



Poul Thorsen Fugitive Researcher

UPDATE AUGUST 2017
BETH CLAY FOR
THE WORLD MERCURY PROJECT

Table of Contents

A.	Executive Summary	2
B.	About the World Mercury Project	3
C.	Post-Indictment U.S. Government Response.....	4
	Failure to Disavow	5
	Thorsen Broke Other Rules as Well	6
	Tax Evasion	6
D.	The Indictment	7
	Warrant for Arrest Issued:	7
	The Indictment Makes News	8
	Research fraud	8
	Yates Does Not Use New Power	8
E.	Poul Thorsen Professional Background.....	8
	Thorsen Shifts His Focus	9
	DSM-5 and Thorsen:.....	10
	Thorsen’s Post Indictment Publications and his Affiliations.....	11
F.	Pre-Indictment CDC-Danish-Thorsen Interactions	14
	Autism Information Disorganized:	18
	About the Author	21
	Exhibits List	22



A. Executive Summary

Poul Thorsen is a key figure in the shaky research that denied justice to thousands of families whose children suffered a vaccine-related neurological injury that developed into autism spectrum disorder (ASD or autism). Thorsen's influence on US vaccine projects and policies is extensive. The studies he led strongly influenced the review of thimerosal in vaccines by the Institute of Medicine (now known as the National Academy of Medicine) of the National Academy of Sciences and the outcomes of that review. Today, Thorsen is a fugitive from justice since a warrant for his arrest was issued in April 2011. Thorsen was added to the HHS Office of Inspector General's 'Most Wanted' list in April 2012.

The management of the vaccine injury-autism epidemic research link by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has been fraught with controversy from the outset. These controversies include:

- (1) Studies that were fatally flawed in their design. The studies in question were conducted or funded by CDC and promoted by public health authorities as proof that no connection exists between vaccines and autism.
- (2) Failing to disclose a statistically significant correlation between exposure to thimerosal (mercury) in the first six months of life from infant vaccines and neurodevelopmental outcomes when compared to those with no thimerosal exposure. A watered down, but still troubling, report was shared with those attending the, now infamous, Simpsonwood meeting. The data, now referred to as the Generation Zero data, clearly show an increased risk for autism and other neurodevelopmental conditions.
- (3) Allegations of scientific misconduct by CDC employees by a CDC researcher.
- (4) The status of fugitive researcher, Poul Thorsen, MD, PhD, whom the United States has yet to extradite from Denmark after more than six years; and
- (5) A cover up, rather than retraction, of papers from fraudulent autism studies conducted without legally-required ethical clearances in the CDC-funded Danish Cooperative Agreement.

Dr. Thorsen came to the United States to work at the CDC as a visiting scientist, developing intimate ties to Diana Schendel, PhD. She became his champion at the CDC. Due to Thorsen's urging, the CDC entered into a cooperative agreement with the Danish government and Aarhus University. Once funding was secured, Thorsen returned to Denmark to run a series of autism studies related to the vaccine injury issue. For six years, according to the Department of Justice (DOJ), he conducted an elaborate scheme to steal from the CDC grant.

On April 13, 2011, Dr. Poul Thorsen, age 49, was indicted in the United States on 22 federal criminal counts - 13 counts of wire fraud and 9 counts of money laundering. Sally Quillian Yates, then the United States Attorney for the North Georgia region, stated that Thorsen "is alleged to have orchestrated a scheme to steal over \$1 million in CDC grant money earmarked for autism research." Dr. Thorsen who is 'hiding in plain sight' in Denmark has not been extradited to the United States to be prosecuted despite being named to the HHS Inspector General's Most Wanted List five years ago.



Poul Thorsen – Fugitive Researcher Update August 2017

Following his indictment, federal public health officials failed to distance themselves from Thorsen. Dr. Colleen Boyle and others continued to include him in discussions well after it was obvious he had forged documents and stolen money. Dr. Boyle, after meeting with Danish law enforcement went so far as to arrange an off-site meeting with Dr. Thorsen. After his indictment, at least two federal employees, Diana Schendel, then of the CDC, and Rosemary D. Higgins of the NICHD/NIH continued to collaborate and publish with Dr. Thorsen. Both the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) continue to use his research as grounds to reject vaccine injury claims in the National Vaccine Injury Compensation. The articles he orchestrated during his 2004 to 2010 criminal activities have not been retracted.

After a four-year wait, CDC has released new information in response to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. These documents indicate that CDC officials gave preferential treatment to the Danish grantees, and took no apparent action to evaluate the veracity of the data when the theft was made known. Furthermore, when CDC officials including Coleen Boyle, Marshalyn Yeargin-Allsopp, Joanne Wojcik, and Diana Schendel became aware, in 2009, that Poul Thorsen failed to obtain legally required ethics permissions for the autism bio and genetic data projects, these CDC employees participated in a cover-up with the Danish grantees.

These officials have never made public that both the *Validity of childhood autism in the Danish Psychiatric Central Register* (JADD 2010) and the *A population-based study of measles, mumps, and rubella vaccination and autism* (NEJM 2002) studies were conducted and results published without legally-required ethics clearances. They knew that the psychiatric registry records were reviewed without required permissions and they covered it up. These are serious ethical violations. While these ethical violations are not the subject of this report, they shed light on the pervasive culture of corruption at the CDC.

In addition to the fraud, theft and ethical violations, the research team in the *Thimerosal and the occurrence of autism: negative ecological evidence from Danish population-based data* (Pediatrics, 2003) study made a conscious effort to guarantee the outcome the CDC was expecting. Thorsen's team changed the protocol mid-stream specifically to change the outcome. They eliminated the entire 2001 birth cohort from the study.

Over the past five years, the author of this report has annually contacted the DOJ, the US Marshalls, and others responsible for extraditing and prosecuting Dr. Thorsen. There is no evidence that bringing Thorsen back to the United States is a priority and the case has likely fallen through the cracks.

B. About the World Mercury Project

The World Mercury Project is a public health advocacy organization dedicated to ending exposure to neurotoxic mercury in fish, medical products, dental amalgams, and vaccines. The group focuses on making sound science the driver of public policy. Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. serves as Chairman of the Board. Lyn Redwood, RN, MSN serves as Executive Director.

In launching the organization, Mr. Kennedy stated, “We want robust and transparent science, independent and honest regulators, safe vaccines and healthy children.”



The Mission of the World Mercury Project is to work aggressively to reduce exposure to all sources of mercury, hold accountable those who failed to protect our planet and people from these unnecessary exposures, restore health to those who have been harmed, and to establish necessary safeguards to prevent such tragedies from ever happening again.

The World Mercury Project collaborates with those who have been in the trenches of advocacy and investigation to get to the truth about allegations of scientific misconduct in government funded vaccine research. We all share common goals: to get to the truth, make findings known, hold those who have participated in corruption or cover-ups accountable, and right the wrongs.

C. Post-Indictment U.S. Government Response

Comments from federal officials representing involved agencies in the April 13, 2011, press release announcing the indictment:

“Grant money for disease research is a precious commodity. When grant funds are stolen, we lose not only the money, but also the opportunity to better understand and cure debilitating diseases. This defendant is alleged to have orchestrated a scheme to steal over \$1 million in CDC grant money earmarked for autism research. We will now seek the defendant’s extradition for him to face federal charges in the United States.” United States Attorney Sally Quillian Yates

“Stealing research grant money to line his pockets, as Poul Thorsen stands accused of here today, cheats U.S. taxpayers and will simply not be tolerated. HHS/OIG will continue to work closely with our law enforcement partners to bring these criminals to justice.” said Derrick L. Jackson, Special Agent in Charge of the Atlanta Region for the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Health & Human Services.

“Today’s global economy demands a high-level coordinated approach by multiple agencies and authorities in the investigation of financial crimes. While schemes often become more sophisticated over time, fortunately, so do our investigative techniques. IRS Criminal Investigation is proud to have shared its hallmark expertise in following the money trail in the scheme alleged in this indictment.” Reginael D. McDaniel, Special Agent in Charge of the Atlanta Region for Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation said. (Exhibit 1)

The United States has had an Extradition Treaty with Denmark since the Nixon Administration (1974). (Exhibit 2) The Assistant US Attorney, Mr. Stephen McClain, in 2015 direct communications, noted that the Danish government’s tax evasion charges against Thorsen contributed to the delay in extradition. However, at the time of his comments, that case had been resolved. Thorsen is a free man, working and publishing scientific literature.

In 2015, the author spoke with a new US Marshall employee responsible for European extraditions who, while on the phone, checked the existing extradition orders under her purview and found no extradition order for Thorsen. She explained that an order to extradite is a document needed in addition to the arrest warrant. A follow up conversation that day to the Assistant US Attorney



Poul Thorsen – Fugitive Researcher Update August 2017

leading the Thorsen prosecution, Mr. Stephen McClain, to explain the missing order, was met with umbrage. He replied that he was dealing with a different person and provided me that name and number. An immediate call to McClain's contact found a voice mail message that she was on a six-month detail to another position. Over the course of two years of checking, the same message was on the phone. Inquiries to the staff in the office indicated she had been on detail long before my initial call, leaving me to wonder how frequently Mr. McClain checks in with the US Marshalls. A 2016 call to the US Marshall employee who had been initially helpful was met with the explanation that she would lose her job if she gave me any information. She has since moved into a different position in the agency.

A follow up telephone conversations on July 3, 2017, with the North Georgia US Attorney's office media contact provided no new information on the status of the extradition and prosecution of Poul Thorsen. Stephen McClain remains in charge of the Thorsen case.

Failure to Disavow

Federal public health officials failed to distance themselves from Thorsen in any manner. This failure to disavow includes the following:

- At least two HHS employees continued to collaborate with this fugitive and co-author papers with him. (Diana Schendel of the CDC and Rosemary D. Higgins of the NICHD/NIH). Dr. Schendel eventually left her CDC job and moved to Denmark to lead autism research at Aarhus University. Dr. Higgins refused to discuss the matter when called on July 5, 2017. A written request for information about her association with Thorsen is pending as is a FOIA request.
- Dr. Thorsen continues to collaborate with the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development Neonatal Research Network.
- Federal dollars continued to flow to studies in which he was or is involved.
- Both the HHS and DOJ continue to use his research as grounds to reject vaccine injury claims in the National Vaccine Injury Compensation.
- No retraction of the articles he was associated with during and subsequent to his 2004 to 2010 alleged criminal activities has occurred. The entire US public health machine acts as if the indictment never occurred.

Some families, whose children are directly affected by Thorsen's fraud, have expressed two points: (1) HHS does not want him to be brought to trial because he may have information about the other HHS/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) controversies that would prove embarrassing. And, (2) the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) has an inherent conflict of interest because DOJ lawyers represent HHS in the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program. Government officials used Thorsen-related research during the Autism Omnibus Proceedings to deny compensation to over 5,000 children whose parents filed petitions in the VICP program for vaccine-induced brain injuries resulting in autism. Future cases, unless the papers are retracted, will continue to be affected by their use.



Poul Thorsen – Fugitive Researcher Update August 2017

After a four-year wait, we have obtained new information through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). These documents indicate that CDC officials gave preferential treatment to the Danish grant, took no apparent action to evaluate the veracity of the data when the theft was made known and orchestrated and participated in a coverup of significant ethical violations in the autism research studies.

Thorsen Broke Other Rules as Well

It is important to note that it was not the CDC who discovered the theft of CDC grant funds. The theft was discovered by his other employer, Aarhus University. It is also important to note that Thorsen acted above and outside of the law, ethics, and employment policies.

Violation of Employment Policies: Prior to the US indictment, Aarhus University issued a formal statement distancing itself from Poul Thorsen in January 2010 which stated the following:

- In March 2009, Dr. Thorsen resigned his faculty position at Aarhus, while continuing to create the impression that he retained a connection.
- Aarhus made it clear that Thorsen was terminated.
- Against university policies, Thorsen maintained a second full-time position at Emory University (in Atlanta, GA).
- Aarhus leadership stated that the University discovered shortages of funds in the CDC grant accounts, found the apparently fraudulent invoices, and reported their findings to the Danish Agency for Science, Technology, and Innovation (DASTI). DASTI conducted an internal investigation and referred the matter to the police. (Exhibit 3)

Tax Evasion: Danish Journalist Ulla Danielsen reported, via a blog, that the Danish government was prosecuting Poul Thorsen for tax evasion. In 2009, the prosecution charged Thorsen with gross tax evasion concerning unreported income of 6.4 million DKK (US\$ 1.13 million). For this, the Prosecution claimed Thorsen must be punished with prison. As stated in the indictment, Poul Thorsen, during the years 2001-2005, did not report income from fees, salary, or the like for 6,430,768 DKK. Thorsen's attorney has asked that the charges be dismissed. Ulla reported that the charges were dismissed on a technicality at a March 29, 2012 hearing. Apparently, the government prosecutors did not put the indictment paperwork together in accordance with Danish regulations. (Exhibits 4 and 5)

This demonstrates a pattern of unethical behavior by Thorsen. Thorsen places himself above the law, above university rules, and, with the information recently uncovered, above ethical standards of good science. New information uncovered in FOIA documents reveals that Thorsen, when pressed, simply lied to his colleagues about obtaining the legally required ethical clearances for the autism studies. This is tantamount to conducting a study without Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval and violates legal requirements in both countries to have studies reviewed and approved for human subjects' protections prior to the initiation of the study. (Exhibits 6 and 7)



Poul Thorsen – Fugitive Researcher Update August 2017

Thorsen's influence on US vaccine projects and policies is extensive. The studies he led had a strong influence on the review and outcomes of the Institute of Medicine (now known as the National Academy of Medicine) of the National Academy of Sciences when they looked at thimerosal in vaccines. New information shows Thorsen's Madsen MMR-Autism study was conducted and published without a review and approval from the ethics committee (the Danish version of the IRB). It also shows that Thorsen failed to obtain annual human subject protection reviews, as required under US federal law. Apparently, no one at the CDC bothered to request these reviews from Thorsen and the Danish research team.

D. The Indictment

The United States Attorney in the North District of Georgia, after presenting the evidence to a grand jury, issued an indictment on April 13, 2011 (Exhibit 7), two years after the Danish police met with Dr. Coleen Boyle. If convicted on all counts, and given maximum sentences running consecutively, Poul Thorsen could be sentenced to 350 years in prison and \$22.5 million in fines.

The Criminal Indictment No. 1: 11-C R-194 United States of America v. Poul Thorsen (Exhibit 8) states that beginning around February 2004 and continuing through February 2010, Thorsen, *“aided and abetted by others known and unknown, did knowingly devise and intend to devise a scheme and artifice to defraud and to obtain money and property by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises and omissions of material facts, well knowing and having reason to know that said pretenses, representations and promises were and would be false and fraudulent....”* The indictment provides that Thorsen submitted false invoices and created private bank accounts at the CDC Federal Credit Union to which he had monies wired to pay invoices (from a CDC laboratory using false signatures) and then used the monies (close to \$1 million) to purchase a Harley Davidson motorcycle, two automobiles and a home, listed as a 4 bedroom, 5 bathroom, 2688 sq. ft. home at 2657 Briar Lake Road, Atlanta, Georgia 30345. The Justice Department provided that it would seek to recover all the property that Poul Thorsen purchased. That, however, is unlikely both because of the long delay and because the largest asset, the home, was already in foreclosure before the indictment. (Exhibits 9 and 10)

A conversation by the author with a realtor with access to Georgia MLS systems in 2012 confirmed that Thorsen had owned the Briar Lake Road home listed in the indictment, but that at the time of the indictment he did not. Dekalb County tax records show the mortgage lender foreclosed in March 2011 (prior to indictment) when Thorsen defaulted on his \$405,000 mortgage.

Warrant for Arrest Issued: On the 13th of April 2011, the Assistant US Attorney, Stephen H. McClain presented a *Praecipe* to the Clerk of Court which stated, “the Clerk is hereby directed to issue a warrant for arrest, certified copy (copies) of indictment attached, returnable instanter in the above-stated case”. The Deputy Clerk, an S. Edwards signed confirming that a warrant for arrest was issued and delivered to the US Marshalls on the 14th. (Exhibit 11)



Poul Thorsen – Fugitive Researcher Update August 2017

The Indictment Makes News: Many news outlets ran the story including the major science news outlet, Nature.

Research fraud - *Prosecutors in the United States are seeking to extradite a Danish scientist researching the relationship between autism and vaccines, who, they allege, stole more than US\$1 million in research funding. Poul Thorsen was a visiting scientist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta in the 1990s. US prosecutors say that after returning to Denmark in 2002, Thorsen submitted false invoices from the CDC to Aarhus University, which unknowingly transferred funds to his personal account. He was last week charged with 13 counts of wire fraud and 9 of money laundering . (The announcement at Nature Online on April 20, 2011.) (Exhibit 12)*

Yates Does Not Use New Power

McClain's direct supervisor, in Georgia, in 2011, was United States Attorney Sally Quillian Yates. Later, in May 2015, Yates became Assistant Attorney General to then Attorney General Loretta Lynch. There was no question about Dr. Thorsen's indictment during her Senate confirmation process. There is no evidence to indicate that she gave any attention to the failure to extradite and prosecute Thorsen in her new more powerful role. While Yates was initially held over in the transition between the Obama and Trump administrations, and served as Acting Attorney General, President Trump relieved her of those duties ten days later. To date, the new Attorney General, former US Senator Jeff Sessions, has made no public comments about Dr. Thorsen.

E. Poul Thorsen Professional Background

Before his fall from grace, Poul Thorsen managed to amass significant influence in the autism research and policy fields in the United States and Denmark. Barely out of medical school, he propelled his career by developing close ties to CDC researcher, Diana Schendel. Since 1991, he has co-authored 131 peer reviewed journal articles, many as a direct result of his CDC activities. (Exhibit 13)

Thorsen claims he started his first project in 1987 while still a medical student, and that he "*managed a considerable number of studies on autism, national as well as international*", further claiming his research career began in 1992.

His varying resumes and affiliations listed on research articles show:

- 1996 - Began work on the Danish National Birth Cohort
- 1997-2000 - Visiting scientist, CDC
- 2000-2008 - Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, University of Aarhus, Denmark,
- 2008-2009 - Research Professor, Department of Epidemiology, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, USA,
- 1999-present - Associate, Department of Epidemiology, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, USA.
- 1998-2005 - March of Dimes, PERI grantee



Poul Thorsen – Fugitive Researcher Update August 2017

- 1999-2008 - CDC appointed principal investigator on the “Epidemiologic studies of reproductive and developmental outcome – Denmark”

During the period 2000-2008, one bio claims that Thorsen established the research group known as “North Atlantic Neuro-epidemiology Alliances” (NANEA), originally initiated to do research on Cerebral Palsy in 1999-2000. He provides that in January 2010, more than 30 researchers are affiliated. NANEA’s main research areas were: a) autism, b) cerebral palsy c) neuropsychological development, d) preterm birth, e) Down syndrome, and f) Hearing loss.

Thorsen acted as a visiting scientist at the (CDC) Division of Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities. He successfully promoted the idea of awarding research funds to Aarhus University in Denmark to study the relationship between autism and vaccines. He “*provided input and guidance for the research to be conducted.*” (Exhibit 1) All appearances point to Thorsen building a strong relationship with CDC staff and, beginning in 2001, starting a relationship that has underwritten his entire career. Beginning in 2001, Thorsen lists himself as affiliated with both a) the Developmental Disabilities Branch, Division of Birth Defects, Child Development, and Disability and Health, National Center for Environmental Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, and b) the Danish Epidemiology Sciences Centre, Aarhus University.

Thorsen is further listed as the corresponding author of the paper. (Exhibit 14) A year later he removed the Aarhus University affiliation from his next publication and only listed his CDC affiliation with colleague Dr. Diana Schendel and Dr. Anne Schuchat, who recently served as Acting Director of the CDC until the July 2017, appointment of the new CDC Director, Dr. Brenda Fitzgerald. (Exhibit 15) Dr. Schendel continued to collaborate with Thorsen, even after the indictment, co-authoring four articles with him after the indictment and before her move to Denmark. In 2003, when his article: *Thimerosal and the Occurrence of Autism: Negative Ecological Evidence from Danish Population-Based Data* was published, Thorsen claims an affiliation with the Danish Epidemiology Science Centre, Department of Epidemiology and Social Medicine, University of Aarhus, Denmark.

Thorsen Shifts His Focus

Dr. Thorsen’s early research had nothing to do with autism or vaccines. It appears that he took advantage of the opportunity that presented itself with the collaboration between CDC’s Diana Schendel and Aarhus University in Denmark and this precipitated his shift in focus. Prior to 2002, most of his publications focused on sexually transmitted diseases, infections during pregnancy, and neonatal research. Rather than developing a topical focus and working towards an expertise in one field, Dr. Thorsen’s publications show a scattered approach to public health issues such as vaccine adverse events.

The first paper on the topic he co-authored was a population-based study of measles, mumps, and rubella vaccination and autism. Commonly referred to as the Madsen study, the study was published in November 2002, in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. The study was funded by the Danish National Research Foundation; the National Vaccine Program Office, the National Immunization Program at the CDC; and the National Alliance for Autism Research (since



merged with Autism Speaks). The paper concludes, “*This study provides strong evidence against the hypothesis that MMR vaccination causes autism.*” (Exhibit 16)

Danish Study Flawed from Outset

Challenges to the study’s methods came not just from parent advocates, but also from highly esteemed scientists, such as Walter O. Spitzer, MD, MPH of McGill University, whose observations were published in the NEJM, “... However, the study has some methodologic problems. A review of the clinical records for only 40 of the 316 children with autistic disorder is inadequate. That was clear in another review, which focused on 493 self-selected British children with autistic syndrome; without a multidisciplinary review of lifetime records, important errors would have been unavoidable. Although it would be difficult, with the use of clinical criteria one could identify subgroups among most of the children, notably subgroups with regression...”

Dr. Madsen published a response which included the following: “*Dr. Spitzer will probably agree that our task is to examine (not to prove) proposed causal links between exposure and diseases. We cannot rule out the possibility that at least one child would not have become autistic if he or she had not been vaccinated, and that point alone may be sufficient for stating causality. Unfortunately, we cannot subject this assumption to a critical test unless it is better specified... We can say that if this causal link exists, it is not frequent. We can say that MMR vaccination is not the explanation for an increasing incidence in autism, if such an increasing incidence exists. We can say that MMR vaccination is not one of the common causes of autism. But we cannot prove anything, especially not when it comes to null hypotheses... **We do not claim to have proven that MMR vaccination can never cause autism. We can state only that we find nothing in our data to support the hypothesis that MMR causes autism.** We cannot rule out the existence of a susceptible subgroup with an increased risk of autism if vaccinated, but such a subgroup must be small. Even if such a hypothetical subgroup exists, its members may be better off receiving the vaccine, when all the risks and benefits are taken into consideration. We are in the process of evaluating diagnoses for all the cases of autism in the cohort, and so far, the estimates of validity have not changed. This was to be expected, since only specialists in child and adolescent psychiatry were authorized to diagnose autism.*” (Exhibits 17)

As an aside, Dr. Madsen’s comments reflect what many in the public health community represent: that even those susceptible to vaccine-induced brain injury resulting in the onset of autism are better off receiving the vaccine (and developing autism). Information presented publicly for the first time in this update shows that not only was this paper fatally flawed in design, but it was conducted illegally. Madsen, Thorsen and their team did not have the legally required ethical clearances to access the data they used in this study. (Exhibits 18 and 19)

DSM-5 and Thorsen: Dr. Poul Thorsen sought to effect long-term policies in the United States by engaging with the American Psychiatric Association (APA) in the development of the highly controversial fifth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM-5). On the APA DSM-5 working group, Dr. Thorsen participated in the Autism and Other Pervasive Developmental Disorders Conference in February 2008. (Exhibit 20) The DSM-5 came under fire for changes to the criteria for autism spectrum disorders that would in some opinions prevent as many as 75% of higher functioning and Asperger’s individuals from qualifying for services. A study published in JAMA Psychiatry found that the changes to the DSM manual had exactly the outcome parents



Poul Thorsen – Fugitive Researcher Update August 2017

expected – fewer children would fall within the diagnostic criteria. CDC recently updated its website to clarify that as many as 20% of children included in the ADDM (Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring) network who met the DSM-IV-TR criteria did not meet the autism criteria of DSM-5. They acknowledge that the estimates of the number of children with an autism spectrum disorder might be lower using the DSM-5 criteria than using the previous DSM-IV-TR criteria. (Exhibit 21)

According to the brief bio (Exhibit 22) provided for the APA DSM-5 Working Group on January 22, 2010, Dr. Thorsen listed his position at that time as Adjunct Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, School of Public Health, Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA, USA. By 2012, and the first edition of this report, Dr. Thorsen appeared to have withdrawn from the Working Group. Thorsen appears to change affiliations with each new article published. An article published online in April 2010, again with CDC employee Dr. Schendel, lists Thorsen without any affiliation, but living in Atlanta. A May 2010 paper fails to include Thorsen's affiliation. In a paper published in June 2011 (and published online a year before), Thorsen is listed as being employed at the Institute of Public Health at the Department of Epidemiology, University of Aarhus, Aarhus, Denmark. One of his co-authors is CDC employee Diana E. Schendel, Ph.D.

Thorsen's Post Indictment Publications and his Affiliations

Year	Article title	Authors	Thorsen Affiliation
2017	Intrapartum PCR assay versus antepartum culture for assessment of vaginal carriage of group B streptococci in a Danish cohort at birth	<u>Khalil MR¹</u> , <u>Uldbjerg N²</u> , <u>Thorsen PB³</u> , <u>Møller JK⁴</u> .	Research Unit for Gynecology and Obstetrics, Department of Clinical Research, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark.
2017	Risk-based screening combined with a PCR-based test for group B streptococci diminishes the use of antibiotics in laboring women	<u>Khalil MR¹</u> , <u>Uldbjerg N²</u> , <u>Thorsen PB³</u> , <u>Henriksen B⁴</u> , <u>Møller JK⁵</u> .	Research Unit for Gynecology and Obstetrics, Department of Clinical Research, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark.
2015	Low to Moderate Average Alcohol Consumption and Binge Drinking in Early Pregnancy: Effects on Choice Reaction Time and Information Processing Time in Five-Year-Old Children.	<u>Kilburn TR¹</u> , <u>Eriksen HL²</u> , <u>Underbjerg M³</u> , <u>Thorsen P⁴</u> , <u>Mortensen EL⁵</u> , <u>Landrø NJ⁶</u> , <u>Bakketeig LS⁷</u> , <u>Grove J⁸</u> , <u>Sværke C⁹</u> , <u>Kesmodel US¹⁰</u> .	Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Lillebælt Hospital, Kolding, Denmark.
2014	Cytokines associated with necrotizing enterocolitis in extremely-low-birth-weight infants.	<u>Maheshwari A¹</u> , <u>Schelonka RL²</u> , <u>Dimmitt RA³</u> , <u>Carlo WA³</u> , <u>Munoz-Hernandez B⁴</u> , <u>Das A⁴</u> , <u>McDonald SA⁴</u> , <u>Thorsen P⁵</u> , <u>Skogstrand K⁶</u> , <u>Hougaard DM⁶</u> , <u>Higgins RD⁷</u> ; <u>Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development Neonatal Research Network</u> .	Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Lillebaelt Hospital, Kolding, Denmark. And as a Collaborator to the <u>Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development Neonatal Research Network</u> .
2013	Separable sustained and selective attention factors are apparent in 5-year-old children.	<u>Underbjerg M¹</u> , <u>George MS²</u> , <u>Thorsen P³</u> , <u>Kesmodel US⁴</u> , <u>Mortensen EL⁵</u> , <u>Manly T²</u> .	Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Lillebaelt Hospital, Kolding, Denmark.
2013	Early signs of autism in toddlers: a follow-up study in the Danish National Birth Cohort.	<u>Lemcke S¹</u> , <u>Juul S</u> , <u>Parner ET</u> , <u>Lauritsen MB</u> , <u>Thorsen P</u> .	Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Lillebaelt Hospital Kolding Denmark
2013	Cervical ultrasound elastography may hold potential to predict risk of preterm birth.	Mohammed R. Khalil ¹ , Poul Thorsen ¹ & Niels Uldbjerg ²	Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Lillebælt Hospital, Kolding



Poul Thorsen – Fugitive Researcher Update August 2017

Year	Article title	Authors	Thorsen Affiliation
2013	C-reactive protein and preterm delivery: clues from placental findings and maternal weight.	<u>Bullen BL</u> ¹ , <u>Jones NM</u> , <u>Holzman CB</u> , <u>Tian Y</u> , <u>Senagore PK</u> , <u>Thorsen P</u> , <u>Skogstrand K</u> , <u>Hougaard DM</u> , <u>Sikorskii A</u> .	Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics, Lillebaelt Hospital, Kolding, Denmark
2013	Joint analysis of SNPs and proteins identifies regulatory IL18 gene variations decreasing the chance of spastic cerebral palsy.	<u>Hollegaard MV</u> ¹ , <u>Skogstrand K</u> , <u>Thorsen P</u> , <u>Nørgaard-Pedersen B</u> , <u>Hougaard DM</u> , <u>Grove J</u> .	Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Lillebaelt Hospital, Kolding, Denmark
2013	Association between blood spot transforming growth factor- β and patent ductus arteriosus in extremely low-birth weight infants.	<u>Natarajan G</u> ¹ , <u>Shankaran S</u> , <u>McDonald SA</u> , <u>Das A</u> , <u>Ehrenkranz RA</u> , <u>Goldberg RN</u> , <u>Stoll BJ</u> , <u>Tyson JE</u> , <u>Higgins RD</u> , <u>Schendel D</u> , <u>Hougaard DM</u> , <u>Skogstrand K</u> , <u>Thorsen P</u> , <u>Carlo WA</u> .	Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Lillebaelt Hospital, Kolding, Denmark and Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, USA
2013	Amniotic fluid inflammatory cytokines: potential markers of immunologic dysfunction in autism spectrum disorders.	<u>Abdallah MW</u> ¹ , <u>Larsen N</u> , <u>Grove J</u> , <u>Nørgaard-Pedersen B</u> , <u>Thorsen P</u> , <u>Mortensen EL</u> , <u>Hougaard DM</u> .	Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Lillebaelt Hospital, Kolding, Denmark
2012	Cytokines and posthemorrhagic ventricular dilation in premature infants.	<u>Ambalavanan N</u> ¹ , <u>Carlo WA</u> , <u>McDonald SA</u> , <u>Das A</u> , <u>Schendel DE</u> , <u>Thorsen P</u> , <u>Hougaard DM</u> , <u>Skogstrand K</u> , <u>Higgins RD</u> ; Cytokine and Generic Database Subcommittees of the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health Human Development Neonatal Research Network.	Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Lillebaelt Hospital, Kolding, Denmark and the <u>Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development Neonatal Research Network</u> .
2012	The effects of low to moderate alcohol consumption and binge drinking in early pregnancy on selective and sustained attention in 5-year-old children.	<u>Underbjerg M</u> ¹ , <u>Kesmodel US</u> , <u>Landrø NI</u> , <u>Bakketeig L</u> , <u>Grove J</u> , <u>Wimberley T</u> , <u>Kilburn TR</u> , <u>Sværke C</u> , <u>Thorsen P</u> , <u>Mortensen EL</u> .	Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Lillebaelt Hospital, Kolding, Denmark
2012	Cytokine profiles of preterm neonates with fungal and bacterial sepsis.	<u>Sood BG</u> ¹ , <u>Shankaran S</u> , <u>Schelonka RL</u> , <u>Saha S</u> , <u>Benjamin DK Jr</u> , <u>Sánchez PJ</u> , <u>Adams-Chapman I</u> , <u>Stoll BJ</u> , <u>Thorsen P</u> , <u>Skogstrand K</u> , <u>Ehrenkranz RA</u> , <u>Hougaard DM</u> , <u>Goldberg RN</u> , <u>Tyson JE</u> , <u>Das A</u> , <u>Higgins RD</u> , <u>Carlo WA</u> ; Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development Neonatal Research Network.	Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Lillebaelt Hospital, Kolding, Denmark
2012	Prediction of spontaneous preterm delivery in women with threatened preterm labour: a prospective cohort study of multiple proteins in maternal serum.	<u>Tsiartas P</u> ¹ , <u>Holst RM</u> , <u>Wennerholm UB</u> , <u>Hagberg H</u> , <u>Hougaard DM</u> , <u>Skogstrand K</u> , <u>Pearce BD</u> , <u>Thorsen P</u> , <u>Kacerovsky M</u> , <u>Jacobsson B</u> .	Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Lillebaelt Hospital, Kolding, Denmark
2012	Amniotic fluid chemokines and autism spectrum disorders: an exploratory study utilizing a Danish Historic Birth Cohort.	<u>Abdallah MW</u> ¹ , <u>Larsen N</u> , <u>Grove J</u> , <u>Nørgaard-Pedersen B</u> , <u>Thorsen P</u> , <u>Mortensen EL</u> , <u>Hougaard DM</u> .	Department of Gynaecology and Obstetrics, Lillebaelt Hospital, Kolding, Denmark
2012	Pre-, peri- and neonatal risk factors for autism.	<u>Guinchat V</u> ¹ , <u>Thorsen P</u> , <u>Laurent C</u> , <u>Cans C</u> , <u>Bodeau N</u> , <u>Cohen D</u> .	<i>Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Lillebaelt Hospital, Kolding, Denmark</i>
2012	Reliability of GMFCS family report questionnaire.	<u>Rackauskaite G</u> ¹ , <u>Thorsen P</u> , <u>Uldall PV</u> , <u>Ostergaard JR</u> .	Department of Gynaecology and Obstetrics, Lillebaelt Hospital, Kolding, Denmark
2011	Biomarkers of spontaneous preterm birth: an overview of the literature in the last four decades.	<u>Menon R</u> ¹ , <u>Torloni MR</u> , <u>Voltoini C</u> , <u>Toricelli M</u> , <u>Meriardi M</u> , <u>Betrán AP</u> , <u>Widmer M</u> , <u>Allen T</u> , <u>Davydova I</u> , <u>Khodjaeva Z</u> , <u>Thorsen P</u> , <u>Kacerovsky</u>	<i>Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Lillebaelt Hospital, Kolding, Denmark</i>



Poul Thorsen – Fugitive Researcher Update August 2017

Year	Article title	Authors	Thorsen Affiliation
		<u>M. Tambor V, Massinen T, Nace J, Arora C.</u>	
2011	Cytokines and neurodevelopmental outcomes in extremely low birth weight infants.	<u>Carlo WA¹, McDonald SA, Tyson JE, Stoll BJ, Ehrenkranz RA, Shankaran S, Goldberg RN, Das A, Schendel D, Thorsen P, Skogstrand K, Hougaard DM, Oh W, Laptook AR, Duara S, Fanaroff AA, Donovan EF, Korones SB, Stevenson DK, Papile LA, Finer NN, O'Shea TM, Poindexter BB, Wright LL, Ambalavanan N, Higgins RD; Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development Neonatal Research Network.</u>	Department of Epidemiology and Social Medicine, University of Aarhus, Denmark Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University, Atlanta, GA And Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development Neonatal Research Network.

Inquiries in March 2012 to the Lillebaelt Hospital, Kolding Denmark confirmed that Poul Thorsen was an employee. As of this month, the University of Southern Denmark staff directory lists Poul Thorsen as a former researcher.

The Rise and Fall of NANEA: The North Atlantic Neuro-Epidemiology Alliances, Department of Epidemiology and Social Medicine, University of Aarhus, Aarhus, Denmark (referred to as NANEA) received \$16 million in grant funds from the CDC.

A March 2010 article, in a Danish newspaper (Exhibits 23), detailed how the project was ‘gold plated’ because of the American money, and due to its funding, it grew larger than the actual Department of Epidemiology at the university and thus moved to its own headquarters. The article states, *“In the first years employees live in a world of glitz and pampering. “We run in a huge Mercedes! Is the watchword, and it's true. Every time a scientist travels into the country to gather data, it is in business class, says Anja. Lise says that the Danes are visiting in Atlanta, where they are impressed when a limousine rolls up in front of the hotel door to take them to meetings with the CDC. Delicious dinners, expensive brands of alcohol and stay in luxury get-aways as Denmark's castles are on the program when the traffic goes the other way and money the men from the USA visiting Denmark.”*

In discussing Thorsen the reporter, Sally Maja Fuch, includes discussion from former staff who reiterated that Thorsen would do anything to advance his career. In describing him, she states, “Poul Thorsen's him with the high grin. That's him with millions from the U. S., making the research possible, and the life of a luxury travel for employees. That's him with the plans and the panels that describe how NANEA is world domination, and it is he who causes the device to dance to his pipe, even when they sense that something is wrong.”

This article implies there may have been other interests involved in NANEA (which may have created a financial conflict of interest on the CDC funded grants) and states that several of the employees were paid sums in addition to their government salary, an action that is considered illegal in Denmark. A timeline of potential interest is also provided in the article:



Poul Thorsen – Fugitive Researcher Update August 2017

NANEA Rise and Fall

2000	NANEA created with CDC grant of \$7.8 million (Poul Thorsen to run)
2007	CDC provides another \$ 8.2 million.
2008	Thorsen moved to Atlanta, but remained as scientific and administrative head of NANEA
Winter 2008-2009	AU discovers there are no funds for research done at NANEA. Thorsen assures them money will come from the U.S. and provides declarations of grants as documentation.
March 2009	Thorsen resigns his position at Aarhus University. NANEA disbanded, but projects continue under new management.
Spring 2009	University of Aarhus discovers three letters acknowledging grants from the CDC were apparently falsified, just as the CDC does not acknowledge a letter on an outstanding amount of NANEA first appropriation. In all, falsified signatures appear on documents totaling nearly two million dollars.
May 2009	Science, Technology, and Innovation Council submit a police report. The notification is not directed against any named person.
Fall 2009	University of Aarhus discovers that Thorsen has maintained a dual appointment as associate professor in Denmark and a professor at Emory University in Atlanta that the University of Aarhus did not approve.
January 2010	University of Aarhus director Jorgen Jorgensen denounces Thorsen in a message to Nanea-project partners. The message also mentions the fraud case.
February 2010	Savannah Morning News takes up the case and the other media follow.
March 2010	Østjyllands Police investigators continue to raise a charge against the key person.

Other articles from the same news sources indicate that at least one other scientist was under investigation.

F. Pre-Indictment CDC-Danish-Thorsen Interactions

As noted previously, Poul Thorsen, managed to develop a strong relationship with Diana Schendel at the CDC which he leveraged to gain an advantage in bringing research funds to Denmark. In November 2001, evidence shows Diana Schendel working with others at the CDC to prepare the Request for Application for Grants as a Sole Source program announcement (02006) for the Danish Medical Research Council. Diana not only went through the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to clear the grant (not abiding by the Paperwork Reduction Act) and sole source the project (rather than having an open competition with other potential grantees), but she also sought and obtained permission to extend the announcement to a five-year project rather than the standard three years.

Meeting notes also indicate that there is a missing voucher payment from FY 01. (Exhibit 24) These notes also indicate there were instructions given about banking practices and following US



Poul Thorsen – Fugitive Researcher Update August 2017

law on human subject protection requirements. Both issues appear to have fallen by the wayside in the CDC's desire to fund the Denmark project.

The project moves quickly, indicating that there was much collaboration between CDC staff and the Danish researchers leading up to the application being submitted and reviewed. An application is received for A02006 for Cooperative Agreement for Epidemiological Studies of Reproductive and Developmental Outcomes – Denmark.

Marshalyn Yeargin-Allsopp sends notice of a December 7, 2001 (Exhibit 25) meeting to the four Objective Review Committee members with materials to review. These inhouse reviewers are Lori de Raveloo (Chair), Cynthia Berg, William Thompson, and Jacquelyn Bertrand. The review is set for the afternoon and moves so swiftly that before the day is out the Chair submits a memo to Jose Cordero, the Director of National Center for Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, CDC noting that there was one applicant to the RFA and they were approved. (Exhibit 26)

There are several times when the annual US federal budget discussions and their possible effect on the Denmark grant funds concerned Poul Thorsen. If the grant funds were reduced, staff would likely need to be laid off. Danish law requires a six-month notice for termination. In April 2005, he made a request for \$340,519.00 in supplemental funds to cover potential termination costs, which were not an allowable expense under the terms of the agreement. The request was denied. However, the CDC response includes the statement, *“We recognize that your proposed costs are in accordance with the Danish law and if termination charges are incurred as a result of this cooperative agreement being terminated in accordance with OMB Circular A-110 referenced above charges would be paid when incurred.”* (Exhibit 27)

This letter becomes important in November 2008 when Diana Schendel again lobbies for Poul, sending an email to Tom Horn and Joanne Wojcik, both of CDC, stating, *“the Institute Leader at University of Aarhus has asked if we can give him another updated letter (i.e. signed more recently) similar to the one attached. His main interest is in the reassurance in the last sentence of the first paragraph. Can we discuss?”* The sentence in question is the sentence quoted above in the 2005 letter. (Exhibit 27)

In May 2006, with the five-year clock running down on the Danish project, Diana again argues for a second sole source funding stream. In an email to Joanne Wojcik, Marshalyn Yeargin-Allsopp, and Coleen Boyle she states that she sought input from Don Lollar on how to modify the RFA for the Denmark Concept to give more weight to the sole source argument. She indicates it was modified ‘quite a bit’ by building up the breadth and depth of the existing program. (Exhibit 28) The RFA for the Denmark project was projected to be \$2 million for five years.

Diana includes in her communications that the autism projects, in particular, were mandated by Congress as part of the Children's Health Act of 2000, to establish autism surveillance and research programs to address the number, incidence, and causes of autism and related developmental disabilities. Diana uses the Madsen population-based MMR/Autism study as an example of a project that has demonstrated potential. (As an aside, it is likely that Congress intended the autism registries to be domestic, so utilizing limited resources to help Denmark expand and improve their registry was not likely Congress's intention).



Poul Thorsen – Fugitive Researcher Update August 2017

In October, 2006, Diana, in a move to stack the deck with friendly reviewers, sent an email to Lisa Garbarino, providing names of individuals she recommended to serve on the Special Emphasis Panel to review the Danish project. (Exhibit 29)

On April 19, 2009, at 8:58 am, Anne Christiansen, Head Secretariat of Grant Administration at the Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation emailed CDC's Nosrat (Nassi) Irannejad and Randolph B. Williams regarding 5 U10 DD000230 – DD07-001 with the following message: *“With this email I wish to official confirm that co-principal investigator Poul Thorsen has resigned from his position at University of Aarhus. Consequently, research activities and spending of funds related to project year 3 (budget period 01022009-31012010) has been put on hold until a solution has been found with regards to the principal investigator issue.”*

The next day, Nosrat (Nassi) Irannejad forwards Anne Christiansen's email to Coleen Boyle, Tom Horne, Joanne Wojcik, Louise Floyd, Jacquelyn Bertrand, and Clark Denny with message: *“Good Afternoon, for your information, I am forwarding Anne's official notification indicating Poul Thorsen's resignation from the University and the project.”* She further indicates that project activities are on hold until the Co-PI issue is resolved. (Exhibit 30)

While Thorsen may have been ousted from the University of Aarhus, evidence shows that he remained involved in the grants. He participated in monthly conference calls through at least December 2009, in which CDC officials, including Sonja Rasmussen and Diana Schendel, are involved. These calls are about the Down Syndrome project. These calls indicated that there were some unexpected findings in relation to those with Robertsonian translocations being more severely affected than those with standard Trisomy 21. There were some quality control questions related to age of diagnosis and discussion about methodology. The discussion appears to present a team not adequately skilled in study design and pre-planning. It appears that they were pretty much making up the way they would do the analysis as they went along. There was also discussion about discovered missing data, and questions about weaknesses in some certain criteria. Poul offers on one call to help Sonja from CDC write the paper. (Exhibits 31 and 32)

In August 2007, Dr. Schendel sent an email to Dr. Marshalyn Yeargin-Allsopp in an apparent response to a conversation they two had shared regarding Poul attempting to double dip in grant funds by submitting a grant application to the NIH for the same lifestyle program already funded by the CDC and justifying her passion for the Danish projects. This email (Exhibit 33) is an important glimpse into the emotional mindset and way of thinking of this key CDC scientist. In this email, she states, *“And yes, I am proud – just as you are when it comes to the activities of the DDB - I see no difference, or reason to feel apologetic of my pride or passion for a program I helped to shape and build. Fundamentally, I feel the same way about CADDRE and SEED, but the Denmark activities satisfy my own scientific passions rather than those shared among a caste of dozens, of often conflicting egos are much smaller in Denmark and easier to work with. And my attachment and commitment is to all of them, not just Poul. And the barriers to getting work done are much lower.”*



Poul Thorsen – Fugitive Researcher Update August 2017

Less than 16 months later, Thorsen's scheme began to fall apart. On January 15, 2009, Diana, Nassi, and Randolph Williams, all of CDC, the original Danish principal investigator, Anne Christianson, and Poul Thorsen were informed of the missing money. (Exhibit 34) and two weeks later, the Danes expanded the number of CDC employees informed of the missing money to include Dr. Coleen Boyle. (Exhibit 35).

Serious Ethics Violations Are Proven: As the CDC and the Danes began looking into the missing funds, over 300 personal communications between Diana Schendel and Poul Thorsen were found in Diana's CDC email account. These messages confirm what many of us long suspected - Schendel and Thorsen maintained a personal, intimate relationship at least as early as 2002. Their email communications confirm that they traveled on romantic vacations and exchanged expensive gifts. (Exhibit 36) It is important to keep in mind that Dr. Schendel in her government capacity as a GS-15 employee was overseeing the Danish Cooperative Agreement in which Dr. Thorsen served as principal investigator. It was obvious by her actions from the outset of the grant that she was being influenced or incentivized to promote this project, provide extra funding, and shorten turn around times on funding cycles. She was specifically informed at the inception of the project that U.S. human subject protection laws must be followed which differ from the Danish by requiring an annual review and recertification, something she failed to follow through on.

On April 22, 2009, Dr. Marshalyn Yeargin-Allsopp sends an email to Joanne Wojcik and others stating her intent to send an email to Dr. Schendel stating, "As we discussed, you have been requested to immediately cease any activities with Denmark as part of the CDC-Denmark cooperative agreement activities until further notice...no email or other CDC sponsored communication with Poul Thorsen.

Several weeks later, the official reprimand Dr. Schendel received on May 14, 2009 (Exhibit 43), documents the ethical violations. The letter indicated "*information of a sensitive/budgetary /programmatic nature was shared by you with grantee (Dr. Thorsen). In addition, intense advocacy to the point of impartiality and lack of objectivity on your part for the Denmark project has been witnessed by others and reported to your immediate supervisors. Because of this personal relationship and your official activities as the scientific lead for the Danish project there is an appearance of impropriety and lack of appropriate judgement related to the project.*" The gifts Dr. Schendel accepted included diamond earrings and a pair of Rosedahl wine carafes. Accepting gifts from a grantee or prospective grantee (or contractor) is expressly forbidden in federal ethics rules. (Exhibits 36 and 37)

By June 8, 2009, the CDC staff had engaged with the Danish grantees related to the discovery of missing funds and forged documents. Dr. Coleen Boyle had taken over as the CDC lead and Poul Thorsen was no longer the Principal Investigator but remained involved. He was not in Denmark for this meeting. The report of the four-day site visit provides significant illumination of the status of the NANEAs team and obvious discrepancies by the CDC team in managing the grant itself and the data. NANEAs was moving back to the Aarhus campus to reintegrate with the Department of Epidemiology rather than continue operating separately in a leased space. Coleen Boyle and Joanne Wojcik met with local law enforcement to discuss grant documentation. There was a review of the three forged documents. (Exhibit 38)



Autism Information Disorganized: The emails and site visit notes highlight troubling factors including an apparent great disarray with the data. They mention that the team was asking where the list of autism cases was and discussed the need for onsite leadership to manage quality control and other issues related to the autism study abstractions. There was also inquiry about someone to write the article as Poul Thorsen has *'had the data for three years'*. This discussion further underscores the reality that Thorsen was a rogue investigator and could have manipulated files and data points to meet the desired goals (to keep CDC happy and to keep the money flowing). Danish regulations do not allow researchers to take data home or off site, but this regulation appears to have been ignored. This trip by CDC officials was all about damage control. Dr. Coleen Boyle met with every Danish agency involved and tried to get a handle on the tentacles of the \$16 million investment. (Exhibit 19)

By the fall of 2009, the CDC-Danish team realized they did not have the legally required ethical permissions for the autism studies. Eric Mortensen checks with the Ethics Committee and confirms they were never applied for. This is further evidence of Dr. Thorsen's lies and the CDC's failure to manage the grant correctly. The team realized that studies were initiated without clearance and that two papers had been published and a third was about to be published (without legally required ethical clearances.). Ethical clearances are the checks and balances in the system (such as Institutional Review Boards and Data Safety Monitoring Boards) that protect patients, privacy and the integrity of a study protocol. (Exhibit 18)

On June 9th, 2009, Coleen Boyle, and Joanne Wojcik participate with others on a call regarding the NANEA-NCBDDD Lifestyle Project. Ulrik Kesmodel provides an overview of the project from 2003 to 2009. The project in question is about drinking and smoking during pregnancy. It was discussed that they *'considered it irrelevant to include hashish/marijuana use during pregnancy in the analyses'*. Ulrik also noted that in 2008, as one of the rules for qualifying as co-author in the Lifestyle project, the co-author had to agree that *'in case of conflicts, decisions are to be made by the steering committee consisting of Ulric Kesmodel, Erik Mortensen, and Poul Thorsen'*. Coleen suggested she join the steering committee. She also made it clear that the CDC expected to finish its engagement in the Lifestyle project by July 2010. This was the study which threatened to undercut decades of work aimed at keeping pregnant women from smoking and drinking. There is no evidence that Coleen raised any concerns about the effect of hashish/marijuana use during pregnancy on the children or any concerns about what failing to include marijuana as a variable would do to the study outcomes. There is also no evidence that she sought to have Poul removed from the Steering Committee or the grant activity itself. (Exhibit 39).

CDC-Danish Coverup of Ethics Violations: The next day, the beginning of an ethical crisis began to take shape. Coleen Boyle, Marshalyn Yeargin-Allsopp and Diana Schendel participated in a Denmark Grantees Autism/CP conference call. Poul Thorsen participated and presumably helped bring the two new principal investigators up to speed. He was asked to provide Aarhus University a copy of all permissions in his files ASAP. Coleen commented that from what they had discussed, most of the activities were completed. Diana began discussing additional projects. Soren raised the issue of bringing the CP biomarker data to Aarhus for safekeeping. Then, there was a discussion about who had the various data and whether it could be gathered and secured all in one place. Diana and Poul were asked to provide historical context to this. Marshalyn asked if



Poul Thorsen – Fugitive Researcher Update August 2017

Aarhus could work with the Danish Psychiatric Data on the autism project. Poul stated this was the registry based data on vaccines. He stated that permission should already be in place. (However, it would be confirmed later that no permissions were in place and that Thorsen had never applied for them.)

Marshalyn had more questions. She verified that there was no medical abstraction of the autism perinatal records. Carsten had not found original approvals and was looking to Poul to provide them. Carsten believed they did not have permissions for the autism disorder case control study. Poul suggested checking with Kristine. (Exhibit 40)

On the 30th of November 2009, Coleen Boyle, Diana Schendel, Marshalyn Yeargin-Allsopp colluded with Danish grantees to cover up a serious ethical violation in already published and about to be published research. They sought to cover their tracks on their failure to ensure Poul Thorsen had obtained all the needed ethical approvals for the autism bio and genetic studies. Two studies were published in which legally required ethical permissions were apparently never applied for and granted according to their notes. When repeatedly asked to provide them, Thorsen did not.

In what are completely unethical acts by all involved, the team members went into damage control mode and decided that they likely could obtain permission for ongoing and future studies. They concluded that it would probably be impossible to get permission for research that was already finalized (and published). It is absurd that experienced federal grants management officials even discussed the idea of seeking a human subject safety review retroactively. These reviews, known as Institutional Review Boards (IRB) in the United States and Ethical Committees in Denmark are required before a study is initiated in order to protect patients and patient records from abuse. It would seem from the outset that the CDC was incompetent or inept in the management of this project. They also failed to do a site visit for the first three years.

The biggest concern the CDC-Danish colluders had at that point was getting ethical coverage for Diana Schendel's paper that was about to be published on autism and inflammatory markers. They decided to extend the permissions obtained by another researcher (Rikke Maimburg from Aarhus) to Diana because Rikke had been approved in 2000 for a study entitled '*Obstetric factors and autism*'. Their thinking was that since Diana's study used mothers' obstetric files, the 2000 Ethics Committee approval could be extended to her study (even though the committee never reviewed Schendel's study design.) These acts were clearly not ethical.

Thorsen failed to provide evidence post study that he had obtained ethical committee permissions for the bio and genetic markers and autism research. The team eventually determined no requests had ever been submitted. By all appearances, they determined that studies related to the two papers, already published, were done without legally-required ethical approval. The two papers in question are:

A population-based study of measles, mumps, and rubella vaccination and autism. Madsen KM, Hviid A, Vestergaard M, Schendel D, Wohlfahrt J, Thorsen P, Olsen J, Melbye M. and published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* in November 2002



Validity of childhood autism in the Danish Psychiatric Central Register: findings from a cohort sample born 1990-1999. Lauritsen MB, Jørgensen M, Madsen KM, Lemcke S, Toft S, Grove J, Schendel DE, Thorsen P., published in the *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders* in February 2010 (E published 1 September 2009).

Dr. Coleen Boyle, who has since been promoted to be Director of NCBDDD at CDC should have shut this grant down immediately upon being informed that ethical clearances were not in place. She should have immediately contacted the Office of Research Integrity, potentially even the Office of Inspector General. Funding should have been discontinued. She should have led the charge to have these papers retracted. There should have been, at a minimum, a press release from the CDC to inform the public. Instead, Dr. Boyle along with Dr. Marshalyn Yeargin-Allsopp, Joanne Wojcik and Dr. Diana Schendel colluded with their Danish Grantees to 'fix it' and retrospectively apply ethics approvals. Their next call on 14 December 2009 closed the case on Poul providing information to Aarhus. Joanne and Diana determined to go back through older grant applications to search for permissions.

Not only is this an egregious cover up, but it also points to poor grant management by CDC staff. The CDC staff responsible for this multimillion dollar grant, starting with Diana Schendel, should have had copies of all the legally required ethics permissions in hand before the Danish grantees were allowed to get started and before the first US taxpayer dollar was sent to Denmark.

The Danish Autism and Vaccine Studies are Tainted: There is no longer any question that the CDC-Danish collaboration research on autism and vaccines is too tainted to be used. Years before these criminal activities even became known, studies from Thorsen had been called into question based on conflicts of interest, design flaws and quality issues. These same studies were used by the United States government (HHS and DOJ) to refute any link between vaccine injury and the onset of the symptoms of autism spectrum disorders.

Congressman David Weldon (Exhibit 41) and a Summary provided by SafeMinds (Exhibit 42) provide background on these issues. Emails and other communications indicated that the statistical value of the research was questionable, and that the early research did, in fact, indicate autism "rates are still going down" after the elimination of thimerosal from Danish vaccines. Each of these conclusions was reached without the knowledge that Poul Thorsen failed to obtain ethical clearance and that when faced with this information, CDC officials colluded to retrospectively fix the problem and cover it up. Furthermore, in the case of the Madsen study on MMR and autism, even experts such as Dr. Walter Spitzer highlighted problems.

In the more than 15 years since the House Committee on Government Reform first looked into the government's handling of the epidemic rise in rates of autism spectrum disorder and its possible link to vaccine injury, the CDC became party to a \$16 million investment in Denmark to obtain research studies to exonerate the vaccine program. As much as \$2 million of that investment is alleged to have been stolen by Thorsen, who came to the CDC as a visiting scientist, earned enough trust at the CDC to influence grant direction, and, in a breach of federal policy, acted as principal investigator of the program he had helped get funds directed towards. Even after being indicted by the US Government for mail fraud and money laundering, he continues to collaborate with HHS grantees and employees. He continues to be employed in Denmark and publish as if nothing had



Poul Thorsen – Fugitive Researcher Update August 2017

happened. Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development employee, Rosemary D. Higgins has continued to collaborate with Thorsen in studies and including him in the Neonatal collaboration. Diana Schendel, as noted, resigned her position at the CDC and moved to Denmark where she is a Professor at Aarhus University and is actively involved in autism projects globally, including serving as principal investigator of the iCARE project and an advisor or researcher on several other Autism Speaks initiatives.

Conclusions: The Administration and Congress must make bringing Poul Thorsen to the United States for prosecution a priority or it will not occur. There is a growing body of evidence to support the full retraction of all the autism studies conducted through the Danish-CDC relationship.

It remains to be seen if, once this information becomes public, HHS leadership, the Inspector General and the Office of Research Integrity will get involved in reviews and take disciplinary or legal actions. The Danish grantees could be barred from future US grant resources.

This is just one more example in a pattern of problematic behaviors for Dr. Boyle. Her obstructive actions date back to her early days at the CDC when she was involved in the CDC's Agent Orange research. Both Dr. Boyle and Dr. Yeargin-Allsopp are part of the coverup made public by the CDC Whistleblower. Dr. William Thompson, on the MMR Atlanta study. In that collusion, they orchestrated a cover up of statistically significant findings of elevated risks for autism based on the timing of the MMR shot in black boys.

There are more than 5,000 families whose children were denied justice in the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program's Autism Omnibus Proceedings in large part because of the studies conducted or funded by the CDC, including the tainted Danish studies.

About the Author

This report was prepared by Ms. Beth Clay, Principal, Hawk International, LLC. Ms. Clay is the former Senior Professional Staff Member in charge of the US House of Representatives Committee on Government Reform and Oversight health investigations under then Chairman, Congressman Dan Burton of Indiana (retired) including the inquiries into vaccines injures and the epidemic increase in autism spectrum disorders.

Ms. Clay is the primary author of the Mercury in Medicine Oversight Committee Staff Report and the Conflicts of Interest in Vaccine Policy Making Oversight Committee Majority Staff Report.

Ms. Clay may be reached at bclay.hawk@outlook.com and 202-498-4461.

Acknowledgement: A tremendous thank you to Brian Hooker, PhD, who, having also received the FOIA information, offered significant assistance in reviewing thousands of pages of documents and gathering exhibits.



Poul Thorsen – Fugitive Researcher Update August 2017

Exhibits List

Exhibits	Title	Exhibits Page
Exhibit 1	DOJ Press Release: Autism Researchers Indicted for Stealing Grant Money	1
Exhibit 2	Denmark International Extradition Treaty with the United States	3
Exhibit 3	Statement by Aarhus University on Dr. Poul Thorsen	14
Exhibit 4	Blog Reporting that Danish High Court Dismisses Gross Tax Evasion Case on Technicality	16
Exhibit 5	Blog Reporting a Delay in the Danish Tax Evasion Case Against Thorsen	20
Exhibit 6	November 10, 2009 Denmark Grantee Call Notes with CDC on Autism/CP	23
Exhibit 7	November 30, 2009 Denmark Grantee Call notes with CDC on Autism/CP	29
Exhibit 8	USA v. Poul Thorsen Criminal Indictment	37
Exhibit 9	Real Estate Posting on Thorsen’s Atlanta home.	47
Exhibit 10	Thorsen’s Atlanta home Property Appraisal	48
Exhibit 11	USA v Poul Thorsen Instruction to Issue Arrest Warrant	50
Exhibit 12	<i>Nature</i> Online story on Thorsen Indictment	51
Exhibit 13	Poul Thorsen PUBMED Bibliography 1991-2017	52
Exhibit 14	Article with Thorsen as Corresponding Author	67
Exhibit 15	Article Thorsen Co-authors with Anne Schuchart and Diana Schendel	81
Exhibit 16	The Problematic Madsen-Thorsen Population Based MMR Autism Paper	84
Exhibit 17	Spitzer Comments and Madsen Reply to the MMR-Autism Paper	89
Exhibit 18	Denmark Grantee Call Notes with CDC on Autism/CP – multiple calls	92
Exhibit 19	CDC June 2009 Denmark Site Visit Report	123
Exhibit 20	Article on the APA DSM 5 Conference	136
Exhibit 21	CDC Web Discussion of DSM 5 effect on autism diagnosis and ADDM study	143
Exhibit 22	APA DSM 5 Disclosure Report for Poul Thorsen	145
Exhibit 23	Article in Danish Newspaper About Thorsen and NANEA in English and Danish	146
Exhibit 24	2001 Meeting Notes on Making Sole Sourcing the Denmark Cooperative Agreement	164
Exhibit 25	Objective Review Committee Memo	166
Exhibit 26	Memo to Dr. Jose Cordero confirming the Objective Review Committee Approved the Danish Grant Application	167



Poul Thorsen – Fugitive Researcher Update August 2017

Exhibits	Title	Exhibits Page
Exhibit 27	2005 letter to Poul Thorsen and 2008 request from Diana Schendel for updated letter including similar language.	169
Exhibit 28	2006 Email from Diana Schendel Telling Drs. Boyle, Wojcik and Yeargin-Allsopp that she is ramping up language to support the continued use of Sole Source Contracting for Danish project.	171
Exhibit 29	2006 email from Diana Schendel promoting her preferred grant application reviewers for the Danish application.	172
Exhibit 30	Notice from Aarhus Head Secretariat that Poul Thorsen had resigned and projects on hold	173
Exhibit 31	December 2009 Down Syndrome Conference Call Notes	174
Exhibit 32	Series of meeting notes and emails on Down Syndrome project and Poul's offer to help	175
Exhibit 33	2007 Email from Diana Schendel to Marshallyn Yeargin-Allsopp in which she defends Poul Thorsen and her passion for the Danish projects.	194
Exhibit 34	January 15, 2009 email from new Danish PI to Poul Thorsen, Diana Schendel, and others at CDC regarding missing money.	195
Exhibit 35	Email from new Danish PI to Coleen Boyle and others at CDC related to missing money.	199
Exhibit 36	Personal email communications between Poul and Diana including discussion of gifts, travel, and intimacy.	205
Exhibit 37	Emails from Joanne Wojcik to Marshalyn Yeargin-Allsopp detailing findings of the romantic relationship between Diana and Poul in her emails and gifts.	229
Exhibit 38	June 8, 2009 site visit report	232
Exhibit 39	June 9, 2009 CDC-NANEA Lifestyle Project Notes1	244
Exhibit 40	2009 series of emails and meeting notes from Denmark Grantee Calls with CDC on autism and Cerebral Palsy	247
Exhibit 41	2004 Comments of then Congressman Dave Weldon, MD Regarding Autism Research	278
Exhibit 42	SafeMinds Report on What the Epidemiological Studies Say about Autism	289
Exhibit 43	May 2019 Letter of Official Reprimand of Dr. Diana Schendel	381

