A Vaccination, 1899
Anna Ancher, Oil on Canvas, Skagen, Denmark
Amplifying the Voice of Public Health in the face of Strongly Presented Public Opinion

British Columbia Immunization Forum 2020
March 3, 2020
Overview of talk

1. Introduction
2. We protect what we value
3. Metaphors for public health
   1. Grandmother
   2. Valuable edifice
   3. A health promotion enterprise
4. Origin of attacks
5. Examples of defending public health
   1. Defending in-school vaccination
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   3. Defending fluoridation
6. Conclusion
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Torys is proud to be recognized as a
Juliet Guichon
BA (Yale), BCL, MA (Oxon.), SJD (Toronto)
Called to the Bar of Ontario
Associate Professor
Cumming School of Medicine,
University of Calgary
Importance of defending public health is discussed in this book, just published.
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Typically society defends what it values
Royal Canadian Mint
After Saudi Oil Drone Attack, Canada Touts Its Remoteness and Security

Catherine Ngai and Kevin Orland, Bloomberg News

Flames shoot from a flare at the Suncor Energy Inc. Millennium upgrader plant in this aerial photograph taken above the Athabasca oil sands near Fort McMurray, Alberta, Canada., Bloomberg

(Bloomberg) -- Canada is counting on its geographical isolation as a key to protecting itself from attacks like the one this past weekend in Saudi Arabia that knocked about...
VANCOUVER

How security at Vancouver events is changing
VANCOUVER

How security at Vancouver events is changing
Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, pictured June 20 in Ottawa. Democratic Institutions Minister Maryam Monsef will announce the names of new provincial members of the Senate Advisory Board in the 'coming days.' The Hill Times photograph by Jake Wright
White House aide Keith Schiller, left, walks with President Donald Trump and two Secret Service agents across the South Lawn of the White House on June 12, 2017.  (SUSAN WALSH/AP)
Public health is valuable
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An 82-year-old grandmother was attacked in her home, minutes after her grandson left. (YouCaring.com)

GRANDMA SURVIVES ELK ATTACK

GRANDMOTHER ATTACKED

MILWAUKEE

Grandmother Fights Off River Otter in Rare Attack
Lelani Grove was visiting the Pilchuck River in Washington state with her family when the attack occurred.
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Public health achieves disease prevention and promotion achieved by structures

- There is a type of edifice that ensures that a child is vaccinated.
- That edifice needs protection.
Children can benefit
But things can go wrong
Public health policy and practice can be attacked by forces beyond their control.
Public Health has little defence
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Preventing disease and death
Who stops institutions going the wrong way?

Not preventing disease and death (promoting disease and death)
We need systems to prevent institutions going in the wrong direction.
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A personality disorder (PD) is characterized by a stable pattern of inner experience and behaviour that deviates significantly from the expectations of society, and can lead to marked impairments in social and occupational functioning. PDs are considered a major mental health problem because of their prevalence and the disability they produce. Ultimately, individuals with a PD have difficulties with interpersonal relationships, and often demonstrate irritability, hostility, and fearfulness. Their personality traits (i.e., attitudes, thoughts, behaviors, temperament) are expressed inappropriately and become maladaptive. According to the DSM-IV, there are ten PDs that are distinctively diagnosed and are grouped into three clusters based on descriptive similarities: Cluster A includes Paranoid, Schizoid, and Schizotypal PDs—individuals with these disorders likely appear odd or eccentric; Cluster B includes Antisocial, Borderline, Histrionic, and Narcissistic PDs—individuals with these PDs often appear dramatic, emotional or unpredictable; Cluster C includes Avoidant, Dependent, and Obsessive-Compulsive PDs—individuals with these disorders tend to appear anxious or fearful. The functional limitations associated with all personality disorders are similar in terms of attribute levels, therefore only one health state is described for an individual diagnosed with an unspecified personality disorder.

PDs affect between 6% and 15% of the population. The most common of the PDs are obsessive-compulsive (with an prevalence rate of 7.7% according to DSM-IV criteria), avoidant (6.6%), paranoid (5.6%), borderline (5.4%), and schizotypal (5.2%). PDs typically become recognizable by adolescence or early adulthood, although some individuals may not seek clinical attention until much later. It is possible for a PD to become exacerbated after the loss of a significant supporting person or situation. The course of a PD is relatively stable over time.
Population of BC: 5.017 million 2019

- 5.6% = **280,952** people with paranoia
- 5.4% = **270,918** people with border line personality disorder

PDs affect between 6% and 15% of the population. The most common of the PDs are obsessive-compulsive (with a prevalence rate of 7.7% according to DSM-IV criteria), avoidant (6.6%), paranoid (5.6%), borderline (5.4%), and schizotypal (5.2%). PDs typically become recognizable by adolescence or early adulthood, although some individuals may not seek clinical attention until much later. It is possible for a PD to become exacerbated after the loss of a significant supporting person or situation. The course of a PD is relatively stable over time.
Essentially

- The attack on public health is by speech
- Defense must come from more and better speech
- Such speech must emphasize the expertise of public health
Examples of attack

- Examples of attacks
  - A person attacks a public health program
    - HPV vaccine, Fluoridation
  - A newspaper attacks a vaccine’s safety
  - A university employs an antivaxxer
  - A judge rejects expert opinion that death was by bacterial infection (R. v. Stephan 2019)
- Defenders must address all attacks
- Defenders must “stand on guard for thee”
The Doctor
Luke Fildes
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Catholic school boards ban HPV vaccination program

Sep 26, 2008 | Full story: Calgary Sun

Thu, September 25, 2008 Calgary Catholic school trustees last night voted against offering the controversial human papillomavirus vaccine to Grade 5 girls.
HPV Vaccine Bans in Canadian Publicly Funded Catholic Schools: November 15, 2012
Needed knowledge of HPV infection, transmission and prevention

Eduardo Franco

Eduardo L. Franco, BSc, MPH, DrPH, PhD (Hon), OC, FRSC, FCAHS

Dr. Franco is James McGill Professor in the Departments of Oncology and Epidemiology & Biostatistics, Director, Division of Cancer Epidemiology, and Chairman, Department of Oncology, at McGill University’s Faculty of Medicine, in Montreal, Canada. He was a faculty member at the Université du Québec (1989-94) and Senior Researcher and Head of the Epidemiology Unit, Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, Sao Paulo, Brazil (1985-89).

He holds BSc (1975) and Licentiate (1976) degrees in biology from Universidade de Campinas, Brazil, and master’s (MPH) and doctoral (DrPH) degrees in public health microbiology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (1981-84). He was a Guest Researcher at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, in Atlanta (1980-81 and 1983-84), and a post-doctoral fellow in cancer epidemiology during 1984 at the International Agency for Research on Cancer in Lyon, France, at the U.S. National Cancer Institute (NCI) in Bethesda, and at Louisiana State University, in New Orleans.
Created a team - some team members
Total: approx. 250 people nationally
Accepted qualified walk-ons
Sought important information from covert sources

Teachers
Nurses
Created team logos:

For local effort

www.hugyourkids.org

Vaccinating kids against HPV saves lives!
For national effort
We had clear goals in mind
Goals

• Promote easy vaccine access for children
• Seek clear and correct information to encourage parental consent
• Help increase HPV vaccine uptake
Accepted that task is adversarial
• We had opponents
• Our aim was victory: high vaccine uptake!
• We adopted sportsmen like behaviour
Had a clear overall game plan: escalating pressure
Opposition’s moves determined what play we used

- In Alberta: Calgary, Medicine Hat, Leduc Halton Ontario particularly difficult
Used Media to Promote Education  June 2012
Promoted education by letters from experts to trustees
Cher Monsieur Dumont,

Je suis médecin conseil à l'Institut national de santé publique du Québec et ex-président du congrès mondial de recherche sur le VPH.

Je travaille à ouvrir un secrétariat mondial de prévention du VPH à mon université.

Je veux vous apporter mon support afin de vous aider à amener la vaccination contre le VPH dans vos écoles.

Il est clairement prouvé que la vaccination dans les écoles est la plus éthique permettant de rejoindre le plus de femmes.

Il faut voir le cancer comme la forme la plus équitable de protéger les femmes contre plusieurs cancers, tel que cancer du col, de la vulve, du vagin.

Les programmes de dépistage ont des limites et la vaccination aide à protéger plus efficacement les femmes.

Le cancer touche non seulement les femmes mais aussi leurs conjoints, leurs familles.

Le cancer est non-éthique et nous ne pouvons pas nous permettre de lésiner sur les moyens à prendre pour le combattre.

Les vaccins contre le VPH ont été prouvés efficaces et sécuritaires.

N'hésitez pas à me soumettre vos questions ou insécurités vis à vis la vaccination des cancers.

Je quitte pour un mois pour donner des cours mais je suis disponible par courriel.

Au plaisir,

Marc

Marc Steben, M.D.
Directeur médical, Clinique A rue McGill
T : 514 787 0055 poste 407 I F : 514 787 0066
Calgary Dean of Medicine letter evoked episcopal ire
Were prepared to play away games despite challenges
Yellowknife
Does the HPV vaccine give implied permission to have sex?

- 1998 girls aged 13-12 years
  - 953 HPV vaccine-vaccinated, 945 HPV vaccine-unvaccinated
  - followed for three years 2006-2007-2009-2010
- HPV vaccination in the recommended ages was not associated with increased sexual activity
- Bednarczyk, Nov. 2012
Burlington, Ontario
Burlington, Ontario
Leduc, Alberta
Vaccinating kids against HPV saves lives!

On November 25, 2012 we, as Canadians, congratulated the Calgary Catholic School District Board for permitting eligible children to receive the HPV vaccine in school. This is traditionally the least costly and most effective venue for vaccination of school aged children.

The school trustees’ 2012 vote followed advocacy for children by HPV Calgary.

On September 24, 2008, Trustees of the Calgary Catholic School District decided to prevent the administration of the HPV vaccine available in schools under their jurisdiction. At least nine other Alberta Catholic School Boards did the same.

Trustees of the Catholic school system in Edmonton, however,
Accepted every opportunity to communicate with public
Radio
Television
Canada Bishops Ban HPV Vaccine For Catholic School Girls

An advocacy group is fighting a ban on HPV vaccinations for girls in Calgary’s Catholic school system set out by Bishop Frederick Henry and other bishops who believe the vaccine promotes promiscuity.

By Megan Gibson @MeganJGibson  June 28, 2012  Add a Comment

Every year, millions of Canadian children are given vaccinations at school to help combat any number of conditions. But the female students in Calgary’s Catholic school system will be receiving one less shot than their public school counterparts. In 2008, a group of bishops led by Bishop Frederick Henry deemed that providing the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination — which guards girls against the four strands of HPV most associated with cervical cancer — to fifth and ninth-grade girls could be viewed as a...
Adopted clear messaging

Vaccination

Does not cause

Promiscuity
INTERNET CAN BE DANGEROUS

DANGER DUE TO MISINFORMATION
Challenges, but ultimate success

• Politics, bureaucracy and self interest were challenges
• But by May 2014 all publicly funded Canadian school doors were open to the HPV vaccine
Successes showed worth of effort

Pre-post ban: 3-dose grade 5 vaccine uptake

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccine Uptake</th>
<th>2011-2012</th>
<th>2012-2013</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calgary Catholic</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calgary Public</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>80%</td>
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A wonder drug’s dark side

Hundreds of thousands of teen girls in Canada have safely taken Gardasil, a vaccine shown to prevent HPV. But a Star investigation has found that since 2008, at least 60 Canadians experienced debilitating illnesses after inoculation. Patients and parents say the incidents point to the importance of full disclosure of risks.

By the time Kaitlyn Armstrong was 6, her mother, Linda, had given her the HPV vaccine Gardasil, which has since been linked to a variety of illnesses.

It was 7:30 p.m. on the night of Dec. 8, 2009, when her mother, Linda, found her in the tub, her head underwater and turned to the side.

"I put her in the bath, Kaitlyn," Linda recalled. "I didn't know she was already dead."

The Quebec coroner’s office said the cause of death was drowning, yet questions about Gardasil lingered. In the case discussed in this article, the opinion of a psychiatrist that Gardasil was the cause of a side-effect was not considered. The vaccine has been linked to a variety of illnesses.

However, the Star investigation found that Gardasil was ineffective in preventing HPV and that many cases of severe illness were reported to health authorities. The incidents point to the importance of full disclosure of risks.

WHAT IS GARDASIL?

A vaccine is formulated in a series of shots. It involves three injections administered at intervals of one, six, and 12 months. The vaccine contains two types of HPV: HPV 16 and 18, which cause cervical cancer.

Some girls who took Gardasil reported side-effects, such as fever, swelling, pain, and redness. Some experienced severe reactions, including paralysis and death.

GARDASIL continued on A19
FW: Toronto Star anti-HPV vaccine article

6, 2015 at 10:03 AM

You replied to this message on 2015-02-06, 10:08 AM.
You forwarded this message on 2015-03-12, 11:20 AM.

From: William Navarre [mailto:william.navarre@utoronto.ca]
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2015 11:40 AM
To: McGeer, Dr. Allison; Nahuel Fitriald; George Broukhanski; Mulkir, Matthew - St. Michael's Hospital; Poulenon, Susan; Scott Gray-Owen; Catherine O'Brien; vivek.goel@utoronto.ca
Subject: Toronto Star anti-HPV vaccine article

Dear Colleagues,

Perhaps yesterday you read an article that appeared simultaneously in the Toronto Star and Toronto Metro (free newspaper on subways) entitled “The Dark Side of the HPV Vaccine”. The Star website also includes a very provocative video.

Both the video and article are extremely slanted in their presentation and the reporting can only serve to reduce HPV vaccination rates. The video has scary music, scary anecdotes, and is clearly out to stir up a controversy and make public health professionals look like they are in the pockets of "big pharma", etc. The major criticism, that patients aren’t informed of risks, is conflated with an unsupported attack on the effectiveness of the vaccine itself (the “dark side” of Gardasil). Supportive stats are thrown into the background and diminished compared to extensive interviews with potential vaccine victims. I find the reporting to also be quite odd given that other articles in the same papers take great joy at slamming parents who don’t vaccinate their kids for measles. Also an article today on “Why the flu shot is still your best bet against infection”.

The fact this newspaper is talking out of both of its mouth also serves to confuse the public and reduce overall immunization rates.

I’m writing to ask -

1. Is there a response underway already to this report from anybody you know? I worry people in Health Canada, etc, will be accused of “bias” and may not have the autonomy to speak out. Professors in academic settings have far more latitude to make a clear statement.

2. If not can you help dig up some people to come up with a clear and effective response to this video? I say “effective” because it may take more than a simple letter to the editor to really make the point clear that this kind of reporting won’t go unnoticed.

Thanks. I know you are all extremely busy and may not have time to take this on (I certainly am maxed out) but at the same time I just want to make sure this doesn’t fly without a serious and very public criticism of the approach the Star took on this occasion.

Link to article and video: http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2015/02/05/hpv-vaccine-gardasil-has-a-dark-side-star-investigation-finds.html

Thanks,

William Wiley Navarre, Ph.D., Associate Professor
Associate Chair and Undergraduate Coordinator
University of Toronto - Department of Molecular Genetics
&K121, Mail Stop C151
1 King's College Circle, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 3E1
416-978-3631, x3631
william.navarre@utoronto.ca
Subject: FW: Toronto Star anti-HPV vaccine article

HELP!

From: [email]
Date: Friday, February 6, 2015 at 11:03 AM
To: [email]

Subject: Toronto Star anti-HPV vaccine article

Dear Colleagues,

Perhaps yesterday you read an article that appeared simultaneously in the Toronto Star and Toronto Metro (free newspaper on subways) entitled “The Dark Side of the HPV Vaccine”. The Star website also includes a very provocative video.

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2. If not can you help dig up some people to come up with a clear and effective response to this video? I say “effective” because it may take more than a simple letter to the editor to really make the point clear.
How the Toronto Star massively botched a story about ... - Vox
www.vox.com/2015/2/10/8009973/toronto-star-hpv-vaccine
Feb 21, 2015 - If there was ever a textbook case in how to botch a health story, the Toronto Star's investigation into the "dark side of the HPV vaccine" is it.

'We failed' in presentation of HPV vaccine story, Star ...
globalnews.ca/.../toronto-star-did-not-give-proper-weight-to-science-in-h...
Feb 11, 2015 - The Toronto Star has courted controversy by reporting on the HPV vaccine. Now, an editor at the paper says that the article did not give enough ...

The Toronto Star's HPV Reporting is a Disaster - Canadaland
canadalandshow.com/article/toronto-stars-hpv-reporting-disaster
Feb 10, 2015 - Last week, the Toronto Star published an investigation under the headline HPV vaccine Gardasil has a dark side. In the piece, reporters David ...

Toronto Star's Head of Investigations Stands by HPV Story ...
canadalandshow.com/.../toronto-stars-head-investigations-stands-hpv-sto...
Feb 12, 2015 - Kevin Donovan, the Toronto Star's Investigative Editor, defends the paper's HPV vaccine reporting in a statement provided to CANADALAND.

The Toronto Star's gift to the antivaccine movement ...
https://sciencebasedpharmacy.wordpress.com/.../the-toronto-stars-gift-to-...
Feb 10, 2015 - Last Thursday, the Toronto Star ran a front-page story on the Gardasil ... Text from Star's Website: HPV vaccine Gardasil has a dark side. Star ...
Opinion response to:

The HPV vaccine was created to prevent an infection that causes cancer. That’s pretty exciting. After all, Terry Fox’s arduous marathon a day was to raise funds for cancer care. Did he even imagine that we would have a vaccine to prevent cancer?

Given the power of HPV vaccine to prevent disease and death, a long Toronto Star article suggesting that the HPV vaccine causes harm ought to have been based on evidence. Unfortunately, it was not. Instead, the sensationalized Star article smeared the vaccine with guilt by association, and the paper ran an editorial endorsing the nonsense.

The Star story states that some people became sick and even died after being vaccinated against HPV infection. Yet, after HPV vaccination, some people might have won a major scholarship or the lottery. Does this mean the vaccine caused the award or the win? Hardly.

Just because one event follows another does not mean that the first event caused the second — to use scientific terms, correlation is not causation. By confusing the two, the Star article deliberately confuses readers. It suggests that we should doubt both the scientific evidence and the recommendations of the Public Health Agency of Canada, the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC), the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI), and the Canadian Cancer Society.

This confusion would be funny if it were not serious. But HPV infection can have very serious consequences.

HPV infection causes nearly all cervical cancers, and cancers of the vulva, vagina, penis, anus, and throat. Two strains (“types”) of HPV, called HPV16 and HPV18, are responsible for about 70% of cervical cancers and an even higher proportion of the other HPV-associated cancers. Two other HPV types, HPV6 and HPV11, cause about 90% of genital warts. The vaccine smeared by the Star’s article, Gardasil, prevents infection by these four strains of HPV.

In 2008, approximately 810,000 cases of cancer worldwide were attributable to HPV.

HPV infections in Canada annually result in 85,000 physician consultations for genital wart infections. 1,450 newly diagnosed cases of cervical cancer and 106,000 patients with cervical lesions that require expensive, painful treatment that can cause infertility and premature birth. In Canada, 380 women die from cervical cancer every year, many of them in the prime of life. HPV infections are a very real threat to the health of Canadians.

All of us must take very seriously the potential complications of any drug or vaccine. Gardasil was licensed only after its safety was studied in clinical trials with more than 29,000 persons. After licensing, reported side effects are collected in a vaccine safety database. Researchers studied that database after more than half a million doses of Gardasil had been administered. The only — and very rare — serious side effect of HPV vaccines that they identified was allergic reactions. Public health officials who continue to monitor these databases have not found evidence of any other serious side effects.

The Star presented the stories of people who have suffered. But the cause of their suffering has not been established. Approximately 169 million doses of the HPV vaccine have been administered worldwide. In any given large population, there will be illness and death. This is a statistical fact. To attribute devastating, but not natural, occurrences to a vaccine requires evidence of causation, of which the Star article had none.

The Star’s article is of the sort that, quite frankly, causes despair among scientists. Scientists’ work is subject to rigorous peer review and detailed discussion of uncertainty and potential biases.

Journalists, however, are held to different standards, one of which is to be engaging. Who couldn’t be engaged by an article in which young women are depicted as haunted by the specter of a multinational pharmaceutical company surreptitiously working to cause them serious harm and death?

Clearly the women and their families have suffered greatly. The Toronto Star article is engaging and dramatic. Yet study after study shows that there is no link between the kinds of events the Star reported and the vaccine. In fact, wrongly attributing blame to the vaccine might discourage doctors from looking for the causes of the serious events that affected the young women.

When such articles appear, we all lose. Pseudoscience and misinformation create only damage. We hope Star readers will continue to rely on evidence-based public health recommendations to protect all our children from cancer.

Juliet Guichon, of the University of Calgary, has been honoured by the Canadian Medical Association and Canadian Public Health Association for HPV vaccine related work. Dr. Rupert Kalil is a Professor in the Departments of Medicine and Immunology, and the Head of the Division of Infectious Diseases at the University of Toronto. This response is endorsed by 47 specialists in infectious disease, public health or related health sciences.

Co-authors — in alphabetical order (N=48)
Science shows HPV vaccine has no dark side

To attribute rare devastating occurrences to a vaccine requires evidence of causation, which the Star didn't have in its article on Gardasil.
Given the power of HPV vaccine to prevent disease and death, a long Toronto Star article that appears to suggest that the HPV vaccine causes harm is troubling and disappointing, write Juliet Guichon and Dr. Rupert Kaul.

By: Juliet Guichon Dr. Rupert Kaul Published on Wed Feb 11 2015

The HPV vaccine was created to prevent an infection that causes cancer. That is pretty exciting. After all, Terry Fox’s arduous marathon a day was to raise money for a cancer cure. Did he even imagine that we would have a vaccine to prevent cancer?

Given the power of HPV vaccine to prevent disease and death, a long Toronto Star article that appears to suggest that the HPV vaccine causes harm is troubling and disappointing. Although the article states in the fifth paragraph that “there is no conclusive evidence showing the vaccine caused a death or illness,” its litany of horror stories and its innuendo give the incorrect impression that the vaccine caused the harm.

Very unfortunately, this article may well lead readers to doubt both the scientific evidence and the recommendations of the Public Health Agency of Canada, the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization, and the Canadian Cancer Society about vaccination.

The Star story states that some people became sick and even died after being vaccinated against HPV infection. Yet, after HPV vaccination, some people might have won a major scholarship or the lottery. Does this mean the vaccine caused the award or the ticket? Probably not!
69 Signatures

School of Occupational and Public Health, Ryerson University, Toronto
69. Jeff Kwong, MD MSc CCFP FRCP, Associate Professor, Dept. of Family & Community Medicine, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto
Followed up by request for retraction

Canadian Alliance to Support Immunization

February 18, 2015
Mr. John D. Cruickshank
Publisher
Toronto Star Newspapers Limited
1 Yonge Street
Toronto, ON M5E 1E6

Dear Mr. Cruickshank,

On behalf of the Canadian Alliance to Support Immunization (CASII), we write to thank you for the opportunity provided by your editors to address misunderstandings created by the front page story February 5, 2015 “HPV vaccine Gardasil has a dark side investigation finds” and its accompanying colour photographs and on-line video. Many CASII members authored or endorsed the article that the Star published February 11, “Science shows that the HPV vaccine has no dark side”.

Thank you also for amending the headline of the original article so that it now reads, “Families seek more transparency on HPV vaccine”, and for inserting in the original article these qualifications:

“This article has come under global criticism by the medical and public health communities for not making clear the scientific evidence of the safety of the HPV vaccine (Gardasil). There is no scientific medical evidence of any “dark side” of this vaccine.”

Public Editor’s column: The Toronto Star acknowledges it failed in not giving proper weight to evidence-based science in this article.

Editor’s Note-February 13, 2015: The original headline on this story has been edited to reflect a better description of the story’s content.

READ REBUTTAL OP-ED: Doctors say the HPV vaccine is proven safe

We appreciate also your candid statement to the CBC: “We failed.” Toronto Star publisher says the paper’s HPV vaccine article let down readers.

Nevertheless, the Star’s original article remains on your website with its colour photographs, and the video remains accessible there with young women speaking and music playing in the background, all of which continues to suggest

women suffered.

There is almost certainly harming the public’s confidence in vaccination and stark contrast to the myriad of evidence-based recommendations made by national medical bodies.

We write respectfully to:

Immediately retract the article and video, and remove them from the Star website;

Work with our organization to create guidelines that might prevent future media vaccine attacks that are not based on reliable scientific evidence; and

Publish a “news investigation” of 6 cases of vaccine-preventable diseases that occurred in unimmunized children, in which at least one person died. The Star should state the evidence-based likelihood that vaccination would have prevented the illness or death. The article ought to be accompanied by the patient or family member’s story and photos, along with an on-line version with video with sad music. We will help the Star find the cases so that it might interview those involved.

The third request stems from our acceptance that volumes of peer-reviewed research including meta-analyses often cannot compete with the power of anecdote, and that it is important to attempt to put the Star’s readership in the position it would have been had the original article not been published.

We look forward to hearing from you at PublicHealthInfor@gmail.com by February 22, 2015.

Thank you very much.

Yours sincerely,

1. Juliet Guichon BA, MA BCL SJJD, University of Calgary, Assistant Professor, Cumming School of Medicine
2. Rupert Kaul is a Professor in the Departments of Medicine and Immunology, and the Head of the Division of Infectious Diseases at the University of Toronto.
3. David Scheifele OC MD, Professor of Pediatrics, UBC and Director, Vaccine Evaluation Center, BC Children’s Hospital, Vancouver
A note from the publisher

Published on Fri Feb 20 2015

On Feb. 5, the Toronto Star published a Page 1 article with the headline "A wonder drug's dark side" beneath a "Star investigation" label.

The article focused on several young women who had grown sick sometime after taking the anti-papillomavirus vaccine Gardasil.

The story included the caveat that none of these instances had been conclusively linked to the vaccine.

However, the weight of the photographs, video, headlines and anecdotes led many readers to conclude the Star believed its investigation had established a direct connection between a large variety of ailments and the vaccine.

Some doctors and public health officials were troubled by the story treatment and by the lack of reference to the many studies which conclude the risks of Gardasil are low.

All major studies conducted after widespread inoculations began in 2006 have concluded the risks posed by Gardasil are no greater than those identified in the trial period before the vaccine was licensed and accepted for widespread use.
These include a study by researchers from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and an analysis of Gardasil safety issues in 37 countries by the World Health Organization’s Collaborating Centre for International Drug Monitoring, published in 2011. As well, an abstract from a Canadian study of the results of several million inoculations between 2006 and 2010 was presented to American Public Health Association meetings in 2013.

The Star story also drew responses from health researchers who praised the Star’s attempts to sift through data in which the red flag of an undiscovered side-effect might be found.

No drug is absolutely safe for all people in all conditions of health. Now that tens of millions of young women have taken the vaccine, it is conceivable that very rare reactions may emerge that weren’t identified earlier.

All vaccines, including Gardasil, have side-effects. The better known they are, the more safely the vaccine can be deployed.

This is what the article sought to achieve as well as to note that acknowledged risks are not always properly communicated.

We remain committed to this line of reporting. However, we have concluded that in this case our story treatment led to confusion between anecdotes and evidence.

For that reason, the Gardasil story package of Feb. 5 will be removed from our website.
False Claims

1. Toronto Star
2. University of Toronto anthropology
University of Toronto instructor and speaker boosts 'alternative vaccines'

A homeopath who promotes ineffective "alternative vaccines" and counsels patients about the dangers of immunization is an instructor at the University of Toronto and a headline speaker at a university-sponsored conference on non-traditional health care on Saturday.

The university is facing intense criticism from public health experts who question why it is aligning itself with an anti-vaccine advocate and sponsoring a conference focusing on alternative health care, homeopathy and unproven complementary therapies.

MORE RELATED TO THIS STORY

- Queen's anti-vaccine instructor will no longer teach Health 102 course
- Harper unveils foreign vaccination funding, chides anti-vaxxers
- Queen's instructor assailed for anti-vaccine teaching granted leave
On Saturday, Ms. Landau-Halpern is slated to speak at the Population Health and Policy Conference at the Scarborough campus. The event — sponsored by the University of Toronto International Health Program, a non-profit student organization, the anthropology/health studies department, and others — also features a naturopath who claims to treat cancer, heart disease and fibromyalgia with vitamin injections.

In a mailed response to an interview request, Ms. Landau-Halpern said she was unavailable to comment on Friday. She added: "I in no way consider myself to be an authority. It is always in an advanced and individualized approach to vaccination."

Blackburn-Evans, director of media relations at U of T, said the university encourages faculty and students to engage in "controversial topics in their research and scholarship" and that the school is "committed to the principles and policies of academic freedom and freedom of speech."

Conference organizers did not respond to a request for comment by late Friday.

Earlier this month, Queen's University in Kingston, Ont., was at the centre of controversy after students complained a health instructor included anti-vaccine information in course material. The instructor is on leave and will no longer teach the course.

Across Canada, more academic institutions are offering alternative health courses. The problem is that alternatives to evidence-based medicine are not rooted in science, says Timothy Caulfield, Canada Research Chair in health law and policy at the University of Alberta's School of Public Health. He worries about the consequences of holding events such as U of T's alternative health conference. "It's problematic when a university, an institution, lends credibility to these kinds of presentations with its name and support," he said. "Having University of Toronto's name next to their names on these [promotional] posters legitimizes their position and can be used to legitimize their unscientific views."

Dr. Freedhoff said he understands the importance of freedom of expression, especially on a university campus, but adds, "there really has to be a line that gets drawn somewhere."

Editor's Note: An earlier version of this story incorrectly stated Yoni Freedhoff is a professor at the University of Toronto. Dr. Freedhoff is an assistant professor at the University of Ottawa. This version has been updated.
March 1, 2015

Meric Gertler, PhD, FRSC, FAcSS, MCIP
President
University of Toronto
27 King’s College Circle,
Toronto, Ontario, M5S 1A1

Dear President Gertler,

Thank you very much for your long and distinguished service to the University of Toronto.

As you know, the University of Toronto is “committed to being an internationally significant research university, with undergraduate, graduate and professional programs of excellent quality.” We are concerned about the quality of one of the University’s undergraduate courses and respectfully request that you inquire into this matter.

We refer to the course titled, “Alternative Health: Practice and Theory, HLTD04H3-S, Special Topics in Health”. We have examined only the syllabus, which, on its face, raises a number of concerns. A significant concern is its presentation of vaccine safety and efficacy; we draw your attention to Week 9 (the week after next), the reading for which is pasted below:

Week 9 March 12
Vaccination – the King of Controversy

Sincerely,
[Signature]
38. Anthony B. Schryvers, Ph.D., M.D., Professor, Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Infectious Diseases, Faculty of Medicine

39. James R. Smiley, Professor, Dept. of Medical Microbiology & Immunology, University of Alberta, Canada Research Chair in Molecular Virology

40. Marc Steben, M.D Medical advisor, Sexually Transmitted Disease Unit, Québec national public health institute

41. Dr. Robert Strang, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Department of Health and Wellness, Halifax, Nova Scotia

42. Jordan Tustin, HBSc Biology, BASc Public Health, CPHI (C)- Certified Public Health Inspector (Canada), MHSc Epidemiology, PhD candidate Epidemiology

43. Mary Yearncombe, MD, FRCPC, Medical Director, Infection Prevention and Control, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, University of Toronto

44. Brian J Ward MSc, DTM&H, MDCM, Professor of Medicine & Microbiology, McGill University

45. Tania Watts, Ph.D. Professor and Sanofi Pasteur in Human Immunology, University of Toronto

Cc. Trevor Young, MD, PhD, FRCPC, FCAHS Dean, Faculty of Medicine and Vice Provost, Relations with Health Care Institutions University of Toronto; ltrevar.young@utoronto.ca

Howard Hu M.D., M.P.H., Sc.D., Dean and Professor of Environmental Health, Epidemiology, and Global Health, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, dean.disph@utoronto.ca>
U of T investigates instructor over anti-vaccine course materials

CARLY WEEKS
The Globe and Mail
Published Tuesday, Mar. 03 2015, 9:19 PM EST
Last updated Tuesday, Mar. 03 2015, 9:21 PM EST

The Canadian Alliance to Support Immunization, a coalition of doctors and public health advocates, has sent a letter to University of Toronto president Meric Gertler this week urging him to scrutinize the alternative health course taught by homeopath Beth Landau-Halpern, which includes a video interview with disgraced anti-vaccine researcher Andrew Wakefield as required viewing. And on Tuesday, Howard Hu and Trevor Young, the deans of U of T’s Dalla Lana School of Public Health and its faculty of medicine, wrote an open letter stating that vaccine hesitancy and refusal is contributing to a rise in outbreaks of preventable diseases.

MORE RELATED TO THIS STORY
- University of Toronto instructor and speaker boosts ‘alternative vaccines’
- Queen’s anti-vaccine instructor will no longer teach Health 102
Overview of talk

1. Introduction
2. We protect what we value
3. Metaphors for public health
   1. Grandmother
   2. Valuable edifice
   3. A health promotion enterprise
4. Examples of defending public health
   1. Defending in-school vaccination
   2. Protecting vaccination from false claims
   3. Defending fluoridation
5. Conclusion
Defending Fluoridation

Dental decay:
  Infectious disease
  Most common disease of childhood
Calgarians vote for fluoridation in two plebiscites, 1989 and 1998
10 Calgary city councilors voted to cease fluoridation against medical advice, Feb 2011
APTP Clinic Referrals for Dental Infections have increased EIGHT times

700% increase in dental infections needing IV antibiotics at ACH

Flouride removed from Calgary water
Strategy

• Started defending fluoridation in July 2017
• Amplify the voice of public health
• Quiet the voice of non-experts
Calgarians for Kids’ Health

Fluoridate for Health!

Calgary’s natural water fluoridation needs supplementation to help protect Calgary’s Health. Calgary’s 2011 decision to cease supplementing its drinking water with fluoride has negatively affected the health of Calgarians.

New York, Los Angeles, Miami, Sydney Australia, Hong Kong and Singapore fluoridate. Let’s improve the health of Calgarians with fluoridation!
MEDIA ADVISORY

September 22, 2017

Calgary dentists, orthodontist, doctors, parents and grandparents call on City Council candidates to pledge to reinstate fluoridation

(Calgary, AB) Journalists are invited to a news conference Monday, September 25 at 10 a.m. at the Parkdale Community Hall, 3512 - 5th Avenue N.W.

A concerned citizens’ group is urging Calgary mayoralty and City Council candidates to pledge to reinstate community water fluoridation to help protect children, seniors and other citizens against dental decay. Fluoridation was approved by plebiscite in 1989, instituted in 1991 and approved again in a 1998 plebiscite.

This group of dental and pediatric specialists, parents and grandparents is alarmed by the decreasing oral health of many Calgarians since our fluoridation programme was
Citizen group wants water fluoridation to be election issue in Calgary

Members of the group Calgarians For Kids Health speak to reporters on Monday. The group is hoping to make an election issue on the question of whether fluoride should be put back into the city's drinking supply. (Dave Will/CBC)

A Calgary citizens group is working to make putting fluoride back in the city's drinking water a civic election issue.

Members of Calgarians For Kids Health — which they say is made up of dental and pediatric specialists, along with everyday parents and grandparents — are asking candidates running in the Oct. 16 vote to pledge to re-introduce fluoride into the water supply should they be elected.
Opinion: Children's teeth are paying the price for the cancellation of fluoridation in Calgary

By June Dabbagh, Leagh Harfield, Wendy Street-Wadey and Juliet Guichon

As the school year draws to an end, it is time to consider how Calgary has been treating its children lately. In one respect, the answer is not well at all.

Calgary city council decided in 2011 to cease adjusting the fluoride levels in Calgary.
John Larter editorial cartoon /CALGARY

Calgary Herald, June 2018
The Tooth
About Water Fluoridation

Ask The Experts:
Saturday, October 27th
Knox United Church 11 am to 1 pm
Doors open 10 am to 2 pm
Free Dental Screening For Kids

www.fluoridation.care

CALGARIANS FOR KIDS’ HEALTH
Opinion: It was a mistake to drop fluoridation in Calgary, so bring it back

Calgary Coun. Jeromy Farkas was right to say fluoridation should be reinstated. But we don’t need another plebiscite to know what Calgarians want. Two fluoridation plebiscites, in 1989 and 1998, established that Calgary wants fluoridation.

For 20 years (1991-2011), people now aged eight to 28, benefited from strong teeth, good oral health and no harm.
Calgary city council to weigh fluoride study

Coun. Diane Colley-Urquhart will bring back motion defeated two years ago

If at first you don't succeed, Coun. Diane Colley-Urquhart says — try, try again.

In 2016, the veteran Calgary city councillor failed to convince her colleagues to take a look at the impacts of the city's decision to stop water fluoridation.

During Monday's council meeting, she will bring forward the exact same motion to see if her colleagues want to revisit the fluoride issue.
City council voted decisively Monday to revisit the issue of fluoride in Calgary’s drinking water, even as elected members acknowledged the risk of reopening a longstanding public debate that has attracted.

Council voted 13-2 to review new evidence on the merits of fluoridation gathered by the University of Calgary’s O’Brien Institute for Public Health in a report that will be presented at city hall in June.

to reopen the topic of fluoridation — three years after a similar move was rejected in a 10-4 vote.

The veteran councillor said she expects that a future public hearing on the matter could last for “days” based on the intense public reaction she received to her notice of motion that prompted Monday’s debate.
Held Dental Screening Event June 2019
Med student Emily Cooley shares a story about her recent anesthesiology rotation where she confronted child patients undergoing dental surgery due to complications from tooth decay. Says physicians rarely get political, but says there are "consequences" to denying fluoridation.
COURT FILE NUMBER
1901-18479

COURT
COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH OF ALBERTA

JUDICIAL CENTRE
CALGARY

APPLICANT
DR. ROBERT C. DICKSON

RESPONDENTS
COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS & SURGEONS OF ALBERTA (COMPLAINTS REVIEW COMMITTEE)

DOCUMENT

ADDRESS FOR SERVICE AND CONTACT INFORMATION OF PARTY FILING THIS DOCUMENT

AFFIDAVIT
BENNETT JONES LLP
4500 Bankers Hall East
855 – 2nd Street SW
Calgary, AB T2P 4K7

Attention: Matthew J. Macdonald/Jaspreet K. Singh
Telephone No.: (403) 298-3664
Fax No.: (403) 265-7219
Client File No.: 000052.09908
Investigation

15. I provided my written response to the College on October 8, 2019 in accordance with the requested deadline in their letter of September 10, 2019. Preparing my written response required a significant amount of time, effort, and emotional energy.

16. Mr. Macdonald has advised me, and I do verily believe, that the investigation may require me to undergo an interview, provide further written responses as requested by the College throughout the investigation, or both.

17. The prospect of being under investigation by the College is very distressing for me. Although I was unaware of the Complaint until it was dismissed, I was very relieved when the Complaints Director dismissed it in February 2019. The Complaint and associated process, including the preparation of an initial written response and the prospect of an interview or another written response, has caused me not only inconvenience, but also stress and mental harm.

18. Furthermore, I am particularly concerned that being under investigation by the College for my participation in the water fluoridation debate negatively affects the exercise of my freedom of expression and participation in the public policy debate on fluoridated water at a particularly critical time in the public policy debate. Recently, the issue of fluoridation of Calgary's water supply is at the forefront of Calgary's public policy issues, reaching the height of debate as key information is being assessed and decisions made. I recognize that
APTP Clinic Referrals for Dental Infections have increased EIGHT times

700% increase in dental infections needing IV antibiotics at ACH

Flouride removed from Calgary water
Battle continues

• Advocated continuously
• Matter has gone to city water engineering for cost estimate
• Will go to finance committee June 1
• Stay tuned …
Overview of talk

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   3. A health promotion enterprise
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   1. Defending in-school vaccination
   2. Protecting vaccination from false claims
   3. Defending fluoridation
5. Conclusion
PREVENT DISEASE
Governments should fund not just offence but defence
Because government must expect that this can happen
Defenders must monitor and work against people moving toward the wrong goal.

Not preventing disease and death (promoting disease and death)
Thank you
Questions?
“Edward Jenner performing the first Smallpox Vaccination”
Gaston Melingue oil on canvas, 1879