

Vaccine Challenges in a New Administration

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American Academy of Pediatrics

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VACCINE SAFETY: HERE WE GO AGAIN.....?

- Anti-vaccine groups are “excited” about a Trump presidency.
- Donald Trump has questioned the safety and timing of vaccines.
- Robert Kennedy Jr making news with claims of a possible commission on vaccine safety – and continuing to link thimerosal and autism.
- Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-UT), chair of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, is being pressured to hold hearings on vaccines.



DONALD TRUMP PRE-CANDIDACY TWEETS

 **Donald J. Trump** 
@realDonaldTrump  [Following](#)

Massive combined inoculations to small children is the cause for big increase in autism....

RETWEETS 191 FAVORITES 47 

12:22 PM - 23 Aug 2012

 **Donald J. Trump** 
@realDonaldTrump  [Following](#)

Autism rates through the roof--why doesn't the Obama administration do something about doctor-inflicted autism. We lose nothing to try.

RETWEETS 349 FAVORITES 105 

9:19 AM - 22 Oct 2012

 **Donald J. Trump** 
@realDonaldTrump [Follow](#)

Healthy young child goes to doctor, gets pumped with massive shot of many vaccines, doesn't feel good and changes - AUTISM. Many such cases!

5:35 AM - 28 Mar 2014

  3,227  2,026

 **Donald J. Trump**
@realDonaldTrump 

I am being proven right about massive vaccinations—the doctors lied. Save our children & their future.

6:30am - 3 Sep 14

- Alarmed about the increase in autism rates
- Complains about doctor-inflicted autism
- Complains about “massive” vaccinations as the cause of autism



DONALD TRUMP AT CNN REPUBLICAN PRIMARY DEBATE – SEP. 16. 2015

“Autism has become an epidemic. Twenty-five years ago, 35 years ago, you look at the statistics, not even close. It has gotten totally out of control....

...I am totally in favor of vaccines. But I want smaller doses over a longer period of time... and I had my children taken care of over a long period of time, over a two or three year period of time...

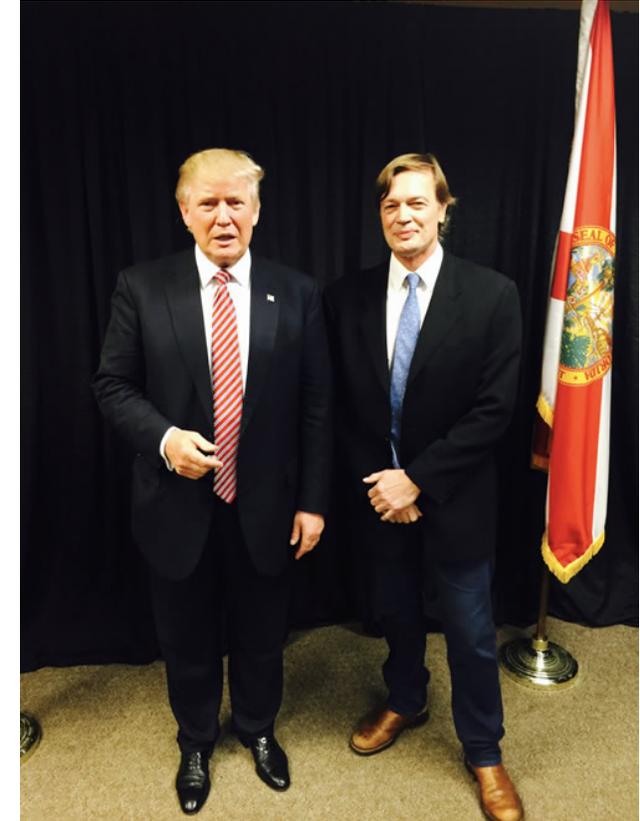
...but you take this little beautiful baby, and you pump - I mean, **it looks just like it's meant for a horse**, not for a child, and we've had so many instances, people that work for me...

....Just the other day, two years old, two and a half years old, a child, a beautiful child went to have the vaccine, and came back, and a week later got a tremendous fever, got very, very sick, now is autistic.”



CANDIDATE TRUMP MEETS WITH ANDREW WAKEFIELD

- In September 2016, two months before the election, Candidate Trump met with Andrew Wakefield and other vaccine skeptics.
- In media interview, Wakefield said “For the first time in a long time, I feel very positive about this, because Donald Trump is not beholden to the pharmaceutical industry. He didn’t rely upon [drug makers] to get him elected. And he’s a man who seems to speak his mind and act accordingly. So we shall see.”



ROBERT KENNEDY JR. MEETS PRESIDENT-ELECT TRUMP

On January 10, Robert Kennedy Jr. meets with President-elect Trump at Trump Tower

- Kennedy told press afterwards that the President-elect asked him to chair a new commission on “vaccine safety and scientific integrity.”
- Trump Transition team states later the same day that the President-elect only spoke about a commission on autism.



ROBERT KENNEDY JR AND ROBERT DE NIRO HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB – FEB. 15

- Announces \$100,000 reward “to the first journalist, or other individual, who can find a peer-reviewed scientific study demonstrating that thimerosal is safe in the amounts contained in vaccines currently being administered to American children and pregnant women.”
- Kennedy says he has spoken with people from the Trump Team 3-4 times about the supposed vaccine safety commission.
- Del Bigtree, producer of “Vaxxed,” attends and speaks.
- Congressional briefing the next day is sparsely attend – De Niro does not attend.



“REVOLUTION FOR TRUTH” RALLY ON MARCH 31



March 30th, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We, the undersigned physicians, scientists, and organizations, write to express our strong support for an Independent Vaccine Safety Commission comprised of stakeholders from the public health, scientific, and consumer advocacy communities. Given that the rates of chronic childhood conditions, including neurodevelopmental disorders such as autism, have increased dramatically, it is imperative that we convene an unbiased commission to study vaccine safety and establish whether or not our expanding vaccination schedule is contributing to the significant rise of serious health problems in the United States.

An Independent Vaccine Safety Commission is necessary due to allegations of scientific misconduct from within the government agency, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which is responsible for vaccine recommendations. CDC scientist William Thompson, Ph.D., stated: "I regret that my coauthors and I omitted statistically significant information related to specific risks of the MMR vaccine." Furthermore, a dozen anonymous CDC scientists recently formed an organization, Scientists Preserving Integrity, Diligence and Ethics in Research (SPIDER), which contends that while most of the scientists at CDC operate with the utmost integrity and ethics, "some staff are intimidated and pressed to do things they know are not right," and that circumventing the mission and the Congressional intent for the agency "is becoming the norm and not the rare exception."²

We are convinced that the science on vaccine safety is not settled. In fact, science, which is a process of inquiry rather than demonstration, is never settled. It is very likely that the causes of neurodevelopmental and neuroimmune disorders are numerous and synergistic. It is biologically plausible that vaccines or vaccine ingredients are among contributing factors. There is an emerging body of peer-reviewed biomedical research relevant to vaccine safety concerns, suggesting: a) deleterious effects of immune activation on prenatal and neonatal brain development, which is when some vaccines are administered; b) neurotoxic and neuroinflammatory potential of aluminum adjuvant-containing vaccines; and c) risks of acetaminophen exposure during pregnancy, neonatal development, as well as post-vaccination. This body of research provides a strong rationale for re-examining the safety of prenatal and childhood vaccination recommendations and adjunct medications in relation to long-term outcomes in children's health. We have attached an addendum with some of the studies representing each of these important areas of research.

¹ <https://www.pediatrics.com/newsroom/2016/03/30/william-thompson-cdc-organizing-the-2014-article-examining-the-possibility-of-causal-link-between-mmr-vaccine-and-autism/>

² https://think.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/CDC_SPIDER_Letter_1.pdf

- Sponsored by the World Mercury Project, Focus for Health, A Voice for Choice, Vaccine-Injury Awareness League and National Vaccine Information Center.
- A new group, Honesty in Media, releases a letter to President Trump at a press conference at the National Press Club that is signed by nearly 275 doctors, scientists and health-related organizations expressing support for a vaccine safety commission.
- A rally takes place at the J.W. Marriott with speakers like Dr. Paul Thomas, Dr. Toni Bark, Dr. Brian Hooker, Dr. Judy Mikovits, Del Bigtree, and Robert F. Kennedy Jr. voicing support for a vaccine safety commission.
- Very little press coverage

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

- Chaired by Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-UT)
 - Filmed at a campaign fundraiser talking to anti-vaccine activists and agreeing that more research is needed
 - Getting pressure by some of his constituents to hold hearings on vaccine safety, NVICP, and the “CDC Whistleblower.”
 - While Chaffetz is sympathetic to claims made by anti-vaccine constituents, his committee staff says they have no plans for now on holding any hearings on this topic.



