Keep in mind that these reports can be submitted by patients, caregivers, family members, and nurses. Doctors rarely

# COVID-19

## VACCINE — SOURCES OF THE BLEEDING

Severe Thrombocytopenia	<b>94</b>	Various Spontaneous Skin bleeding	<b>10</b>
Mild Thrombocytopenia	<b>11</b>	Vein bleeding from temple	<b>1</b>
Thrombocytopenic Petechial rash/bruising	<b>5</b>	Prolonged surgical site bleeding	<b>3</b>
Severe Pancytopenia	<b>2</b>	Severe multifocal bleeding	<b>5</b>
Unknown Hematologic Problem	<b>1</b>	Severe internal bleeding	<b>5</b>
Multifocal or “massive” brain hemorrhage	<b>20</b>	Severe uncharacterized bleeding	<b>3</b>
Focal brain hemorrhage	<b>29</b>	Bleeding from cancer site liver	<b>1</b>
GI Bleed	<b>34</b>	Renal dialysis shunt	<b>1</b>
Severe Vaginal Bleeding	<b>7</b>	Hematuria	<b>2</b>
Bleeding in Pregnancy	<b>21</b>	Renal bleed	<b>1</b>
Bleeding with Miscarriage	<b>6</b>	Tonsillar bleed	<b>1</b>
Irregular Menses	<b>12</b>	Acute Uterine Fibroid hemorrhage	<b>1</b>
Oral bleeding	<b>4</b>	Nosebleed	<b>32</b>
Severe Thrombocytopenia	<b>8</b>	Spontaneous Splenic hemorrhage	<b>1</b>
Subconjunctival Hemorrhage	<b>1</b>	Injection Site Bleeding	<b>21</b>
Intraocular bleed	<b>4</b>	Arm Bruising	<b>1</b>

(Number of incidences reported in VAERS database from December 15, 2020 to March 12, 2021)



image:ffikretow/GettyImagesPlus

report for a variety of reasons, including unfamiliarity of the system and time constraints. Insufficient details in the narrative are not correctable, nor does any one report conclude causality. The idea is to amass enough data points to recognize a trend.

In the two-and-a-half-month period from December 15, 2020 to March 12, 2021, 358 cases of unusual clotting or bleeding were identified, and it makes grim reading. There were 104 cases of frank thrombocytopenia (low platelets) — some including young people. However, the numbers alone do not adequately convey the problems. A physician documented this case of a young woman, aged 18-29: “Patient was seen in my office on 1/19/21 with complaint of heavy vaginal bleeding. A CBC was obtained which revealed an H/H of 12.2/36.1 and a platelet count of 1 (not 1K, but 1 platelet!) This was confirmed on smear review.” The surprise and horror the doctor experienced upon seeing the absence of platelets is clear when reading the report.

But the platelet problem may just be the most severe expression of a physical derangement that is producing bleeding of all sorts. As seen in the table on page 13, there were 49 people with brain hemorrhages — nine fatal at the time of reporting. A number of other people arrived at emergency departments with bleeding from multiple sites, or internally, so massive that they could not be stabilized even to clearly define the sources of the bleeding.

Most cases of severe bleeding were in people over age 50, but there were many younger people involved, especially in the less-severe-but-unusual bleeding problems. Of the 32 reported nosebleeds, six were either unable to be stopped with usual measures, were recurrent, or were recorded as leading to significant blood loss or dubbed “profuse.” Many bleeding issues were associated with other symptoms, such as photophobia (eye sensitivity to light), headache, hives, “sick in bed,” brain fog, and face swelling. The youngest patient with a nosebleed was, sadly, a toddler

requiring emergency care. Unusual skin bleeding was also reported. Four 65-plus-year-old males reported blood spontaneously oozing through the skin: one from the legs, one from the scalp, one from an old biopsy site, and one from an old healed “boil” site. Frank bleeding at the time of inoculation occurred 14 times. Some bleeding was momentary, but often the bleeding was difficult to stop, was recurrent, and/or persisted after the patient returned home. Perhaps the saddest were the bleeding episodes that preceded spontaneous miscarriages.

Here are some direct entries in VAERS:

- 40-49 y.o. Female: The evening of my vaccination I began to feel feverish, weak and achy. During the night I woke with heavy bleeding and found out the following morning I had miscarried my otherwise healthy pregnancy.

- 39 y.o. Female: Internal brain bleeding 10 days after 1st dose Covid vaccine; brain damage, confused, suffering memory loss; This is a spontaneous report from a contactable physician (patient).

- 30-39 y.o. Female: 48 hours after injection developed micro-hemorrhages in her right eye. Symptoms resolved and 12/29 recurrence of bleeding to right eye slightly worse than before.

- 65+ y.o. Male: Patient developed significant nose bleed after receiving vaccine. Required emergency department visits x 2 and hospitalization.

- 65+ y.o. Female: Vaccine administered 02/02/2021. By Thursday 2/11/2021 patient almost nonverbal, by Monday 2/15/2021 patient went to the hospital with bruising, sores on her stomach and clots reported as thrombocytopenia. Deceased by Friday, 2/19/2021.

- 40-49 y.o. Female: Bleeding, myalgia, tingling in the fingers of the right hand; fatigue immediately upon vaccination — bleeding at the injection site which the employee reports as filling the Band-Aid over the site. When she got home in the evening and took it off blood ran.

- 65+ y.o. Female: Within 15 min of the injection, the individual became aphasic and stroke like symptoms. She was taken to the ER where she was later diagnosed with a cerebral hemorrhage and passed away.



AP Images

**Not without side effects:** The Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine was temporarily “paused” by the FDA and CDC over reports of severe blood clotting. Is it worth the risk?

When such facts are presented, the standard retort from vaccine advocates is, “We have given millions of vaccines, so a few deaths are to be expected.” Besides the fact that a willingness to sacrifice individuals for the nebulous good of the masses represents a bankrupt moral order, simply calculating the numbers of deaths is inadequate. Experts need to take the time to read the narrative to open their eyes —



and their hearts — to the suffering happening. There are over 25 pages of such stories printed from VAERS entries, and we must ask, how many of these people are now dead, and how many are going to die?

Just before this article went to press, I attempted to update the numbers of the study. Now, using the same search terms and methodology, for the same time period of vaccination, instead of 358 reports there were over 6,200 reports. With any new medical intervention or drug rollout, this lag in reporting side effects produces an “avalanche effect” — a problem begins slowly and is barely perceptible, then speeds up unnoticed until it is too late to avoid the calamity. Looking at this data set, another finding was the greatly expanded degree of detail in the newer reports. This clearly reflects an awakened concern by medical professionals and others as to the seriousness of what they are witnessing.

A second-year medical student armed with the facts should recognize the ongoing disaster — where are the experts?

### The “Unknowns” Outnumber the “Knowns”

In truth, neither COVID “vaccine” recipients nor their doctors know what is in these shots. Only a few people at the top of the Moderna, Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson, and AstraZeneca research groups really understand them. These injections produce a potentially deadly pathogen — a spike protein — in your cells. The FDA’s Emergency Use Authorization for the Pfizer product says that the shot contains “a nucleoside-modified messenger RNA (modRNA, or mRNA) encoding the viral spike glycoprotein (S) of SARS-CoV-2.” If your immune system is strong enough to withstand this onslaught and create some immunity, you may survive the injection. But even if you live in the short term, mRNA is an epigenetic controller of DNA. Though this foreign synthetic mRNA doesn’t actually become part of your DNA to make you a “GMO human,” as some people have been worrying about, it can control DNA in ways we have yet to completely understand. We literally have no idea whether these gene products are going to express cancer genes, or turn off cancer-fighting genes. In the world of your complex DNA, there are thousands of

In truth, neither COVID “vaccine” recipients nor their doctors know what is in these shots. Only a few people at the top of the Moderna, Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson, and AstraZeneca research groups really understand them.



**A bloody business:** Various bleeding issues have been reported by people who have received the COVID-19 shots. Some of the bleeding has been severe, even fatal. Is it worth the risk?

other potentially damaging “unknowns.”

Pfizer and Moderna “vaccines” include all types of other ingredients that may by themselves create ailments. The Pfizer shot contains “lipids ((4-hydroxybutyl)azanediyl)bis(hexane-6,1-diyl)bis(2-hexyldecanoate), 2-[(polyethylene glycol)-2000]-N,N-ditetradecylacetamide, 1,2-distearoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine, and cholesterol), potassium chloride, monobasic potassium phosphate, sodium chloride, dibasic sodium phosphate dihydrate, and sucrose.”

I insert this list just for completeness — don’t expect to make sense of it. Your doctor can’t either. I understand “sucrose” (sugar) and “sodium chloride” (salt), but who doesn’t get lost in the “hydroxybutyl” and “distearoyl” lipid list?

Most recently, people have put out videos purporting to show they are now magnetic after taking the vaccines. A physician

colleague of mine confirmed that not only would a magnet stick to the injection site, but a paperclip would hold to the skin — suggesting that the vaccine material was itself magnetic. Before dismissing this as nonsense, consider this article published in August of 2019 at LabRoots.com: “Scientists Developed Magnetic Nanoparticles that can Remotely Modulate Neural Circuits.” Such iron-containing nanoparticles are already being used in oncology — they can be put into the blood vessel feeding a brain tumor, then MRI scanning of the area causes the particles to heat and burn out the cancerous mass. So, what will happen when these vaccinated people enter the MRI for other reasons? Without unbiased analysis and actually being told the full details of the components of the vaccine, how can we know? And should we give such a drug to the whole world without full disclosure?

## Recognizing a Pharmaceutical Disaster

The pharmacology industry has a long history of removing bad drugs from the market. Thalidomide is perhaps the most famous example of a pharmacologic disaster. The drug was released in 1957 for its sedative effects and, like the COVID “vaccines,” was touted as being safe for everyone including “pregnant women and children.” In 1961, Dr. William McBride, an obstetrician, discovered that thalidomide was useful for mitigating “morning sickness” in pregnant women. Later he began to see unusual and devastating birth defects in babies born to women for whom he had prescribed the drug. Independently, Dr. Widuking Lenz, a pediatrician in Germany, also associated thalidomide with severe and unusual birth defects, such as the absence of limbs or parts of limbs. Sometimes an infant’s hands were attached at the shoulders — there being no connecting long bones at all. By 1962, the drug has been taken off the market, after more than 100,000 babies were born with lifelong, disabling birth defects.

In contrast to the COVID “vaccines,” recognition of the thalidomide problem was made relatively easy by several factors.

First among these was the uniqueness of the deformities. These were both profound and obvious, which stands in stark contrast to the current bleeding problems, which appear on the surface to be normal problems in clinical medicine — such as nosebleeds.

Second, with thalidomide, the physician who first began using the drug for nausea in pregnancy was also the doctor who delivered the affected babies, so he could readily put two and two together. In the case of our COVID drugs, when your doctor tells you to get a vaccine, he doesn’t administer it, doesn’t witness the injection, and usually doesn’t follow up to see how you fared. And if you were to suddenly develop a vision problem or bleeding from the bowel, you wouldn’t be seen by your primary care doctor; you would go to the emergency room — and ER staff usually don’t ask about your recent vaccine history.

Third, Dr. Lenz presciently recognized that, in the case of thalidomide, many less-severe deformities revealed “gradations of the defect.” Unfortunately, in the present case, lesser degrees of clotting problems are indistinguishable from bleeding issues frequently encountered in an emergency room or doctor’s office. For example, if a 75-year-old hyperten-

sive male — who has gotten a COVID shot — suffers a brain hemorrhage and dies, it would not likely be deemed unusual, and the relationship to vaccination may not even be explored.

Finally, in the 1950s and 1960s, although the enhanced communication ability of the Internet was not available, medical censorship was also not so prevalent. Doctors could easily publish their interesting findings in journals that were not controlled by “peer review” and editors acting in the interest of their funding stream — i.e., the pharmaceutical industry and other interested donors. Doctors today unfortunately consider the mainstream medical journals the source of reliable truth rather than biased paid advertisements constructed to benefit corporate medicine — as Dr. Leemon McHenry, Ph.D., discusses in episode 13 of his video series *Perspectives on the Pandemic*, “The Illusion of Evidence Based Medicine.”

Keeping all this in mind, we should assume the worst when it comes to these new COVID shots. Though VAERS has the potential to shorten recognition time of drug problems by trying to spot any unusual patterns, this requires that physicians be aware of the system and take the time to enter any suspected side effects — not just the worst cases. It also requires that researchers care enough to look. This is not happening. A Harvard report previously submitted to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality revealed that fewer than one percent of adverse events get reported to VAERS.

In the past, testing done on mRNA technology revealed problems specifically involving the clotting system. Antibody-mediated platelet damage has been suspected. Yet today, when these exact problems arise, the researchers are mum. Do the experts not study or know their own vaccine-research history?

## Save Ourselves, Save Our World

Michael Yeadon, Ph.D., the former chief science officer for Pfizer, recently made two statements we must not ignore:

“I’m here to tell you that there is something very, very bad happening. If you don’t pay attention, you will soon lose any chance to do anything about it,” and “Look out the window, and think, ‘Why is my government lying to me about something so fundamental?’ Because, I think the answer is, they are



AP Images

**A new thalidomide?** In the late 1950s, thalidomide was touted as a safe and effective means of reducing morning sickness during pregnancy, among other uses. It caused severe birth defects. Are we seeing a similar situation with the COVID-19 vaccines with their various side effects?



going to kill you using this method. They're going to kill you and your family."

Maybe you can't yet believe Big Pharma is targeting you, but the undeniable fact is that they are willing to gamble with the lives of you and your family. They have released upon the entire world's population a novel technology, bypassing animal testing and long-term human testing, and ignoring any inconveniences such as unusual and unexplained death and disease.

For decades, we have been a gullible population that allowed our children to get vaccinated for trivial, non-fatal diseases such as mumps and even chicken pox. We have believed in the god-like status of medical technocrats who claim to be making the world safer. We have joined in the mocking of "anti-vaxxers" as anti-scientific troglodytes. We have tacitly accepted the unspoken premise under which pharmaceutical companies and doctors operate — that "all vaccines are always safe in all people all the time." The reality is, it should not be considered unreasonable to question the necessity of any drug, and to require transparency, honesty, and safety.

No one can afford to sit on the sidelines. At the minimum, go to [wonder.cdc.gov/vaers.html](http://wonder.cdc.gov/vaers.html) and research for yourself what is happening. Don't take these genetic agents without doing the research. Don't experiment on your children. Resist all attempts of government or businesses to mandate any vaccine. Do not be coerced by threats to limit your travel. Do not be coaxed by false promises of more personal freedom if you take the injections. You don't need a biology degree. Look for truth by looking at censorship. Watch the "fact checkers" — and the truth they are trying to hide. Listen to the mainstream media, and do the opposite. Remember, if you don't own the rights to your own body, you are a slave.

And if you are a physician, it is time to choose your allegiance. Will you stand for your patients? Or will you hide behind the medical authorities and say someday, "I was just following orders." ■

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*While the above article surveys the early known effects of the experimental COVID vaccines on individuals, a cover story in an upcoming issue of THE NEW AMERICAN will examine the impact of these vaccines on world health and population.*

## Are "Vaccines" Harming More THAN THE "VAXXED"?

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by Dr. Lee Merritt

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There seems to be no end to the bad news about COVID "vaccines." First, we have the unprecedented number of deaths. Over the past 20 years among all forms of vaccination, there have been 4,206 total deaths recorded in the government's Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). But in 2021, after only five and a half months of COVID vaccination, 4,406 deaths have occurred — more than the previous 20 years of all vaccines combined. In addition to deaths, there have also been issues with bleeding and thrombocytopenia. If one enters the search terms "bleeding," "hemorrhage," "thrombocytopenia," and "pancytopenia" into VAERS, one finds zero reports for 1980, five for 1990, 22 for 2000, 32 for 2010, 34 for 2020 (18 of which were from COVID vaccines), and 493 for the first five months of 2021 alone — 492 of which were from COVID vaccines!

We are also hearing about myocarditis — an inflammation of the heart — affecting an unexpected number of young people. Enter the search terms "myocarditis," "heart attack," "heart inflammation," and "myocardial" into VAERS, and there are zero reports for 1980, three for 1990, seven for 2000, 21 for 2010, 27 for 2020 (18 of which were from COVID vaccines), and 385 for the first five months of 2021 — 380 of which were from COVID vaccines!

But these new gene-based experimental unapproved agents (not properly called "vaccines" because they do not actually protect a person from getting COVID) are the gift that keeps on giving. Studies on the Pfizer vaccine showed that the spike proteins — structures projecting from the surface coating of a virus that help the virus bind to and invade a host cell — collect in the ovaries of vaccinated individuals.

It should be noted that in 2015, "self-disseminating" vaccines were used to decrease the mouse population successfully in Australia. The vaccines spread by bodily fluids, and as one mouse spread the vaccine to another, those mice became vaccine spreaders to another group. After two or three such passes through a host, the vaccine did not pass further. But the ovarian follicles in female mice were destroyed, thus rendering lifelong infertility. These agents were thus considered "immunogenetic contraceptives."

### The Danger of Shedding

It is important to consider this previous animal research and technology when addressing the latest concern of human vaccines — "shedding." People, especially women, seem to become symptomatic after being in close contact with a recently vaccinated person. Complaints range from flu-like symptoms to a variety of bleeding: irregular menstrual flow, young girls bleeding well before expected onset of menses, post-menopausal women bleeding, testicular pain and genital rashes in boys, and, in at least one clear case, death. I myself had the experience of touching a recently vaccinated patient, and almost a week later, developed significant nose bleeding that stopped only after dosing with hydroxychloroquine and ivermectin. Many would say that this was a coincidence, but at age 68, this was the first nosebleed of my life.

Predictably, media disregarded these complaints and called victims and those speaking for them scaremongers, anti-vaxxers, and idiots. Then, the fact-checkers came out like a swarm of locusts, yelling, "false, false, false!" (That's a good clue something is true.) But, recently, a paper written by the FDA in 2015 surfaced, titled "Design and Analysis of Shedding Studies for Virus or Bac-



AP Images

**High risk:** There is strong evidence to suggest that COVID-19 vaccines can cause harm to women's reproductive systems, either directly or via "shedding" from other vaccinated individuals.

teria-Based Gene Therapy and Oncolytic Products — Guidance for Industry." The paper, which was written for pharmaceutical researchers, states in the introduction, "Shedding raises the possibility of transmission of VBGT or oncolytic products from treated to untreated individuals (e.g., close contacts and healthcare professionals)." And just to make sure that researchers knew they would not be prosecuted, the FDA kindly added, "FDA's guidance documents, including this guidance, do not establish legally enforceable responsibilities." Lovely.

Note that the FDA refers to these agents not as "vaccines" but as VBGTs, or virus or bacteria-based gene therapies. The FDA suggests pre-clinical data on shedding may be requested if "humans have not been previously exposed to the product and the route of administration differs from the natural route of exposure/infection." That certainly applies to the COVID shots. The FDA recommends these studies be done prior to licensure, specifically in Stage I testing. We are now at Stage IV of the vaccine approval process, with no official information given to us, and these widespread genetic agents

are being foisted on the entire world, including our children.

The FDA warns that in some cases, "shedding of such products may be intermittent and unpredictable." They suggest that some agents have a higher potential for "recombination or reversion within an individual patient," thus "what is shared may change." In other words, our medical experts are injecting us with genetic agents that may recombine genetically within us depending on our genome and what other genetic particles are floating around. These new and unknown products can shed to other people and infect or transfect them. ("Transfection" is inserting genetic material that alters a person's native DNA.)

To understand the degree of shedding, the FDA advisors recommend collecting samples of vaccinated people beginning on day one and continuing weekly for more than 10 weeks until three consecutive weeks show no evidence

of the shedding. They believe that shedding occurs through bodily fluid, and is not airborne. Immune compromised patients may shed for longer periods of time, the FDA says: "Immunosuppressed patients may become persistently infected and may shed the product for extended periods of time." So, the idea of children infecting and hurting their grandparents is backwards. The elderly — many of whom are pressured into getting the vaccines — may actually shed harmful genetic agents onto their children and grandchildren, and these products may be affecting fertility by attaching to and damaging the ovaries.

FDA regulators say, without apparent studies to confirm, that the risk of shedding is generally low. But they recommend "preventive/containment measures that can limit spread of the shed product beyond the treated individual to minimize exposure of third parties, particularly, immune compromised adults, neonates and seniors." They seem to have missed the people at most risk here, i.e., women who are pregnant and any females of child-bearing age, or young girls.

If you are a female and have experienced alteration in your menstrual cycle either through vaccination or through secondary contamination by shedding, contribute to the knowledge base by adding your data to [www.MyCycleStory.com](http://www.MyCycleStory.com). This site is run by Dr. Christiane Northrup, who has been a pioneer in women's reproductive health. There is potential for treatment, but this cannot be conclusive until we know more about the syndrome of shedding. If you are pregnant, may become pregnant in the future, or have a compromised immune system, you may be at greater risk if you are in close proximity to recently vaccinated people. However, it does not appear at this time that normal activities such as shopping or being outside around others place you at risk. ■



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# DOCTORS DEBUNK THE MEDICAL “CONSENSUS”

Doctors worldwide are speaking out against government lockdowns and vaccine mandates, while being ignored and attacked by the media.

by Rebecca Terrell

“Unprecedented” is likely the top misused word of the past 18 months, as if mankind had never witnessed a pandemic before, though it is still unclear why in recent years the World Health Organization (WHO) downgraded the definition of “pandemic” to include any worldwide disease, regardless of severity. Nor is this the first time history records unbridled government tyranny that makes our unconditional quarantines look like cakewalks. Consider Communist China, where the Wuhan virus is widely reputed to have originated, and where atrocities such as forced sterilization and abortion, forced labor, and re-education/indoctrination are commonplace.

Neither does “unprecedented” apply to the modern censure of experts speaking out against official overreaction to the SARS coronavirus. For decades, liberal media and bureaucrats have gagged renowned researchers who dare challenge the science-is-settled global-warming party line (though in the 1970s they called it global cooling).

Today’s medical doctors face the same suppression. Physicians Dan Erickson and Artin Massihi, co-owners of several California urgent-care clinics, stirred the pot in April 2020, calling a press conference to report research-based warnings against lockdowns. Incensed local media accused them of “publicly rejecting the consensus of the nation’s medical community regarding the COVID-19 threat.” Once their video hit five million views, YouTube quashed it as “misinformation.”

Despite their detractors’ hackneyed claim of consensus, Erickson and Massihi are hardly lone voices. They number among thousands of doctors and specialists bravely facing censorship for voicing their educated concerns over everything from quarantines to vaccines. Let’s meet a few of the highly credentialed specialists whom media sanctimoniously accuse of “jeopardizing

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AP Images

the drive against COVID-19” by spreading their “disinformation, fear-mongering and anti-vaxx venom.”

## Dr. Sucharit Bhakdi

*I am not anti-vaxx. I have always been pro-vaxx. I have always taught that vaccination is very, very good. But not this vaccine. This is very, very bad.*

So says German microbiologist Dr. Sucharit Bhakdi in an exclusive interview with Alex Newman of THE NEW AMERICAN. Head emeritus of the Institute of Medical Microbiology and Hygiene at the University of Mainz and former editor-in-chief of *Medical Microbiology and Immunology*, Dr. Bhakdi has published more than 300 articles and received numerous awards and honors. Yet Wikipedia sums him up as “a prominent exponent of false ideas about the coronavirus pandemic.”

The Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) collects information about vaccine side effects. By the end of May, the tally of blood clots and strokes had reached more than 7,500, while heart attacks attributable to the vaccines numbered nearly 2,000.

Equally demeaned by other media sensationalists since his early questioning of COVID hysteria, Dr. Bhakdi remains an outspoken critic of both government lockdowns and experimental vaccines. In March 2020 he penned a still-unanswered open letter to German Chancellor Angela Merkel, questioning the German government's "drastic containment measures." He co-authored the 2020 book *Corona False Alarm?* with his biologist/biochemist wife, Karina Reiss, and the pair has just released their latest work, *Corona Unmasked*.

In Newman's interview, Bhakdi explained why the unscientific use of COVID testing produces so many false positives, how morbidity and mortality rates are grossly exaggerated, and what makes the COVID-19 "vaccines" both completely ineffective and extremely dangerous. In regard to the latter, Dr. Bhakdi predicted severe blood clotting would result, and official data bear him out. The Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) collects information about vaccine side effects. By the end of May, the tally of blood clots and strokes had reached more than 7,500, while heart attacks attributable to the vaccines numbered nearly 2,000. Tragically, reported deaths at that time had reached 5,165 and are still climbing, though the CDC admits actual numbers are likely much higher due to underreporting. Experts estimate fewer than 10 percent of adverse events are submitted to the voluntary VAERS system.

"I don't want a vaccine that may kill me, that will protect me against getting a cold — do you?" Dr. Bhakdi asked Newman. Of the untested and novel substances (no large trial of any mRNA "gene therapy" vaccine has been completed yet), he said that humans have become "part of the largest scientific experiment ever performed in history.... It's criminal."

### Dr. Peter McCullough

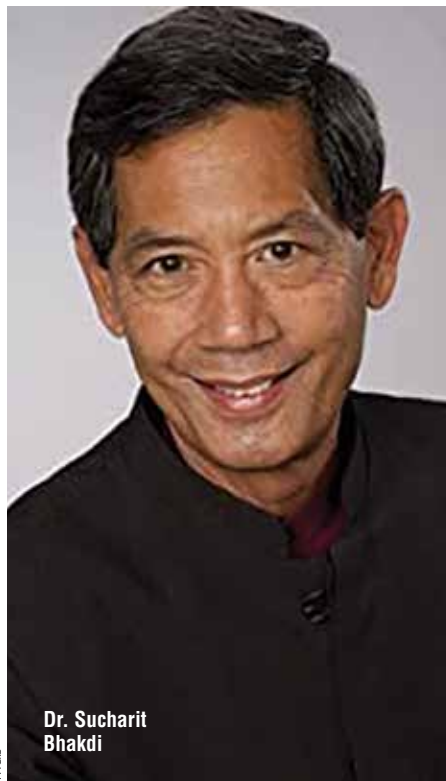
*A typical new drug ... at about 50 unexplained deaths for a new product, it's pulled off the market.... In the 1976 swine flu pandemic we attempted to vaccinate 55 million Americans. At 25 deaths, the program was killed.*

These words underscore Dr. Bhakdi's warnings and come from internationally renowned Dr. Peter McCullough, vice chief of medicine at Baylor University Medical Center and a principal faculty in internal medicine at Texas A&M University Health Sciences Center. A master of public health, he is the most published

expert in his field and regularly testifies before federal and state legislatures in regard to COVID-19, having developed a successful outpatient treatment. He told Newman in another exclusive interview with THE NEW AMERICAN that clinical results prove "about 85 percent of all the lives that are lost could have been saved" by his therapy.

Dr. McCullough expressed astonishment at the March 8 CDC announcement that of 1,600 deaths reported at the time, unnamed U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) doctors found none related to COVID vaccines. Results of that sort should have taken many months to determine by published researchers. He opined, "I think this was effectively a scrubbing like we've seen elsewhere." He pointed out that, though the Johnson & Johnson vaccine has been called to the mat for causing rare blood-clotting disorders, the same problems are some 30-percent more frequent with the Moderna vaccine. "Keep in mind, the National Institutes of Health is a co-owner of the Moderna patent," he reasoned.

Moreover, patients do not need a pre-



Dr. Sucharit  
Bhakdi

imdb



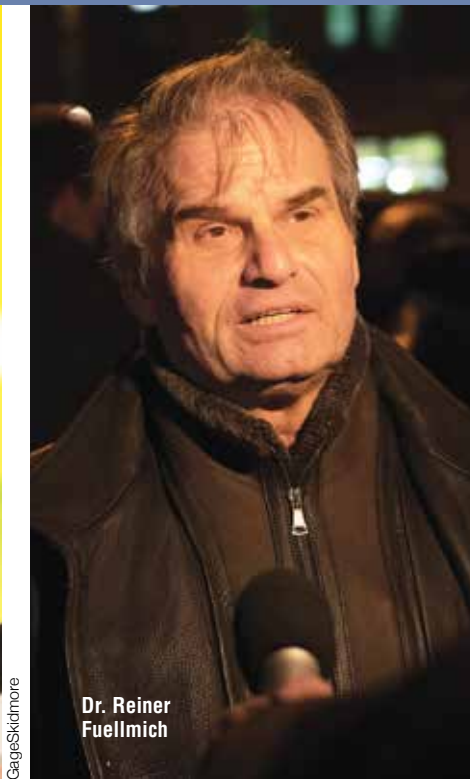
Dr. Peter  
McCullough

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Dr. Simone Gold



Dr. Reiner Fuellmich

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gency physician and attorney Dr. Simone Gold, who has worked in Washington, D.C., for both the surgeon general and the Labor & Human Resources Committee. She authored the top-selling 2020 book *I Do Not Consent: My Fight Against Medical Cancel Culture*.

AFLD is a nationwide collaboration of physicians and patients intended “to combat those who push political and economic agendas at the expense of science and quality healthcare solutions,” according to the group’s website. The site offers access to coronavirus telemedicine and legal resources. Visitors can also sign the “Stop Medical Discrimination Petition,” which already boasts nearly 680,000 signatures. Dr. Gold explains the petition will be used in AFLD’s lobbying efforts with government and private policymakers.

She complains that valid, unbiased information is hidden by a media blackout of any news that departs from their alarmist agenda. For example, last year’s Danish Mask Study conclusively proved that masks do nothing to prevent viral spread, but its authors faced extreme difficulty in getting their research published, blocked by leftists who run many scientific journals.

Dr. Gold then predicts that we could go the way of Israel, where that country’s “Green Badge” system dictates who can (the vaccinated) and can’t (the non-vaccinated) lead normal lives. Early on, the Israeli government cut an exclusive deal with Pfizer, paying above-market value for premium access to its vaccine. The Pfizer CEO openly admitted that Israel “has become the world’s lab.”

Gold laments, “On the ashes of the holocaust, just two generations after the Nuremberg Trials, why is Israel leading the world in this crime against humanity, which is mandating experimental medications on its citizens?”

### Dr. Reiner Fuellmich

*This corona crisis ... must be re-named a “Corona Scandal,” and those responsible for it must be criminally prosecuted and sued for civil damages.... An international network of lawyers will argue this biggest tort case ever; the corona fraud scandal, which has meanwhile unfolded into*

scription for these vaccines, which only have Emergency Use Authorization from the FDA. The FDA approved experimental use even for pregnant women and COVID-recovered patients, for whom there are no clinical trials. “Wow! Did we cross a regulatory line,” Dr. McCullough exclaimed. He also reels at the thought that doctors recommend these substances without safety and efficacy documentation. “Doctors would never [before] do that for a new drug! Never!”

McCullough then warned of a coalition of media and government stakeholders with the Orwellian name of Trusted News Initiative, which has pledged to muzzle dissenters and hide negative news to prevent “vaccine hesitancy.” In the process, they are deceiving the public, remaining silent on available treatments such as his own, and covering up record numbers of deaths and hospitalizations in people who have received the vaccine. He recommends OpenVAERS.com, an independently run site that reports raw, unedited VAERS data in a more easily readable format than that provided by the CDC.

He also strongly recommends the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons (AAPS) as a reliable source of

unfiltered COVID information. (Dr. Lee Merritt, author of the main cover story in this edition of THE NEW AMERICAN, is a member and past president.) Founded in 1944, with membership in the thousands, AAPS made headlines in 2020 with its *Guide to Home-Based COVID Treatment*, which Dr. McCullough says is “the most frequently downloaded COVID resource ... for early home treatment.” The association’s website, AAPSONline.org, also provides a list of physicians nationwide who are successfully treating COVID-19 patients.

### Dr. Simone Gold

*The tragedy has been the political interference in the practice of medicine.... We actually have the government of the United States of America telling its people that there’s nothing you can do unless you are sick enough to be hospitalized requiring oxygen. This is a lie.*

Another trustworthy organization, more recently formed in response to media-driven hysteria, is America’s Frontline Doctors (AFLD). It was founded by emer-

*probably the greatest crime against humanity ever committed.*

Like a medical Magna Carta, the Nuremberg Code specifies that no one can experiment on human beings without their consent, as did the Nazis during World War II. Dr. Reiner Fuellmich invoked this code last year when, on behalf of the German Corona Investigative Committee (GCIC), he announced intent to file a class-action lawsuit “to make sure that no one will ever again be in a position of such power as to be able to defraud humanity or to attempt to manipulate us with their corrupt agendas.”

Dr. Fuellmich’s advisors include:

- Dr. Michael Yeadon, a former Pfizer vice president and scientific director, and co-founder of Doctors for COVID-19 Ethics, a group that has slammed the vaccines as “unnecessary, ineffective and unsafe”;
- Dr. John Ioannidis, Stanford University statistician and epidemiologist, whose extensive research proves the disease never justified a “blind lockdown of the entire society.”

• Physician and former member of the German parliament Dr. Wolfgang Wodarg, who was instrumental in quelling media-driven panic in the midst of the 2009 swine flu epidemic, which turned out to be a mild illness.

Since July 2020, GCIC has been gathering expert testimony from thousands of healthcare professionals worldwide, who agree that “there has never been a corona pandemic, but only a PCR-test pandemic,” Dr. Fuellmich says. With a near-certain likelihood of producing false positives, the COVID PCR test was developed by German virologist Dr. Christian Drosten, who has admitted it has no diagnostic value — which the CDC has also acknowledged — but is very effective in spurring media sensationalism. Yet governments worldwide base COVID policy exclusively on Dr. Drosten’s test, thanks in large part to the endorsements of Dr. Lothar Wieler, head of the RKI (German equivalent of the CDC), and WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. GCIC’s international network of attorneys intends to file suit

against these individuals and others, including U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Dr. Anthony Fauci, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and the World Economic Forum, who have been calling “the shots in the proclamation of the worldwide corona pandemic” and using the panic they deliberately created to push for dangerous, experimental gene-therapy technology. GCIC wants to see these people criminally prosecuted for crimes against humanity and held liable for civil damages wreaked by widespread lockdowns.

As it turns out, the word “unprecedented” is well applied to COVID, not as the deadliest virus, but as history’s most widespread hoax; not in the media coverup of real solutions, but in the novelty of governments mandating experimental gene-altering vaccines. Let’s hope that history will also record Dr. Fuellmich’s efforts, not only as the largest class-action suit ever fought, but also as a victory for the truth, which, in his words, “will pull the masks off the faces of all those responsible for these crimes.” ■



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**Proven right again: When it came to the China Virus, President Trump, as usual, was right. And, as usual, the leftist media were wrong.**

# COVID Lab-leak Theory Media Lied, People Died

Americans were told repeatedly by the liberal media that COVID-19 did not originate from a lab in Wuhan, China. Now, more evidence is coming out to vindicate the lab-leak theory.

*by R. Cort Kirkwood*

**P**resident Trump was right all along. The leftist media will never say those words, but they have admitted the truth implicitly. They are openly and seriously discussing the theory that the China Virus — COVID-19 or SARS-Cov-2 — sprung from a lab in Wuhan, China. That lab was most likely in the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV), which was manipulating bat coronaviruses so they could attack humans.

Solid evidence has surfaced for what the media sneeringly called a “debunked conspiracy theory” last year, and it has

*R. Cort Kirkwood is a longtime contributor to THE NEW AMERICAN. He was a newspaperman for more than 25 years.*

snowballed into almost-certain fact in recent months. Multiple reports in May detailed the institute’s virus manipulation and disclosed that lab workers were sick with virus-like symptoms before the virus began its deadly march across the globe. Top U.S. officials, *Vanity Fair* reported in June, ordered underlings not to open a “Pandora’s box” by discussing the lab-leak theory. The massive trove of Dr. Anthony Fauci’s e-mails, also disclosed in June, shows that he knew last year the virus might have been created in a lab. During a briefing to world health officials, Fauci said as much. The smoking gun that just about proves the lab-leak hypothesis is video that shows bats at the lab, which a top supporter of the experiments there had denied.

Better late than never, one could say of

the media’s sudden willingness to believe what seemed entirely credible before May of last year. U.S. intelligence sources told Fox News in April 2020, for instance, that they believed the virus sprung from a lab. World-class scientists were concerned about it by then.

But the media spiked the story. Trump said the virus escaped a lab; thus, it had to be untrue. Worst thing is, we are now to believe the media’s mulish refusal to report the story was Trump’s fault. He was the racist “bomb-thrower in chief,” *Vanity Fair* opined, and therefore had to be wrong.

## **Evidence for the Lab Leak**

When SARS-Cov-2 went global last year, the official story was this: It sprung from the city’s filthy, repulsive wet markets that sell exotic animals, including bats, for

The simple truth is this: The lab-leak theory was credible from Day 1, and the media purposely ignored it to press its hate-Trump narrative and prove Trump a menace and failure.



**“Absolutely crazy”:** Yet another target of the media’s sneering derision was Senator Tom Cotton. As did Trump, he suggested the China Virus leaked from a lab. With help from scientists who knew better, the leftist media accused Cotton of peddling a “fringe” and “debunked” theory.

AP Images

human consumption. Coronaviruses are bat-borne. Thus, a vendor who sold the bats, or someone who purchased it, contracted and spread it. That was Patient Zero.

But that was too hasty a conclusion for people with common sense, such as U.S. Senator Tom Cotton (R-Ark.). On January 20, Cotton tweeted that the city where the virus broke out was the home of the virus institute: “I would note that Wuhan has China’s only biosafety level-four super laboratory that works with the world’s most deadly pathogens to include, yes, coronavirus.”

When the Chinese ambassador to the United States said Cotton was “absolutely crazy” to suggest a lab leak, Cotton answered thusly:

Here’s what’s not a conspiracy, not a theory: Fact: China lied about virus starting in Wuhan food market. Fact: super-lab is just a few miles from that market. Where did it start? We don’t know. But burden of proof is on you & fellow communists. Open up now to competent international scientists.

Then came the “debunked conspiracy theory” narrative:

The *Washington Post* tried to kneecap Cotton with a story that said he “keeps repeating a coronavirus conspiracy theory that was already debunked.” The *New York Times* similarly poo-hooed Cotton. “Senator Tom Cotton Repeats Fringe Theory of Coronavirus Origins,” the *Old Grey Lady* told readers.

And later, when a Chinese scientist appeared on Fox talker Tucker Carlson’s program and said the virus was engineered as a bioweapon, Politifact was ready with its ballyhooed “Pants on Fire” rating. “The genetic structure of the novel coronavirus ... rules out the possibility that it was manipulated in a lab,” the non-scientists at Politifact confidently huffed.

Except that it wasn’t “debunked,” it wasn’t a “fringe theory,” and it wasn’t “ruled out.”

A year later, in May 2021, *Post* fact-checker Glenn Kessler explained “how the lab-leak theory suddenly became credible” with a long timeline of events that included this item:

Feb. 6 [2020]: Botao Xiao, a molecular biomechanics researcher at South China University of Technology, posts a paper stating that “the killer coronavirus probably originated from a laboratory in Wuhan.” He pointed to the previous safety mishaps and the kind of research undertaken at the lab. He withdrew the paper a few weeks later after Chinese authorities insisted no accident had taken place.

This one timeline entry shows that even the headline over Kessler’s corrective was wrong. The theory didn’t “suddenly become credible.” It was *always* credible.

On April 14, 2020, the *Post*’s own Josh Rogin reported that U.S. science diplomats were extremely concerned about biosecurity at the institute. The lab had a “serious shortage of appropriately-trained technicians” said a State Department cable, a worrisome fact given the dangerous research the lab conducted on bat coronaviruses.

On April 15, Fox News’ Bret Baier reported that U.S. intelligence sources told him the virus accidentally leaked from a lab, and a week later, *Newsweek* confirmed that suspicion with a report from the Defense Intelligence Agency: “China: Origins of COVID-19 Outbreak Remain Unknown.” Wrote Baier:

The report, dated March 27 and corroborated by two U.S. officials, reveals that U.S. intelligence revised its January assessment in which it “judged that the outbreak probably occurred naturally” to now include the possibility that the new coronavirus emerged “accidentally” due to “unsafe laboratory practices.”

The report said the virus was not genetically engineered, a claim many now believe to believe highly suspect.

“We know that this virus originated in Wuhan,” Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told Martha McCallum of Fox News when Baier’s report surfaced. “We know there is the Wuhan Institute of Virology just a handful of miles away from where the wet market was.”

Next month, as the *Post*’s timeline noted, Pompeo repeated it. “There’s enormous evidence that that’s where this began,” he told



ABC News. “Remember, China has a history of infecting the world, and they have a history of running substandard laboratories. These are not the first times that we have had the world exposed to viruses as a result of failures in a Chinese lab.”

Though China eventually admitted the virus did not come from a wet market, it wouldn’t and won’t say where it did originate. But Pompeo was right. A report from the World Health Organization in 2003 included these facts:

Since July 2003, there have been four occasions when SARS has reappeared. Three of these incidents were attributed to breaches in laboratory biosafety and resulted in one or more cases of SARS [Singapore (10-12), Taipei (13) and Beijing (14,15)]. The most recent laboratory incident resulted in 9 cases, 7 of which were associated with one chain of transmission and with hospital spread. Two additional cases at the same laboratory with a history of illness compatible with SARS in February 2004 were detected as part of a serosurvey of contacts at the facility.

In June on a podcast with Joe Rogan, evolutionary biologist Bret Weinstein, a member of the anti-cancel-culture “intellectual dark web,” said the outbreak’s occurring in a city where scientists were fiddling with bat coronaviruses was a “heck of a coincidence.” That’s exactly what Cotton and Pompeo said.

When Weinstein “went down the rabbit hole” and started looking at the facts, he concluded that the virus was from the lab. “The virus itself has several components that suggest that it is actually the result of manipulation in the lab and that it escaped, possibly from the institute,” he told Rogan:

There is a strong possibility that this virus was under study, that it was enhanced in the laboratory, and that we are dealing with consequences that are the result of that enhancement that make it more dangerous than it would otherwise be.

That “study” was gain-of-function re-

search by which scientists manipulate viruses so they can infect human beings, ostensibly for the purpose of creating an immunity against the virus.

But back to May 2021, when Nicholas Wade published an 11,000-word report in the *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists*. A former science writer for the *New York Times*, Wade wrote about the research and the woman in charge of it, Shi Zheng-li. She is known as the Bat Lady because of her expertise with bat coronaviruses.

Wade’s report detailed the Bat Lady’s dangerous experiments, done with the help of American researchers, and even worse, U.S. taxpayer subsidies from Dr. Anthony Fauci’s National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. Fauci, of course, is the man in charge of the federal government’s virus response.

The claim that the virus erupted from a wet market was a cover, Wade suggested, to keep the public from learning what the Bat Lady was doing with American help and know-how. Indeed, the man who directed some of the subsidies led the group that “debunked” the lab-leak theory in a letter to Britain’s *Lancet*. Prominent British zoologist Peter Daszak also happened to join the team from the World Health Organization that gave the lab a clean bill of health.

The Bat Lady “teamed up with Ralph S. Baric, an eminent coronavirus researcher at the University of North Carolina,” Wade wrote, adding:

Their work focused on enhancing the ability of bat viruses to attack humans.... In pursuit of this aim, in November 2015, they created a novel virus by taking the backbone of the SARS1 virus and replacing its spike protein with one from a bat virus (known as SHC014-CoV). This manufactured virus was able to infect the cells of the human airway, at least when tested against a lab culture of such cells....

“It is clear that the Wuhan Institute of Virology was systematically constructing novel chimeric coronaviruses and was assessing their ability to infect human cells and human-ACE2-expressing mice,” says Richard H. Ebright, a molecular biologist at Rutgers University and leading expert on biosafety.

“It is also clear,” Ebright said, “that, depending on the constant genomic contexts chosen for analysis, this work could have produced SARS-CoV-2 or a proximal progenitor of SARS-



AP Images

**Bat Lady:** Shi Zheng-li is a top expert on coronaviruses. With American money and know-how, she performed dangerous gain-of-function experiments on bat viruses that enabled them to infect human beings, something they couldn’t do naturally.

CoV-2.” “Genomic context” refers to the particular viral backbone used as the testbed for the spike protein.

The lab escape scenario for the origin of the SARS2 virus, as should by now be evident, is not mere hand-waving in the direction of the Wuhan Institute of Virology. It is a detailed proposal, based on the specific project being funded there by the NIAID....

On December 9, 2019, before the outbreak of the pandemic became generally known, Daszak gave an interview in which he talked in glowing terms of how researchers at the Wuhan Institute of Virology had been reprogramming the spike protein and generating chimeric coronaviruses capable of infecting humanized mice....

One can only imagine Daszak’s reaction when he heard of the outbreak....

But instead of providing public health authorities with the plentiful information at his disposal, he immediately launched a public relations campaign to persuade the world that the epidemic couldn’t possibly have been caused by one of the institute’s souped-up viruses. “The idea that this virus escaped from a lab is just pure baloney. It’s simply not true,” he declared in an April 2020 interview.

Bonus fact from Wade: The Wuhan lab had all the biosecurity of a dentist’s office.

More damning evidence surfaced in the *Wall Street Journal* after Wade’s report: Three workers at the lab landed in the hospital with COVID-like symptoms in November 2019. A month later, a lab worker’s wife died with the same symptoms. That news came from former State Department official David Asher, who led the probe into the pathogen’s origin during the Trump administration. He thought the wet-market theory implausible from the start.

Last, the *Daily Mail* disclosed the work of two scientists, Angus Dalglish and Birger Sørensen, who say they have proof the virus was created in a lab. The virus has “unique fingerprints” it could leave only if it were lab-made:

Dalglish and Sørensen claim that scientists ... took a natural coronavirus “backbone” found in Chinese cave bats and spliced onto it a new “spike,” turning it into the deadly and highly transmissible SARS-Cov-2. One tell-tale sign of alleged manipulation ... was a row of four amino acids they found on the SARS-Cov-2 spike.

The amino acids all have a positive charge, which cause the virus to tightly cling to the negatively charged

parts of human cells like a magnet, and so become more infectious.

But because, like magnets, the positively charged amino acids repel each other, it is rare to find even three in a row in naturally occurring organisms, while four in a row is “extremely unlikely.”...

“You cannot have four positively charged amino acids in a row. The only way you can get this is if you artificially manufacture it,” Dalglish told DailyMail.com.

Thus did the *Post* and other media backpedal furiously. The newspaper stealth-edited the headline over its story about Cotton, and Politifact retracted its “Pants on Fire” rating of the scientist.

Of course, the *Post* and Politifact wouldn’t have published the falsehoods if those news outlets had been less worried about proving Trump wrong and more worried about finding out the truth.

They could have filed a Freedom of Information Request for Fauci’s e-mails early on. Had they done so at the end of April 2020, they would have discovered a damning e-mail from Kristian Andersen, a researcher for the Scripps Research Institute. In March 2020, Andersen and a group of scientists confidently asserted in a letter to *Nature Medicine* that the virus was naturally occurring. But in February 2020, he had e-mailed Fauci and said it might be “potentially engineered” because its genome is “inconsistent with expectations from evolutionary theory.”

The media would also have learned that Francis Collins, head of NIAID’s parent agency, the National Institutes of Health, irresponsibly called the lab-leak hypothesis a “conspiracy theory.” Singularly uninterested in Daszak, who channeled subsidies to the institute, the media would have learned that he thanked Fauci for helping dispel the myth of a lab leak.

The latest on Fauci is this: Scott Gottlieb, Trump’s chieftain of the Food and Drug Administration, said Fauci briefed world officials on a possible lab leak even as he said publicly the outbreak was bat-to-human spillover.





Though Senator Cotton and other so-called lab-leak theorists believe the leak was accidental, they also wonder whether the lab was manipulating the virus to create a bioweapon.

In January 2021, the State Department's fact sheet on the institute disclosed that the institute "has collaborated on publications and secret projects with China's military. The WIV has engaged in classified research, including laboratory animal experiments, on behalf of the Chinese military since at least 2017."

In May, the *Australian* published the contents of a 263-page research paper from China's People's Liberation Army that discussed a "new era of genetic weapons" — coronaviruses that are "artificially manipulated into an emerging human disease virus, then weaponized and unleashed." Published in 2015, the paper speculated about overwhelming an enemy's healthcare system with millions of sick people.

In other words, the Bat Lady was fiddling with the viruses at about the same time the PLA was speculating about turning them into bioweapons.

These facts, too, somehow escaped scrutiny from the leftist media.

Another piece of evidence that points to a lab leak is this: A researcher who worked with the Bat Lady applied for a SARS-Cov-2 vaccine patent in China before the first reported case. Yusen Zhou, a PLA scientist, filed for the patent early last year, the *Australian* reported. Then he died under suspicious circumstances.

In a letter to *Science* in May, 18 scientists — including one of the Bat Lady's American enablers, Baric — confessed that the lab-leak theory "remains viable" and must be investigated. Late the same month, the Biden Regime reopened the government's probe into the hypothesis. Trump had begun that investigation, and Biden shut it down, much to the joy of the hate-Trump media.

Perhaps the final blows to the bat-to-human theory were two reports published as THE NEW AMERICAN went to press. In mid-June, a new study of the wet markets in Wuhan reported that they didn't sell bats or pangolins, another possible source of the virus, just prior to the outbreak. And Sky News Australia broadcast secretly acquired video that showed bats at the lab and Chi-

**Working for China: Anthony Fauci's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases subsidized the dangerous experiments in the lab that experts now believe leaked the virus.**



AP Images

nese scientists catching them. Though Taiwan News reported in February that Chinese scientists admitted capturing bats for the lab, the video conclusively proves that Daszak was dead wrong when he indignantly tweeted that bats couldn't be at the lab because "that's not how science works." Continued Daszak, "This is a widely circulated conspiracy theory... [Labs] do not have live or dead bats in them."

Of course, it wasn't a conspiracy theory, despite what Daszak, his colleagues, and, of course, the leftist media wanted everyone to think.

### **Trump's Fault We Missed the Story?**

Yet perhaps more exasperating than the media's intransigence on the matter was that State Department bureaucrats clamped a lid on the lab-leak theory. If that became public, U.S. taxpayers would learn they had subsidized the lab's dangerous research.

That truth surfaced in *Vanity Fair* on June 3. Explained the magazine's Kath-erine Eban:

In an internal memo ... Thomas DiNanno, former acting assistant secretary of the State Department's Bureau of Arms Control, Verification, and Compliance, wrote that staff from two bureaus, his own and the Bureau of International Security

and Nonproliferation, "warned" leaders within his bureau "not to pursue an investigation into the origin of COVID-19" because it would "open a can of worms" if it continued."

Open a can of worms it would have.

The State Department's arms-control bureau had received intelligence about the three lab workers who fell ill in November before the outbreak. But "as officials at the meeting discussed what they could share with the public, they were advised by Christopher Park, the director of the State Department's Biological Policy Staff in the Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation, not to say anything that would point to the U.S. government's own role in gain-of-function research."

Some attendees were "absolutely floored" about the coverup, Eban wrote:

Park, who in 2017 had been involved in lifting a U.S. government moratorium on funding for gain-of-function research, was not the only official to warn the State Department investigators against digging in sensitive places. As the group probed the lab-leak scenario, among other possibilities, its members were repeatedly advised not to open a "Pandora's box," said four former State Department officials...

The admonitions “smelled like a cover-up,” said Thomas DiNanno, “and I wasn’t going to be part of it.”

Despite knowing the truth, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence claimed that intelligence officials agreed with the “wide scientific consensus that the COVID-19 virus was not man-made or genetically modified.” In fact, of course, U.S. intelligence officials strongly suspected the virus sprung from a lab, as Fox and *Newsweek* had reported.

Trump spilled the beans hours after the DNI’s statement, which required Eban to implicitly suggest that he was the reason the media wouldn’t take the lab-leak theory seriously:

Then, the bomb-thrower-in-chief weighed in. At a press briefing just hours later, Trump contradicted his own intelligence officials and claimed that he had seen classified information indicating that the virus had come from the Wuhan Institute of Virology. Asked what the

evidence was, he said, “I can’t tell you that. I’m not allowed to tell you that.”

Trump’s premature statement poisoned the waters for anyone seeking an honest answer to the question of where COVID-19 came from. According to [Deputy National Security Adviser Mark] Pottinger, there was an “antibody response” within the government, in which any discussion of a possible lab origin was linked to destructive nativist posturing.

Who Eban is to declare Trump’s statement “premature” we are not given to know. That aside, Eban blamed Trump for the media’s dereliction:

When Trump himself floated the lab-leak hypothesis last April, his divisiveness and lack of credibility made things more, not less, challenging for those seeking the truth....

And yet, in the wake of the *Lancet* statement and under the cloud of

Donald Trump’s toxic racism, which contributed to an alarming wave of anti-Asian violence in the U.S., one possible answer to this all-important question remained largely off-limits until the spring of 2021....

Thanks to their unprecedented track record of mendacity and race-baiting, Trump and his allies had less than zero credibility.

Message: Trump — *not the media’s Trump Derangement and refusal to accept anything he said* — is the reason the media left the lab-leak theory unexamined. That mirrors the *Post’s* and *Politifact’s* correcting their archives and pretending their reluctance to follow obvious clues — and widely available, credible reports — was only cautious skepticism.

The simple truth is this: The lab-leak theory was credible from Day 1, and the media purposely ignored it to press its hate-Trump narrative and prove Trump a menace and failure.

The media lied. And Trump, again, was right from the start. ■



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# Mask Confusion: Infringing on **INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS**



AP Images

Not only are cloth masks ineffective at stopping the spread of viruses, but the fear-based mask requirements violate individuals' right to health-risk assessment.

by **Cathy A. Spigarelli**

“It’s sad. I wasted a whole year of my life for this?” This was a text message from my 22-year-old son, who tested positive for COVID. His only symptom? Loss of smell. From the perspective of a healthy 20-something, preventive interventions were far worse than the disease. This illustrates the individual nature of health-risk assessment. Assessing health risk and the measures taken to protect oneself is personal. Yet, protection from COVID-19, in the form of cloth masks, was required for all, even the healthy, low-risk population. Despite an absence of scientific data supporting cloth mask effectiveness, this became the social norm. How could “cloth masks for all”

*Cathy A. Spigarelli, MS, CHMM, is a corporate environmental health and safety manager for a chemical company.*

have happened at a time when “follow the science” was touted by every politician, authority figure, and media organization as a worthy battle cry? A retrospective view of the past year provides answers and reveals how individual rights were trampled by masking requirements and baseless mandates emanating from manipulation, fear, confusion, and a lack of information and understanding rather than from actual science. Rather than government making such decisions for people, coercing them to obey with fear, people need to be allowed to make health decisions for themselves. Medical tyranny has no place in the American constitutional republic.

## **Behind the Mask**

During the early stages of the pandemic, respiratory protection in the form of N95 and surgical masks was in high demand by healthcare workers and the general public. Unfortunately, such masks were

in short supply. Public demand for these masks had to be stopped to free up supply for healthcare personnel. On February 29, 2020, then-U.S. Surgeon General Jerome Adams tweeted, “Stop buying masks! They are NOT effective in preventing the general public from catching #Coronavirus, but if healthcare providers can’t get them to care for sick patients, it puts them and our communities at risk.” This was certainly a confusing statement to anyone without knowledge of respiratory protection. Did the surgeon general really say surgical masks are *not* effective for the public, yet effective for others? And did he suggest that the effectiveness of masks is location-dependent, i.e., hospital versus the grocery store? This was only the beginning of mask confusion. On April 18, 2020, the FDA released its Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) to manufacturers of face masks (cloth and non-FDA surgical-like masks with questionable effective-

The thinking part of the brain shuts down when the “fight or flight” response is triggered by fear. Fear bypasses logic, and we stop asking questions.



**Just a feel-good talisman:** When the government gave out patterns for cloth masks, many undoubtedly felt safe wearing such masks. In truth, they do next to nothing to stop viruses, and serve only to make wearers feel safe.

ness), justifying the EUA by concluding that increased availability of face masks was needed for the general population, so FDA-approved surgical masks could be reserved for healthcare workers.

On April 3, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) introduced a cloth mask “pattern” and instructed the general population to make their own cloth masks using this template. The public, with little understanding of respiratory protection, bought into this intervention, believing cloth masks to be as protective as the masks being prioritized for healthcare workers. To make matters more confusing, on April 24, 2020, the FDA set labeling requirements for the manufacturers of face masks for the public. The EUA specifically states that cloth and non-FDA surgical-like masks (intended for the public) could not be labeled as “a surgical mask; for use in a clinical setting where infection risk through inhalation is high;

for antimicrobial or antiviral protection or uses for infection prevention or reduction; or as a respiratory protection device.” So, why would the public be encouraged and eventually required to wear these EUA-sanctioned cloth masks? According to FDA labeling prohibitions, it is most certainly *not* for the prevention of viral infection. When it comes to matters of public health, public trust is critical, and this was not a good place to start.

During this time, the media and pandemic authorities generated a great deal of fear among the general public, especially since many details about the coronavirus were still unknown. A solution to this fear? Cloth masks! Many Americans accepted this masking intervention as valid and effective.

How, with virtually no scientific data supporting the effectiveness of cloth masking, could this intervention have been so easily adopted? Fear can strongly influ-

ence a person or group’s ability to make accurate risk assessments. In the article “How Does Fear Influence Risk Assessment and Decision-Making?” Dr. Joseph Pierre, M.D., a health sciences clinical professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences at UCLA, sheds light on how fear impacts risk assessment. According to Dr. Pierre, “When it comes to assessments of risk, there may be no more pertinent emotion than fear.” The thinking part of the brain shuts down when the “fight or flight” response is triggered by fear. Fear bypasses logic, and we stop asking questions.

Dr. Pierre explains how fear is often disproportionate to actual risk. This is essentially what my son expressed upon experiencing COVID-19 for himself. What he had imagined through the lens of fear created by the news media, social media, health experts, and politicians, in addition to the concerning and onerous restrictions placed on his daily life, was greatly disproportionate to his actual experience of the disease. After all, the risk assessment for a healthy 22-year-old is far different than it is for an 80-year-old with underlying conditions. Yet, a collective risk assessment was made that severely and negatively harmed much of the population. Individuals were not allowed to make health-risk assessments for themselves, and this drastically and improperly — if not criminally — interfered with their natural and constitutionally protected rights. Through the constant bombardment of harrowing news reports, many people were led to believe that masks and quarantines were correct for them, even though they were young, healthy, and had no underlying conditions. People living in fear will accept solutions such as cloth masks even if there is no evidence supporting their effectiveness. Seeing masked people all around us served as a constant reminder that there is danger, reinforcing fear and encouraging a continuation of mask-wearing.

Risk assessment is the process of identifying hazards and evaluating any associated risks, and is generally followed by risk mitigation — implementing *reasonable* control measures to remove or reduce such risks. The presence of fear, of course, means control measures might not be reasonable. Dr. Pierre states, “Fear is often associated not only with high and potentially



overestimated perceptions of risk, but also overestimates of the benefits of protective measures.” An example of this type of overestimation, cited by Dr. Pierre and attributed to Harvard Law professor Cass Sunstein, is the creation and implementation of the largely ineffectual Transportation Safety Administration (TSA) after 9/11. Not surprisingly, two decades after the 9/11 tragedy, the TSA is still in place. Wearing a cloth mask in public during a pandemic could be seen as the equivalent of removing your belt and shoes for inspection before boarding an airplane. Are these actions protective, or is fear driving you to overestimate their effectiveness? Is doing *something*, albeit ineffective, better than doing *nothing at all*?

It could be argued that interventions that decrease fear but do little to reduce actual risk are not justified. Cloth-masking is an example of this. “The mask is almost like a talisman,” remarked Margaret Harris, part of the World Health Organization’s coronavirus response team. “People feel more secure and protected.” This strategy also keeps more effective masks/respirators, designed to American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) standards, in the hands of healthcare workers. This is a double win for those managing the population — more effective masks for healthcare and a talisman for the public. But it also comes at a cost — public distrust, infringement on an individual’s rights, and the potential for increased risk of infection.

Peer pressure and mask-shaming lead to compliance with “mask mandates.” The CDC’s guidance was that cloth masking was voluntary, preserving individual health-risk assessment. Nevertheless, personal choice was quickly pulled off the table and morphed into not just masks for all, but masks all the time and everywhere at the state and local levels, and among many large retail chains. On July 20, 2020, Walmart, one of the first to take such action, stated on their website, “Currently about 65 percent of our more than 5,000 stores and clubs are located in areas where there is some form of government mandate on face coverings. To help bring consistency across stores and clubs, we will require all shoppers to wear a face covering starting Monday, July 20.” Need toilet paper? Put a mask on to get it.

Other retailers, businesses, and employers quickly followed suit. In this litigious society, who can blame them? The bandwagon effect took hold. As more people and businesses adopted masking, group-think, the desire for conformity and harmony in the group, dominated. To minimize conflict, people even began wearing masks while alone in a car or when hiking outside on a remote trail. Indeed, people had to contend with peer pressure and the threat of violence against them for not masking, and the media got exceedingly good at mask-shaming. As Sunstein noted in the 2014 *Harvard Business Review* article “Making Dumb Groups Smarter,” people often fall prey to “reputational pressure, which leads people to silence themselves or change their views in order to avoid some penalty — often, merely the disapproval of others.” Sunstein, it is worth noting, is a star left-wing “intellectual.” A former Obama administration official, he is a proponent of using the peer-pressure tactics he describes to make people conform. “An individual will focus on his own tastes — what he likes and what he doesn’t,” Sunstein wrote in his article for *Harvard Business Review*. “If he consults with others, he is likely to learn that his tastes are idiosyncratic. In

such cases, group deliberation supplies an important corrective.”

In addition to mask-shaming, the media did its part to influence the public to wear masks by leveraging “authority bias.” They effectively used the opinions of authority figures (who were not experts in respiratory protection) to promote “cloth masks for all.” A national Internet survey showed that 75 percent of Americans adopted cloth face coverings after being advised to do so by the CDC and the White House Coronavirus Task Force. It was a sad turn of events when the CDC noted that “cloth face coverings fashioned from household items or made at home from common materials at low cost can be used as an additional, voluntary public health measure.” This guidance does not align with the science that underpins respiratory protection and protective-mask design. In a June 2020 podcast, Dr. Michael Osterholm of the Centers for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP) stated, “Frankly, I believe that this issue of CDC recommending the use of cloth masks without any substantial scientific evidence that they provide such protection, and in conflict with their own expertise in NIOSH [National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, part of



**Do as I say, not as I do:** Dr. Anthony Fauci not only admitted that masks are ineffective, but has violated his own “official” recommendation to wear one or more masks in public.



**History repeating itself:** Cloth masks were shown to be ineffective during the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic. Why have governments and businesses insisted people wear them for COVID-19?

the CDC], has helped create the immense confusion that exists around this issue. In short, I believe the CDC has failed the public by creating this confusion.”

Another sad day came when Dr. Anthony Fauci encouraged the public to wear two or three cloth masks, effectively an admission that wearing one mask is not effective. But it is important to note that before Fauci became America’s most widely known and influential voice in support of mask-wearing, he did not support the practice so far as the uninfected were concerned. For instance, on February 22, 2020, in one of Fauci’s e-mails recently made public through a Freedom of Information Act request, he said in response to a question from an administration official about wearing a mask, “masks are really for infected people to prevent them from spreading infection to people who are not infected rather than protecting uninfected people from acquiring infection.” He added, “The typical mask you buy in the drug store is not really effective in keeping out virus, which is small enough to pass through the material. It might, however, provide some slight benefit in keep[ing] out gross droplets if someone coughs or sneezes on you.”

Publicly, Fauci echoed this same sentiment on March 8 in a *60 Minutes* in-

terview: “The masks are important for someone who’s infected to prevent them from infecting someone else.... There’s no reason to be walking around with a mask. When you’re in the middle of an outbreak, wearing a mask might make people feel a little bit better and it might even block a droplet, but it’s not providing the perfect protection that people think that it is. And, often, there are unintended consequences — people keep fiddling with the mask and they keep touching their face.”

### Understanding the Science

Cloth masking is not a novel idea. There is a history of cloth masking that we could have learned from. During the 1918 Spanish Flu, gauze masks were used by both healthcare workers and the public. What impact on disease did cloth masking have then? Masks were voluntary across the nation, except for San Francisco, where they were mandated (people were fined or jailed for non-compliance). Interestingly, this had no impact on the infection and death rates when comparing San Francisco to other similarly sized cities. This lack of impact was analyzed by W. H. Kellogg, the secretary of the California State Board of Health. He attributed it to the poor quality of homemade masks, wearing masks improperly, wear-

ing masks at the wrong time, ineffective fabric, and a false sense of the effectiveness of masking. All five of these issues persist today among users of cloth masks, and no doubt explain why wearing cloth masks has had little to no effect on the spread of the virus.

Masking has also been studied in recent, pre-COVID times. Most studies have been conducted on N95 respirators and surgical masks used by healthcare workers. Generally, what can be ascertained from these studies is that N95 respirators are the most protective mask type, yet also the most uncomfortable for extended wear. Surgical masks have some effectiveness, but are less effective than N95s for respiratory protection due to looser fit. The few studies that have focused on cloth masks suggest that they are not particularly useful.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) should be the last line of defense for controlling a biohazard, and cloth masks are the last resort when it comes to masks. The fundamentals of respiratory protection illustrate why cloth masks fail to protect against COVID. Critical to the effectiveness of any mask is a proper fit, which prevents air leakage, and filter efficiency, which is the ability of the fabric to stop unwanted particles while allowing air through. Both are needed for a quality mask. The filtration efficiency of a common cloth mask is less than one percent of that of an N95 respirator. Unlike N95 respirators and surgical masks, cloth masks do not have any ASTM standard — they are essentially the Wild West of masks. With lack of proper fit, poor filtration efficiency, and no design standard, it should come as no surprise that cloth masks are ineffective. Science predicts that these will fail to perform just like the gauze masks of the 1918 pandemic.

Scientific information on cloth masks was not reaching the public as a result of an orchestrated campaign of censorship, and this was another factor contributing to widespread inappropriate mask use and compliance with mask mandates. The media added to the problem by consulting authority figures who answered questions outside of their expertise. The public needed guidance from experts in aerosol science (CIDRAP); in respiratory protection (OSHA, NIOSH, indus-



trial hygienists, and environmental health and safety professionals); on respirator/mask design standards (ASTM); and on mask design limitations (mask manufacturers). Lack of scientific information led to masking rules and practices that were not science-based. Clear guidance about masks, such as their limitations, when to use one, how to use one, and where masking fits in with other protective measures, was desperately needed. But guidance from respiratory-protection experts was limited, and possibly even restricted. Respiratory-protection experts faced pressure in the form of retracted journal articles, requests to remove articles from their websites, and threatening e-mails if they did not align with “cloth masks for all.” Any criticism of masking policy was met with backlash from those who believed cloth masking was the only way to manage COVID.

The CDC’s website lists the studies it relies upon in giving cloth-masking guidance. Perhaps not surprisingly, none of the studies listed by the CDC conclude that cloth masks are ineffective, yet there are

plenty of such studies out there. One-sided data reliance does not allow for scientific truth to be known. Instead, this adds further to mask confusion and distrust.

Scientific debate over valid and proper study design, data analysis, and final conclusions has also hampered understanding. As an illustration, one of the most notable studies to date, DANMASK 19, a community-based, randomized controlled trial, followed the COVID infection rate in masked versus unmasked groups of 4,862 Danish participants. The masked group had a 1.8-percent infection rate versus the un-masked control group of 2.1 percent. The difference was not statistically significant. The DANMASK study, published in the journal *Annals of Internal Medicine*, concluded: “In this community-based, randomized controlled trial conducted in a setting where mask wearing was uncommon and was not among other recommended public health measures related to COVID-19, a recommendation to wear a surgical mask when outside the home among others did not reduce, at conventional levels of

statistical significance, incident SARS-CoV-2 infection compared with no mask recommendation.” Yet, the CDC said the study results are inconclusive because the sample size was too small to assess whether masks could decrease transmission of COVID from wearers to others.

It should now be clear that cloth masking during the COVID pandemic did not occur because we “followed the science.” In fact, it was a *lack of science* that drove us toward the masking of millions. Indeed, the decision to mask the population was based on fear, manipulation, lack of information, and “better safe than sorry” reasoning. Fear and the need to “do something” resulted in ineffective cloth-mask solutions. Imposing upon individuals’ right to decide to mask or not should not have happened without overwhelming scientific data proving masks’ unquestionable ability to mitigate disease transmission. This was not the case, and it resulted in distrust and confusion. This divided our country and our scientific community.

How can we put this mask confusion in the past and learn from it for the future? First, the federal government should have nothing to do whatsoever with health advice or mandates. States or local communities should adhere to *voluntary* cloth-masking guidance for the public, lifting state mask mandates and mask requirements in stores, restaurants, and businesses. The public should have the choice to mask or not to mask. Given access to good information and allowed to exercise their natural rights, Americans are perfectly capable of making good and proper health and other choices for themselves.

We did not apply the lessons of the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic to the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic. And, just as in San Francisco in 1918, the public was mandated to wear ineffective cloth masks that, for the same reasons, failed to protect them. We must take the opportunity now to do better, and to arm with sound information on public masking, policy, and best practices those who will manage the next pandemic. In this way, we can improve pandemic readiness for ourselves and future generations, without trampling on individual risk-assessment rights. ■



AP Images

**Overkill?** Many people would likely say that this individual is taking PPE a bit too far. However, this is closer to the level of PPE everyone would have to wear to truly protect against the coronavirus. Simple cloth masks won’t do the job.





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## THE GOODNESS OF AMERICA

### Generous Student Turns Savings Into Scholarship

Joshua Nelson of St. Charles, Missouri, had been saving his money for college, but his impressive academic and extracurricular achievements earned him a full scholarship. Nelson then decided that he would use his savings to help another student go to college.

KSDK reported that Nelson's good grades, three-year varsity basketball career, and service as president of the school's Multi-Cultural Achievement Committee earned him a scholarship at Southeast Missouri State, where he will major in biomedical sciences as part of the pre-optometry program. CNN reported Nelson is also a member of the National Honor Society, National Society of Black Engineers, and the Black Student Union. He also tutors kids at the community's Boys and Girls Club.

"My whole family has very poor vision, we're all relying on contacts and glasses," Nelson explained to *Good Morning America (GMA)*. "I was thinking if I want to go into the medical field, let me go somewhere that's going to help me and my family."

Nelson is one of only five students selected for the President's Scholarship at Southeast Missouri State. The scholarship covers tuition and boarding for four years, so long as Nelson meets the annual renewal criteria.

With the burden of college costs now gone, Nelson decided he wanted to generously donate the more than \$9,000 he saved for college, and decided he will offer it as a scholarship to a worthy student in need, he told *GMA*.

Nelson set up the Joshua Nelson Leaders in Action Scholarship and created a page on the Multi-Cultural Achievement Committee's website to accept donations.

Nelson initially planned to donate his savings all at once, but has since decided to give \$1,000 annually to the scholarship fund, along with donations from outsiders.

On June 1, he awarded his first scholarship, for \$2,000, to fellow student Darrell Montalvo-Luna.

He told We Love St. Charles that his dream for the Joshua Nelson Leaders in

Action Scholarship is for it to be funded for years to come.

### Teacher, Friend, Family

Pennsylvania teacher Barb Heim has gone well beyond the call of duty by visiting her second-grade student, Harrison Conner, every day during the pandemic. Harrison has leukemia, and Heim wanted to be sure he did not fall behind. According to Harrison's parents, Heim has become like part of the family.

Today.com reported Heim, a 35-year teacher at Conneaut Valley Elementary School in Conneautville, concludes every school day with a 20-minute drive from school to Harrison's home to deliver the day's lesson. Though the school returned to in-person classes in the fall, Harrison has been working remotely because of his condition.

Harrison was diagnosed with leukemia at the end of 2019, after the school noticed the young student struggled during recess to keep up with the other active students. When the students returned from Christmas break at the start of 2020, Harrison's absence was felt by teachers and classmates alike, according to Today.com.

Before all students at Harrison's school were forced to attend class remotely, Heim's class would call Harrison on Zoom every day after recess. Heim would read Harrison a story and give his classmates an opportunity to say hello to their friend. But once all the students were at home, Harrison became further isolated, prompting Heim to take action so that he would not fall behind or feel too lonely.

And according to Harrison's mother, Suzanne Conner, Heim's visit feels more like a visit from family.

"It's not like a teacher is coming from school to teach, she's like an aunt who is coming over to hang out, and she brings goodies, and she is always bringing a smile," Suzanne said. "My kids will meet her at the front door with all the latest news and it's incredibly, incredibly, special."

Harrison is thankfully in remission, though he will continue to require treatment for another year and a half.

And Harrison and his family are comforted knowing they can count on Heim.

### Teen Finds Help From Strangers

An anonymous teen walked into the El Patron restaurant in Jersey City, New Jersey, in desperate need of help, and a patron immediately took action.

Fox 10 News reported Alease Scott and her boyfriend, Walter Cocca, were eating inside the restaurant on May 19 when a 14-year-old girl walked in holding a newborn baby that she had just birthed. The teen asked the employees for help.

"This girl comes in asking for help," restaurant owner Frankie Aguilar said, according to WPIX. "Really, like desperate eyes, asking 'somebody,' like, pleading, 'Can you help me?' She was asking for the firefighters. It was a very dangerous situation."

That is when Scott, a mother of two grown sons and a CPR- and first-aid-trained preschool teacher, intervened. She is seen on the restaurant's CCTV footage having a brief conversation with the teen before the girl hands Scott the baby. Shortly after, the teen abruptly walked out.

Scott told authorities that the teen handed her the baby when she asked the teen if she could check the baby's vitals.

Cocca live-streamed some of the scene on his Facebook page.

"So, I'm at my neighborhood restaurant with my special friend and a lady comes in and hands her a baby," Cocca is heard saying in the video. "Apparently a newborn and runs out."

Scott is seen in the video comforting the baby, noting that while the baby's heartbeat was strong, her breathing was labored.

When police arrived, they reportedly deferred to Scott, handing her the oxygen mask and allowing her to administer the oxygen to the newborn.

The 14-year-old was later found and taken to the hospital. No charges will be brought against her. The baby will be put up for adoption. ■

— RAVEN CLABOUGH



# LYSENKOISM

## THE DANGER OF POLITICIZED SCIENCE

Climate change, COVID-19, and the LGBTQ movement are all modern examples of politicized science. A story from the past serves as a warning to our present course.



Nikolai  
Vavilov

by William F. Jasper

It was the summer of 1940 and Nikolai Vavilov, along with biologists and geneticists from his staff, was on a botanical expedition to Ukraine to collect plant and seed samples. Considering the political turmoil and Communist Party scheming taking place at the time, it must have been liberating for Vavilov and his fellow scientists to escape the Moscow hothouse and be out in the great outdoors doing what they loved most. He probably didn't see his arrest coming. The NKVD (predecessor of the Soviet KGB) swooped down on him and "disappeared" him into Stalin's police-state labyrinth.

Vavilov had to know he was in serious trouble. But he likely had no idea just how serious. The terror of Joseph Stalin's Mos-

cow Purge Trials of 1936-1938 were not such a distant memory. Zinoviev, Kamenev, Bukharin, Yagoda, Radek, and other former top Soviet leaders had been rounded up, tortured, forced to "confess" to crimes against the Soviet Union, and then executed. But they were all political apparatchiks who had run afoul of Stalin; Vavilov, on the other hand, was a scientist. Indeed, at the time, Vavilov was arguably Soviet Russia's top scientist, and her most celebrated scientist worldwide at that. Nevertheless, he was destined to play a central role in a conflict with the deadliest scientist in history. Vavilov was sentenced to death in July 1941. For reasons unknown, his sentence was commuted to 20 years imprisonment. It was obviously not a gesture of mercy, for he was allowed to starve to death in prison. The tragic irony is that he had spent his life on research aimed at solving the world's food problems and boosting Russia's food production to avoid the cycle of famines the nation was experiencing. He died of starvation in 1943 at age 55, at the height of his career.

So, what was Nikolai Vavilov's putative crime? He was falsely charged with sabotaging Soviet food production. His real "crime" was standing in the way of an ambitious, conniving, ruthless "scientist" by the name of Trofim Lysenko, who wheedled his way into Stalin's favor with ludicrous promises of huge new crop yields — if his fraudulent methods of "science" were employed on a mass scale. Vavilov, a real scientist, was an obstacle who had to be removed. Not only that — his removal must strike terror into all scientists who might be tempted to criticize Lysenko and his crackpot theories. This was the epitome of science politicized and weaponized.

### The "Barefoot Scientist"

Trofim Denisovich Lysenko was tailor-made for the megalomania of the communist total state, and especially for its chief megalomaniac, Joseph Stalin, who dubbed himself the "Great Scientist." Lysenko was born into a peasant family in Ukraine in 1898, obtained only a meager education, and, as a young man, worked at the Kiev Agricultural Institute. The eminent British biologist/geneticist and Oxford professor Cyril D. Darlington wrote that Lysenko was "obviously ill-educated, quite shallow, very cunning and a little deranged." Lysenko rejected the budding field of genetics based on the rules of inheritance developed in the 19th century by Augustinian friar and polymath Gregor Johann Mendel. Rejecting the idea of genes as the vector for the transfer of information, Lysenko embraced Lamarckism and the belief that plants could be "educated" to transfer positive traits to the next generation. One of his most famous education methods involved "vernalization" of wheat and other grains. Lysenko

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claimed that by soaking the seeds in freezing water he could greatly increase crop yields in cold climates. Moreover, he said, future generations of crops from these seeds would retain this robustness and the barren wastelands of Russia would flourish. And he could do it without adding fertilizer or minerals! In fact, he bragged, he could grow orange trees in Siberia.

Lysenko's message was precisely what an impatient Stalin wanted to hear. He wanted immediate results. Vavilov and Russia's leading plant geneticists told him this was impossible; developing the cultivars and hybrids to solve Russia's food challenges would be a painstaking process that would take years, they explained. Lysenko said he could do the impossible, so the "Great Scientist" threw his support behind him. Lysenko's added value was that he fit the image that the communist regime wanted to project: the heroic Soviet peasant triumphing over foreign "bourgeois science." Further, Lysenko's environmental theories bolstered the Marxist-Leninist idea that the same processes could be applied to changing the nature of man. Radically alter society and transform it into the "correct" Soviet environment, and *voilà*, the new Soviet Man will be born, capable of creating the revolutionary Worker's Paradise on Earth.

*Pravda*, the main Soviet propaganda organ, began singing Lysenko's praises. Nikolai Vavilov was removed as director of the Lenin All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences in 1935, and Lysenko soon took his place. Lysenko's "miracle" crops, however, proved to be colossal failures: Virtually everything he touched — peas, wheat, corn, beets, potatoes — died or were stunted and blighted with disease and pests. This piled additional disasters upon the desolation already wrought by Stalin's man-made Ukrainian famine. But Lysenko was undaunted. He doubled down, claiming

The Vavilov-Lysenko conflict is a prime case study in the fatal dangers of science funded and controlled by the state.

the failures were the result of sabotage, or of incompetence by those who failed to follow his prescriptions.

### Prelude to Persecution

The Vavilov-Lysenko conflict is a prime case study in the fatal dangers of science funded and controlled by the state. In the early years of Bolshevik Russia, Nikolai Vavilov was the fair-haired boy of Soviet Science. He is described as a romantic, Indiana Jones-type character, an adventurous scientist searching the Earth not for archeological treasures but for botanical treasures. Vavilov was made director of the Lenin All-Union Academy of Agri-

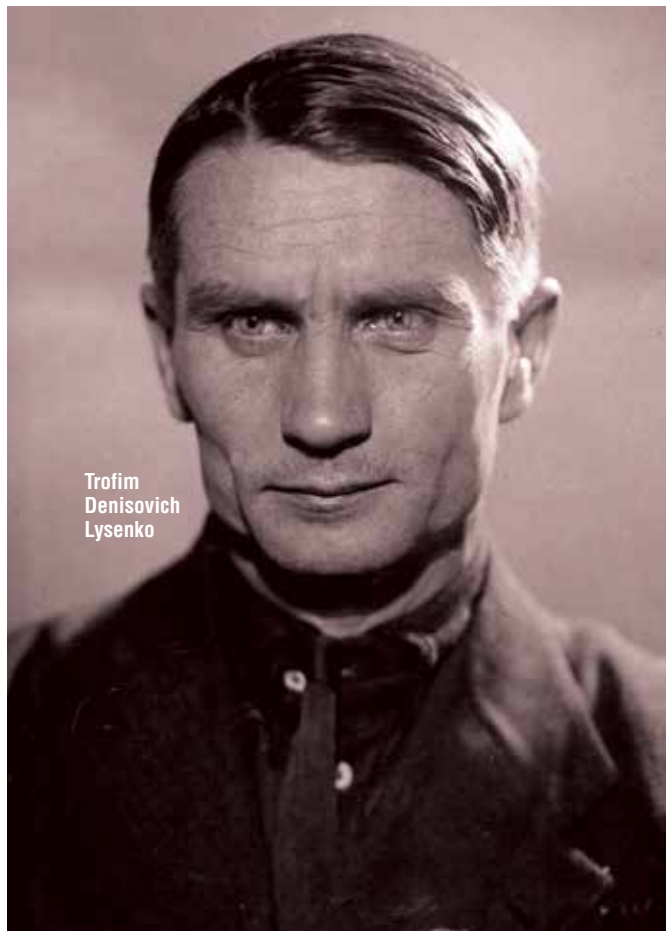
cultural Sciences and was also named president of the Soviet All-Union Geographical Society. To top it off, he was elevated to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and was awarded the Lenin Prize, the Soviet Union's highest honor for achievements in science, technology, arts, and literature.

He seemed destined for continued greatness. Other factors were in play, however. This time period coincided not only with Stalin's above-mentioned purge trials, but also with his great famine, one of the greatest tragedies — and crimes — in human history. From 1917-1921, Lenin's Red Army had carried out a brutal war against Ukraine, finally conquering it in 1922.

The Soviets' iron grip on Ukraine under Lenin intensified further under Stalin. Ukraine, known as "the breadbasket of Europe," was famous for its fertile soil, prosperous farms, and abundant production of wheat, oats, barley, and other cereal grains. Stalin sent the Red Army and the NKVD in to "collectivize" Ukraine's agriculture, which entailed forcing all the small farmers (kulaks) into mass Soviet commune farms. Ukrainians, understandably, were not at all keen on this program and resisted it heroically. In retaliation, Stalin had hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians imprisoned, sent to Siberia, tortured, and/or shot. His troops stripped the nation of virtually everything edible: livestock, grains, fruits, and vegetables.

### Genocide and Famine

It was genocide by starvation, known to history as the Holodomor. At the time it was happening (1932-1933), however, Stalin and his propagandists denied that it was occurring at all. He succeeded in hiding this horrendous crime from the rest of the world thanks to the help of the *New York*



Trofim  
Denisovich  
Lysenko



**The terror famine:** During the “Holodomor” — Ukrainian for murder by hunger — as many as 10 million or more Ukrainians were starved to death in 1932-33 by Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin’s communist regime.

*Times* and its “Man in Moscow,” Walter Duranty, a degenerate “journalist” who slavishly toed the Stalinist line in exchange for drugs, alcohol, orgies, and “news” scoops generously provided by the NKVD. The kulaks were healthy, happy, and well-fed, Duranty and the *Times* assured the world.

Millions of Ukrainians were thus murdered, although scholars continue to quibble over the grand total. Was it 2.8 million, 7.5 million, or 10 million? Accurately quantifying genocide is never made easy by the totalitarian regimes that practice it — or by their ideological comrades in our media and academia who are ever ready to make excuses. But the Holodomor dead were not the only victims; millions more of Ukraine’s survivors were physically and psychologically devastated, and its cities, villages, and whole regions were decimated. That, of course, did not bother Stalin and the Soviet leadership in the least — until, that is, the consequences of their mass-extermination policies boomeranged on them. Russia’s agricultural production plummeted, and the Soviet utopia faced rolling famines. Stalin demanded solutions — and scapegoats. Lysenko promised both.

### Arrogance Empowered

Nikolai Vavilov was but one of many famous Russian scientists who fell victim to Lysenko. He was born into a comfort-

able, bourgeois family, a fact Lysenko exploited to Vavilov’s fatal disadvantage. By Lysenko’s reasoning, this obviously tainted Vavilov with bourgeois tendencies that predisposed him against “true” science and the heroic tasks of the Soviet State. As quickly as he could, Lysenko began evicting scientists from Soviet institutions and replacing them with myrmidons who would unquestioningly follow his lead. Among those liquidated in Lysenko’s reign of terror were the celebrated geneticists G.D. Karpechenko, Solomon Levit, Nikolai Koltsov, G.K. Meister, and A.I. Muralov. They were “enemies of the people” and they had to be exterminated!

In the annals of politicized science, Trofim Lysenko provides a supreme example of ignorance and ignominy wedded to power.

The fates of Vavilov, Karpechenko, Muralov, et al., demonstrate the truism that when state power is unchecked, today’s peacock is tomorrow’s feather duster. They were replaced with new peacocks: Lysenko’s disciples, which turned out to be a motley collection of dodo birds and venomous vipers who compounded the Holodomor tragedy.

Sam Kean, writing in *The Atlantic* in 2017, commented that “deaths from the [Stalin] famines peaked around 1932 to 1933, but four years later, after a 163-fold

increase in farmland cultivated using Lysenko’s methods, food production was actually lower than before.”

### Lysenkoism in China

Even worse than Lysenko’s deadly impact on Russia and Ukraine was his mega-deadly impact on Communist China. Lysenko’s pseudoscience spread to other communist countries, and especially enjoyed Mao Tse-tung’s favor in Red China, greatly contributing to that country’s Great Famine, which killed as many as 55 million Chinese between 1958 and 1962. Even after Stalin’s death and after Lysenko had been denounced and toppled from his throne at the Soviet Academy of Sciences, Lysenkoism continued to reign supreme in Chairman Mao’s totalitarian “People’s Republic.”

Mao declared that China would not be bound by outmoded bourgeois science. The Chinese peasants, under the leadership of the Party, would utilize the new “socialist science” to catapult China to new undreamed-of heights of industrial and agricultural achievement. He called his wondrous plan the Great Leap Forward. Following Stalin’s great biologist Lysenko, the Party ordered farmers to plow very deep and plant seeds close together. The peasant farmers were not scientists, but they knew from long experience that the Lysenkoist nostrums were madness. But, as Mao famously said, “Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun,” and they knew Mao had all the guns, so they had no choice but to go along with the madness. Not surprisingly, Mao’s Great Leap Forward (1958-1962) ended up being a Great Leap Backward for China’s already backward economy. The result was famine and death by starvation on a horrific scale. Jasper Becker (*Hungry Ghosts*, 1996) pegged the death toll at 30 million. R.J. Rummel (*China’s Bloody Century*, 1991) put it at 38 million. Frank Dikotter (*Mao’s Great Famine*, 2010) estimated 45 million, while Yu Xiguang (*The Great Leap Forward and the Years of Bitterness*, 2005) said the total is likely 55 million. Even Becker’s lower totals are stupefying. And, as with the Ukrainian Holodomor, the colossal death toll doesn’t even begin to measure the incredible suffering and psychological scars of the hundreds of millions of survivors.



## Lysenko in America

“Although it’s impossible to say for sure, Trofim Lysenko probably killed more human beings than any individual scientist in history,” wrote Sam Kean in his piece for *The Atlantic*. Kean is probably correct, but an awful lot of scientists are following in Lysenko’s footsteps today. In fact, Kean and *The Atlantic* are cheering them on. In the closing paragraphs of his critique of Lysenkoism, Kean smugly warned of the shades of Lysenko that he perceives among global-warming skeptics, darkly warning that “nearly 60 percent of Republicans attribute global temperature changes to nonhuman causes.” This is far from being a singular example. In recent years, liberal-left “progressives” have taken to expropriating Lysenkoism as a warning against the “anti-science” Neanderthals on the Right, whom they have labeled “climate-change deniers.”

This is beyond ironic, of course, because it is the politically driven pseudoscience of anthropogenic (human-caused) global warming (AGW) that is the biggest Lysenkoist fraud of modern times. Thanks to government funding and politicized science, the AGW Lysenkos of today have taken over our political, educational,

media, philanthropic, and business institutions, and are employing Stalinist tactics of censorship, intimidation, defamation, death threats, reputational destruction, and loss of employment.

However, as we have reported in these pages and in online articles many times in the past, many highly credentialed, heavily published, world-renowned scientists — including Nobel Prize recipients — have been labeled as “deniers” and “Big Oil lackeys,” censored, threatened, refused publication, fired, or dismissed from positions for the heresy of challenging one jot or tittle of AGW Holy Writ: Dr. Richard Lindzen of MIT, Dr. Judith Curry at Georgia Tech, Dr. Patrick Moore (a Greenpeace founder), Dr. Willie W.H. Soon of the Smithsonian Institution, and many more too numerous to mention. The “Climategate” e-mail scandal of 2009 showed that a global network of AGW fanatics, a veritable Lysenkoist climate Mafia, was carrying out a vicious campaign to suppress dissenting views of fellow scientists and destroy their careers. Many additional examples of ethical and criminal malfeasance have come to light in the 11 years since that giant scandal broke, including numerous cases of AGW “scientists” hid-

ing data, changing data, destroying data, and inventing data.

These fanatics in science smocks were, and are, being aided by leftist politicians, the United Nations, and well-funded NGO activists. NASA’s James Hansen testified before a congressional committee in 2008 that “CEO’s of fossil energy companies ... should be tried for high crimes against humanity and nature.” “At what point do we jail or execute global warming deniers?” asked the editorial Jacobins at Talking Points Memo as they readied the guillotine.

Unfortunately, it is not only “climate science” that is infected with Lysenkoism. The same viral Marxist contagion runs through the now-obligatory course content of Critical Race Theory, Feminist Studies, LGBTQ Studies, Social Justice Studies, Environmental Justice Studies — and more — all of which claim to be based on “scientific consensus” that may be challenged only at risk to public “cancelation,” expulsion from school, and/or loss of employment. To this we must add, of course, the new global medical Mafia that has sprung up in the past 18 months with the advent of the COVID-19 “pandemic.”

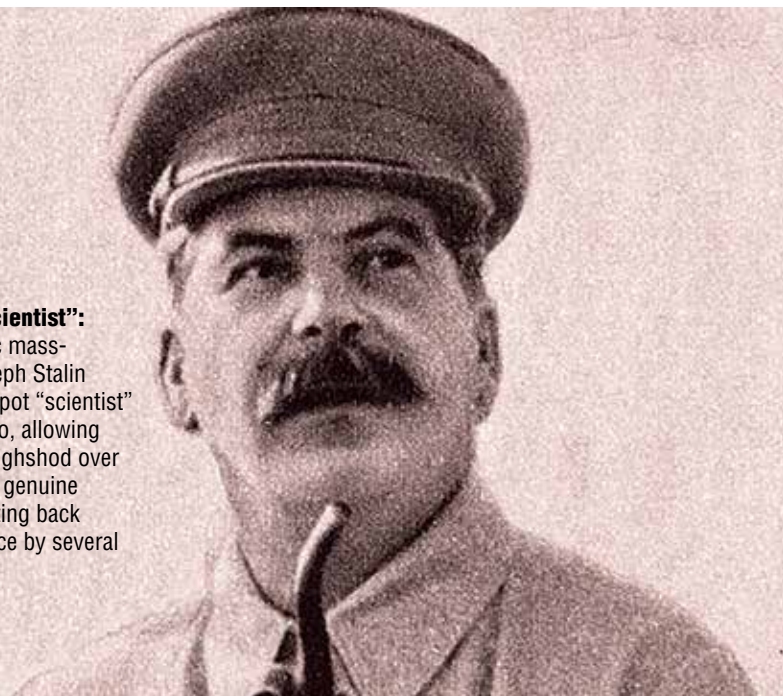
Fortunately, tens of thousands of scientists and medical experts in virtually all fields are coming forward to battle these dangerous Lysenkoist attacks on true science and the human liberty that is essential to genuine scientific pursuit. But more scientists must break free from fear and join their ranks if Lysenko’s disciples are to be dislodged from their institutional bases of power before they can go full Stalinist.

In a blistering 2019 post on Anthony Watts’ climate website WattsUpWithThat.com, Dr. Patrick Frank of Stanford University took aim at the scientists and the professional organizations that have caved in and sold out to the AGW Lysenkoists.

“From the American Physical Society right through to the American Meteorological Association, they all abandoned their professional integrity, and with it their responsibility to defend and practice hard-minded science,” Dr. Frank charged. “Willful neglect? Who knows? Betrayal of science? Absolutely for sure. The institutional betrayal could not be worse; worse than Lysenkoism because there was no Stalin to hold a gun to their heads. They all volunteered.” ■

### “The Great Scientist”:

Megalomaniac mass-murderer Joseph Stalin elevated crackpot “scientist” Trofim Lysenko, allowing him to run roughshod over and persecute genuine scientists, setting back Russian science by several decades.





## Constitutional Carry Comes to the Lone Star State

The *New York Times* reported on May 25 that Texas will be the most recent state to enact permitless carry for handguns, commonly referred to as “constitutional carry.” This makes Texas the latest and largest state to adopt constitutional carry, which is popular among Second Amendment advocates across the country. Texas joins 20 other states with similar laws. Texas Governor Greg Abbott hailed the legislation as “the strongest Second Amendment legislation in Texas history.”

Republican Senator Charles Schwertner, the sponsor of the bill, explained that constitutional carry was meant to “protect the right of law-abiding Texans to carry a handgun as they exercise their God-given right to self-defense and the defense of their families.”

Mike Cox, former head of the Republican Party in Hays County and former legislative director of the Texas State Rifle Association, dismissed concerns that the new law would lead to an increase in gun violence. “I think there will be a lot less of an effect than everyone is predicting.... When we passed open carry they said, ‘Oh my gosh, you will turn Texas into Dodge City,’” Cox laughingly told the *New York Times*.

Republican U.S. Senator Ted Cruz also celebrated the new law and wrote on Twitter, “I applaud Texas legislators for passing this landmark legislation to make constitutional carry a reality and to protect the right of law-abiding citizens.”

Bill Piatt, a law professor at St. Mary’s University, told Ken5.com that there are still restrictions in place regarding the new law. Professor Piatt explained that the new law still doesn’t allow felons, domestic violence offenders, or people with mental-health issues to carry, and it also keeps in place existing restrictions on where firearms can and cannot be carried in the state. “Even with this new law, it doesn’t mean anybody can carry any gun anywhere anytime.... You still will not be able to bring handguns into government buildings, schools, polling places, hospi-

tals, among other places and importantly, private businesses can still ban weapons on their premises,” Piatt said.

## Florida Moves Against Local Gun Control

In more good news involving pro-Second Amendment changes to laws, ClickOrlando.com reported that Florida Governor Ron DeSantis signed a bill on May 7 that expanded a law that was originally passed back in 1987, which prohibited local municipalities from passing gun-control laws that are stricter than state-level laws. The new bill will take effect on July 1, and adds new requirements that make local governments pay as much as \$100,000 in damages if they get sued for passing gun control.

Florida State Representative Cord Byrd sponsored the legislation, and said during a floor debate that the bill will send a message to local governments. “I brought this forward so that local governments will once and for all stop violating the rights and stop wasting taxpayer money,” Byrd said.

The 1987 law was amended in 2011 to include the punitive requirement that local governments may have to pay up to \$100,000 in damages and legal fees if they violate the law. The 2011 amendment even included personal fines and potential removal from office for local officials. The new changes signed by Governor DeSantis expand the 2011 provisions to apply to local policies that effectively violate the gun-regulation prohibition, even if a policy didn’t explicitly violate the gun-regulation prohibition. This was explained by advocates to apply to a law-enforcement agency giving verbal direction that restricts gun rights. It also expanded the damages and attorney-fees requirement to apply to policy changes after lawsuits are filed. This last change is directed toward a municipality defending against a lawsuit by claiming the lawsuit is moot because the municipality changed the offending law prior to the resolution of the lawsuit. This prevents municipalities from passing restrictive gun laws and then just backing

down when there’s litigation. These legal changes give Second Amendment supporters hope that there are still states in this union where gun rights are respected.

## Public Becoming More Supportive of Second Amendment

The Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms (CCRKBA) cited a new poll by *Washington Post-ABC News* that found a dip in support for gun control and an almost proportional increase in support for gun rights. Ammoland.com reported on April 30 that CCRKBA chairman Alan Gottlieb claimed that the change in views might be due to the tireless efforts of Second Amendment advocates. “This public awakening to the importance of protecting the right to own a firearm may be largely due to the energetic advertising campaigns we, and our sister organization, the Second Amendment Foundation, have been conducting over the past three months.... We have reached scores of millions of Americans with more than 1,000 TV spots, and at least 9 million more people through digital advertising, and tens of millions more via email and text messaging,” Gottlieb explained.

The *Washington Post-ABC News* survey found a nine-percent rise for support for Second Amendment protections and a seven-percent decline for new gun-control laws. Gottlieb explained, “It may have come as a surprise to the *Washington Post* and ABC News to see increasing support for gun rights but it appears our public education effort is working. We’ve been warning Americans about the serious threats from the Biden-Harris administration and Capitol Hill anti-gunners against their constitutional rights, and the people have listened.... These surveys show Americans are getting wise to failures of gun control and the importance of gun ownership at a time when the far Left wants to defund and disband police agencies, and the Biden-Harris administration wants to ban guns and erode the Second Amendment.... We’re standing in their way.” ■

— PATRICK KREY



## Amid Alien Surge on the Border, Betrayed Agents Decry “Let ‘Em Go Joe”

**ITEM:** *The left-wing New York Times, in its May 25 print issue, reported: “House Democrats, who led an angry charge against the Trump administration’s treatment of migrant children, have taken a much quieter tack since concerns began emerging about conditions at some of the emergency shelters set up by the Biden administration to deal with minors at the southern border.”*

*Democrats, according to the Times, “say the contrast is for good reason: former President Donald J. Trump’s immigration policies were deliberately cruel, devised as a deterrent to would-be migrants, while the Biden administration is trying hard to deal with a bad hand.”*

**ITEM:** *Illegal border-crossers are not just from Mexico and Central America, notes the New York Times — which seems to have invented a new category not recognized by the law: “pandemic refugees.” In a May 16 piece (“From India, Brazil and Beyond: Pandemic Refugees at the Border”), the Times said: “Fleeing virus-devastated economies, migrants are traveling long distances to reach the United States and then walking through gaps in the border wall.”*

**ITEM:** *During a House Appropriations Committee hearing on May 26, Alejandro Mayorkas, secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, defended the Biden administration’s handling of the ongoing surge of migrants seeking access to the United States. He contended to incredulous committee members that “the border is closed.”*

*When critical congressmen noted the ill-directed message being sent by the administration — some comparing the situation to an “invasion” — the secretary insisted: “The president could not have been clearer in his articulation of this administration’s position nor could I have been clearer and continue to be so, which is the border is closed, and this administration administers and enforces the laws of the United States of America.”*



AP Images

**Come on in, the water’s fine:** Would-be immigrants from Mexico and Central America know they have a window of opportunity with Biden in the White House and Democrats running Congress.

*The secretary — as have other Democrats, including President Biden — always has a fallback position about problems on the southern border: It’s Trump’s fault. Mayorkas, for example, said on CNN’s State of the Union in March that the “entire system” was “dismantled” by the prior administration.*

**CORRECTION:** While our southern border’s condition is clearly a catastrophe, the White House has steadfastly refused to call it a “crisis.” Then, in the spring, when Joe Biden himself referred to the situation on the U.S.-Mexico border as a “crisis,” his press people backtracked furiously, arguing that he was really talking about the conditions in Central America that cause people to flee.

The Biden folks, however, do seem inordinately skittish about certain words. Accordingly, the incoming administration banned Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) from using the terms “alien,” “illegal alien,” and “assimilation.” The alleged reason? Illegal aliens breaking our nation’s laws are said not to like those terms. Oh.

Anyway, exactly how *closed* is our southern border? Saying it doesn’t make it so. It is, by any honest reckoning, quite open.

There were 178,662 people stopped while breaching the U.S.-Mexico border in April, a 21-year high in monthly apprehensions, according to figures published by CBP. Of course, not all get caught (and being stopped doesn’t mean what it used to under the Trump administration). Nowadays, many just try again without fear of prosecution. Border officials, according to the most recent projections, report that around 1,500 illegal immigrants are entering the United States *every day* because agents are overwhelmed with the number of crossings (up from 1,000 daily the previous month).

Immediately after he assumed office, Biden put chains on not the lawbreakers, but the law-enforcers. A dispatch was essentially sent to the cartel-linked human traffickers and border-crossers when he stopped construction of the wall, instructed ICE to curb arrests and deportations, and called for a path to citizenship for illegals within the United States.

As a result, border crossings are at a two-decade high even as ICE deportations have plummeted to the lowest level on record.

Tens of thousands are being released. They are assuredly *not* being sent back to Mexico. That was in the cruel old days. Biden halted President Trump’s “Remain





## Correction, Please!

in Mexico” policy as soon as he got to the Oval Office; that program required migrants seeking asylum to wait in Mexico while their claims were processed. However, if Trump did it, it’s automatically bad to Joe and his team. Accordingly, as summarized by GOP.com in late May:

Customs and Border Protection released 61,000 illegal immigrants in February, March, and April, up from only 18 in Trump’s last full month in office.

And yesterday, when asked if DHS knows where illegal immigrants released into the U.S. are, Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas admitted there’s too many illegal immigrants to “know and track.”

Mark Morgan, the former acting CBP commissioner, isn’t buying the line being pushed by the current crew in Washington. He has pointed out that, contrary to Mayorkas’ claims, the Trump administration did not leave its successors unprepared or uninformed about managing the southern border. The truth, writes Morgan in a *Washington Times* column, is that Trump’s Department of Homeland Security “alone provided the Biden administration with

over 200 briefings during this transition period — with the vast majority of these briefings focusing on border security and illegal immigration. I know this because I was still the acting commissioner of CBP during the transition.”

An angered Morgan pointed out:

I have served this country for 35 years under six different administrations. But I have never seen someone mislead the American people like Mr. Mayorkas has done in the past few months.

Mr. Mayorkas claims that our borders are closed and secure. It’s not only absurd but also insulting to the front-line defenders on our nation’s borders who know that what he’s saying is a blatant lie. Right now, our country is seeing the largest levels of illegal immigration in nearly 20 years. Last month more than [180,000] illegal aliens were apprehended by the Border Patrol.

Within the first 120 days of the Biden administration the Border Patrol has apprehended more illegal aliens than during the entire 2020 fiscal year. There has been a 900 percent increase in apprehensions from this

time last year. As a direct result of the Biden administration’s dismantling of almost every effective tool, authority and policy, 38 percent of the illegal aliens being apprehended are intentionally released into the U.S. In the month of April alone, under Mr. Mayorkas’ direction, almost 70,000 illegal aliens were released — never to be heard from again.

The future of the border isn’t promising. Even the Trump-hating *Washington Post* acknowledges that Biden’s Department of Homeland Security budget is “flat” despite the “surge” at the border — this during “a period when border arrests and detentions have soared.” (The *Post* does note that the administration will boost funding for DHS programs designed to, among others, “improve climate change preparedness.”)

Morale is low among enforcement personnel, as you might imagine. Brandon Judd, the president of the Border Patrol Council, recently told reporters (as recorded on YouTube): “I have never seen worse policy, never worked under worse policy, than I have under this administration.”

Some Democrat politicians are not blind to what is happening. It’s even more obvious when you are on the frontier. Representative Henry Cuellar (D-Texas), vice chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security, represents a district that has 200 miles on the border with Mexico. The district, according to Cuellar, is affected with different types of human trafficking — largely families in one, mostly single adults from Mexico in another, and a third with migrants that are mostly from beyond Central America.

Laredo has the preponderance of single-adult migrants. The CBP recently described how, in just over a 24-hour period in that area, Border Patrol agents “apprehended over 160 undocumented individuals during two separate alleged human smuggling attempts.” According to the account, a K-9 service dog helped in the apprehension of a tractor hauling a tanker trailer; upon investigation, 50 individuals



**Lying behind his mask:** While new Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas claims the border is closed, nothing could be further from the truth. It’s wide open, and immigrants are flooding in at an unprecedented rate.

AP Images





were found in the tanker — all in the country illegally and nationals of Mexico.

A second incident, the following morning, involved a commercial tractor-trailer. A service dog also was involved in the alert. After a chase, agents found more than 100 individuals inside the trailer — all in the U.S. illegally and from Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Ecuador, and the Dominican Republic.

The CBP website is replete with such accounts.

Not long ago, Cuellar told the *Washington Examiner* that border officials are so busy processing people that they do not have time to identify the courts to be seen by the migrants. He said the “overwhelmed” agents just “don’t have the time” to issue notices to appear. Cuellar also revealed that migrants being shipped from the border have been found COVID-positive at double the rate of the United States at large, with some of them being released directly to bus stations and then sent to the interior of the nation.

In parts of the country, as reported by Reuters, some agents are calling Biden “Let ’Em Go Joe,” while others are purchasing mock border coins — with a redesigned U.S. Border Patrol logo that reads “U.S. Welcome Patrol.”

Want another example about Washing-

ton’s collaboration with border jumping? A reporter from the Center for Immigration Studies recently saw in person what is being done repeatedly on parts of the southern border. The article (“Washington Won’t Let Border Patrol Arrest Human Smugglers Offloading Aliens Right in Front of Them”) includes a photo showing a cartel smuggler standing on Texas territory offloading his cargo of women and children.

Meanwhile, various state and federal personnel had orders not to arrest the cartel’s raft paddler. Todd Bensman quoted an officer from the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) as he explained that “all federal agents on the river operate under this arrest stand-down nowadays.”

The situation at ICE is also miserable. As the leftist *Washington Post* reported in late May:

Under new Biden administration rules curtailing immigration enforcement, ICE carried out fewer than 3,000 deportations last month, the lowest level on record. The agency’s 6,000 officers currently average one arrest every two months.

ICE under President Biden is an agency on probation. The new administration has rejected calls from

some Democrats to eliminate the agency entirely, but Biden has placed ICE deportation officers on a leash so tight that some say their work is being functionally abolished.

Frustrated ICE officials, says the *Post*, “describe a workplace environment where officers spend time doing paperwork, idling or working out, more fearful of facing reprimand for making an arrest than not making one.”

Authorities expect a big spike in migrant deaths this summer in desert areas near the U.S.-Mexico border. In addition, beyond the human smugglers, there are the drug smugglers — who are clearly enjoying the less-secure Biden border.

The border crisis feeds multiple ills. It has, for instance, exacerbated the influx of fentanyl pouring from Mexico. As Republican Texas Governor Greg Abbott said in a late May press conference, “It is clear that Biden’s open-border policies are unleashing deadly consequences right here in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.” The governor cited statistics from the Texas Department of Public Safety about the increase in drug seizures — from the equivalent of about 2.4 million lethal doses of fentanyl in 2020 to this year’s approximately 21 million lethal doses to date. This, noted Abbott, represents an increase of nearly 800 percent year over year.

The Biden-Harris team is also reverting to a familiar and failed “solution” previously employed by the Obama-Biden administration: Throw U.S. taxpayer money at foreign governments so their people won’t jump our border.

As we write, the *New York Times* has just published a page-one piece expressing apparent surprise about its futility. (The online headline puts it this way: “U.S. Aid to Central America Hasn’t Slowed Migration. Can Kamala Harris?”) The print version is shorter: “Billions in Aid, but the Migrants Keep Coming.”) Shocking, eh?

While the Biden administration frets about phrases such as “illegal alien” and “crisis,” actions speak louder than problematic words. ■

— WILLIAM P. HOAR

## More “Debunked Conspiracy Theories”

For some 18 months, the leftist mainstream media called any suggestion that the China virus leaked from a lab in Wuhan a “debunked conspiracy theory.” It now turns out that the lab-leak hypothesis was strong, with plenty of evidence to back it up (see article on page 23).

Yet the stubborn insistence that the theory was “debunked” invites the observation that the media called any claim with which its worthies disagreed a “debunked conspiracy theory,” even when it was neither debunked nor a conspiracy theory.

As well, the media readily published and broadcast truly debunked conspiracy theories. On the one hand, we had the lab-leak hypothesis, and before that the Biden-Burisma and Biden-China influence-peddling schemes. Not debunked. On the other, we had the Russia collusion and Capitol Hill “insurrection” hoaxes. Debunked.

What they all have in common is former President Donald J. Trump. The leftist media doesn’t mind conspiracy theories, as long as the conspirators include Trump in particular and Republicans in general. If the conspirators are leftists, Democrats, or Chinese scientists, the theories are, well, “debunked.”

All on the say-so of editors and reporters who hate Trump like the Hatfields hated the McCoys.

The blood feud began because Trump defeated the media’s candidate. Hillary Clinton “deserved her turn.” She was pro-abortion. She was pro-“gay marriage.” She was perfect. And so the media relentlessly attacked Trump. Nothing he did or said was right, including, of course, his claim, based on intelligence reports, that the virus originated in a lab.

A sample of the “fact checks”:

- Associated Press: “Debunked COVID-19 myths survive online, despite facts ... MYTH: THE VIRUS WAS MAN-MADE.... It was not.... The origins of the virus are far less scandalous: It likely originated in nature.”

- Vox: “The conspiracy theories about the origins of the coronavirus, debunked.... In some right-wing news outlets and on social media, a dangerous conspiracy theory about the origin of the health crisis won’t die.”

- FactCheck.org: “Trump Spreads Distorted Claim on Wuhan Lab Funding”

The *Washington Post* averred that Senator Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) “keeps repeating a coronavirus conspiracy theory that was already debunked.” The *New York Times* was comparatively



yalax/iStock/GettyimagesPlus

measured. It only said Cotton repeated a “fringe theory.”

They were all dead wrong. Their visceral hatred of Trump blinded them. The lab-leak theory was not a “racist” fantasy. It was not “debunked.”

But the narrative fits a pattern: If Trump asserted something, it was debunked. If the media or Democrats asserted something about Trump, it was unassailable truth.

Thus, when Trump asked his Ukrainian counterpart to help him get to the bottom of the Biden-Burisma influence-peddling scheme, the

media falsely accused Trump of retailing a “debunked conspiracy theory.” As vice president, Joe Biden told Ukraine to fire the prosecutor who was investigating Burisma, an energy company, or face losing billions in U.S. financial aid. It was an obvious *quid pro quo* to help his son, Hunter, whom Burisma employed.

When one of Hunter Biden’s former business associates proved that Joe Biden was deeply involved in his son’s business with China, that too became a “baseless conspiracy theory.”

Hunter Biden’s laptop, which contained the e-mails that proved the Biden Boys’ malfeasance, was “Russian disinformation,” the media claimed. That lie fit nicely with claims that Trump was a Russian “asset” who “colluded” with Vladimir Putin to defeat Hillary Clinton. Trump “solicited foreign interference.” Clinton’s shady button men manufactured the collusion tale with British spy Christopher Steele’s hoked-up “dossier.” The real colluder, the real solicitor of “foreign interference,” was Clinton — on two counts: With Steele, and when the Democratic National Committee hired Ukrainians to get dirt on Trump. But that truth was also a “debunked conspiracy theory.”

Aside from the “collusion” tale, the media have peddled another debunked conspiracy theory: Trump inspired an “insurrection” at the U.S. Capitol, where “armed insurrectionists” murdered a Capitol Hill cop. In fact, Trump inspired nothing, the “insurrectionists” weren’t “armed,” and Brian Sicknick, the cop, died of a stroke. One person was murdered that day. A Capitol Hill cop shot Trump supporter and Air Force veteran Ashli Babbitt.

From 2015 through 2021, the game has been this: Heads, the hate-Trump media and Democrats win; tails, Trump and his supporters lose. Or maybe that’s just a debunked conspiracy theory. ■





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