



Elizabeth Hart <eliz.hart25@gmail.com>

Re: Australian Academy of Science – Vaccination/Immunisation

From: **Elizabeth Hart** <eliz.hart25@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Jan 8, 2013 at 5:00 PM

Subject: Re: Australian Academy of Science - Vaccination/Immunisation

To: dewhurst@wehi

Cc: cory@wehi, tonybasten@, fcarbone@unimelb, wendy.freeman@uq, i.frazer@uq, patrick@ichr.uwa, julie.leask@health.nsw.gov.au, julie.leask@sydney, peterm@chw, t.nolan@, judith.whitworth@anu, idg@unimelb, fiona.stanley@uwa, r.williamson@unimelb, martin.callinan@science, stephen.pincock@journalist, beatemies@

For the attention of:

Sir Gus Nossal

Chair of the Oversight Committee for the Australian Academy of Science publication

[The Science of Immunisation: Questions and Answers](#)

Sir Gus

Further to my email yesterday requesting your assistance in obtaining public access to disclosure statements for members of the Australian Academy of Science's **The Science of Immunisation Working Group**, i.e detailing any possible conflicts of interest.

By way of background to my interest in this area, please see below my email to Dr Martin Callinan, Science Policy Manager of the Australian Academy of Science. In my email to Dr Callinan I refer to my correspondence on:

- [HPV vaccination](#);
- [the second arbitrary dose of the live MMR vaccine](#);
- [opposition to lab-engineering of potentially lethal pathogens](#) (re the influenza industry);
- [the political and ethical implications of lethal virus development](#) (re the influenza industry).

I have also participated in discussions relevant to the vaccination debate on the university and CSIRO sponsored [The Conversation](#) website, i.e.

- [Catch cancer? No thanks, I'd rather have a shot!](#)
- [Study should dispel HPV vaccine myths](#)
- ['Toxins' in vaccines: a potentially deadly misunderstanding](#)
- [Preaching to the unconverted: immunisation risks and public health](#)
- [Parents' decisions about vaccination and the art of gentle persuasion](#)
- [Measles outbreak calls for vaccination vigilance](#)
- [No, you're not entitled to your opinion](#)
- [Yes, you are entitled to your opinion...and I want to hear it](#)
- [Help needed: can you fix the science/society divide?](#)
- [Peer review: Bad Pharma by Ben Goldacre](#)
- [Vaccine-resistant whooping cough takes epidemic to new level](#)
- [Preventing over-diagnosis: how to stop harming the healthy](#)
- [Explainer: flu season 2012](#)
- [Censoring influenza research: gagging scientists could put lives at risk](#)

- [Where does misinformation come from, and what does it do?](#)
- [Comments on commenting](#)

As also noted in my email to Martin Callinan (see below), my interest in human vaccination was initiated after I started investigating over-vaccination of companion animals. See for example my article: [Over-vaccination of pets - an unethical practice](#) circulated in June 2009. Over-vaccination of companion animals, and exploitation of pet owners, is big business, worth billions on an international basis. **My experience in this area is informing my investigation into lucrative over-vaccination of humans, as there are interesting comparisons to be made.**

Sir Gus, in the interests of transparency and accountability, I would appreciate an early response to my enquiry to the Australian Academy of Science.

Yours sincerely
Elizabeth Hart

** Note: Email to Martin Callinan (below) has been modified to include hyperlinks*

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Elizabeth Hart** <eliz.hart25@gmail.com>
 Date: Mon, Jan 7, 2013 at 9:28 PM
 Subject: Re: Australian Academy of Science - Vaccination/Immunisation
 To: martin.callinan@science
 Cc: beatemies@

Martin

Further to our discussion today, I am considering the Australian Academy of Science's publication "[The Science of Immunisation: Questions and Answers](#)" and will forward my queries in regards to the content of this publication in due course. The Australian Academy of Science has taken it upon itself to engage in this matter, so it can expect to be held accountable.

As mentioned during our discussion, I am not 'anti-vaccination', rather I am pro-evidence based medicine/practice.

I consider individual vaccines on their own merits, and it seems to me there are some very questionable vaccine products out there (e.g. flu vaccines, HPV and others), and a lot of lucrative 'over-vaccination' going on. And some very cosy relationships between academia and industry. I attended the [6th International Veterinary Vaccines and Diagnostics Conference](#) in Cairns last year and it was very interesting to be an independent observer at this mutually beneficial love-in of academics and pharma industry reps, not to mention so-called 'regulators'.

I'm also interested in the relationships between the vaccine industry and organisations such as the WHO, CDC, NIH, GAVI etc. There are forces working very hard to set up a massive international vaccine market in developed and developing countries, and I'm not sure all of it is justifiable.

Letters I have written regarding HPV vaccination, the second dose of the live MMR vaccine, and the influenza industry are pertinent to my argument, e.g.:

- [Is universal HPV vaccination necessary?](#) (a letter addressed to Chris Mitchell, Editor in Chief of The Australian in response to an article referring to HPV vaccination).
- [Questions re the Ethics of Australian Government Mandated Vaccination](#) (re the arbitrary second dose of the live MMR vaccine) addressed to Federal Health Minister Tanya Plibersek. **The Minister's office has refused to respond to my letter.**
- [A submission to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) re Opposition to Lab-engineering of Potentially Lethal Pathogens (re the influenza industry).
- [An open letter to the US National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity \(NSABB\)](#) re the political and ethical implications of lethal virus development (re the influenza industry).

As also mentioned during our discussion, I have been investigating and campaigning on over-vaccination of pets for the past four years (after the death of my dog after unnecessary vaccination). Consumer watchdog CHOICE took up the matter in 2010, refer to this article: [Pet vaccination: Over-vaccinating your pet could be harmful to their health](#) as well as your own hip pocket.

Along with my colleague Bea Mies, I have undertaken extensive correspondence with the Australian Veterinary Association, Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority, the World Small Animal Veterinary Association, British and American veterinary associations, British and American regulators, academics, industry representatives etc. For example, here is a link to a list of [some of my correspondence with the UK Veterinary Medicines Directorate](#).

As a result of the efforts of Bea Mies and myself, vaccination protocols have been changed, and vaccine manufacturers' vaccine product labels are being updated.

For information here is a link to [my submission](#) to the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons re Professional Conduct and Companion Animal Vaccination Practice, which includes a list of hyperlinks to much of the material I have produced on this topic.

Over-vaccination of companion animals, and exploitation of pet owners, is big business, worth billions on an international basis. **My experience in this area is informing my investigation into lucrative over-vaccination of humans, as there are interesting comparisons to be made.**

Regards
Elizabeth Hart

This email to Sir Gus Nossal was also copied to others associated with the Australian Academy of Science's publication [The Science of Immunisation: Questions and Answers](#) i.e.

- Professor Suzanne Cory, President, Australian Academy of Science
- Science of Immunisation Working Group:
 - Professor Tony Basten (Co-Chair)
 - Professor Francis Carbone
 - Professor Ian Frazer (Co-Chair)
 - Professor Patrick Holt
 - Dr Julie Leask
 - Professor Peter McIntyre
 - Professor Terry Nolan
 - Professor Judith Whitworth
- Science of Immunisation Oversight Committee:
 - Professor Ian Gust
 - Professor Fiona Stanley
 - Professor Robert Williamson
- Dr Martin Callinan, Science Policy Manager, Academy of Science
- Stephen Pincock, consulting science writer



Elizabeth Hart <eliz.hart25@gmail.com>

The Science of Immunisation: Questions and Answers

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Elizabeth Hart** <eliz.hart25@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Jan 7, 2013 at 3:43 PM

Subject: The Science of Immunisation: Questions and Answers

To: dewhurst@wehi

Cc: cory@wehi, tonybasten@, fcarbone@unimelb, wendy.freeman@uq, i.frazer@uq, patrick@ichr.uwa, julie.leask@sydney, julie.leask@health.nsw, peterm@chw, t.nolan@unimelb, judith.whitworth@anu, idg@unimelb, fiona.stanley@uwa, r.williamson@unimelb, martin.callinan@science, stephen.pincock@journalist, beatemies@

For the attention of:

Sir Gus Nossal,

Chair of the Oversight Committee for the Australian Academy of Science publication **The Science of Immunisation: Questions and Answers**.

Sir Gus

Early in December 2012 I forwarded an email to Professor Suzanne Cory enquiring if disclosure statements for members of The Science of Immunisation Working Group, i.e. detailing any possible conflicts of interest, are publicly available on the Australian Academy of Science website. (See email below.)

As yet I have not received a response to my enquiry. (I spoke to Dr Martin Callinan of the Academy of Science about this matter today and he informs me there is a backlog of correspondence to be dealt with...)

I suggest it is essential that detailed disclosure statements be publicly accessible.

Sir Gus, in your role as Chair of the Oversight Committee I am sure you are aware of the importance of transparency and accountability to the public on this matter.

I would appreciate a prompt formal response to my enquiry and hope that you can assist in this regard.

Yours sincerely

Elizabeth Hart

cc:

Professor Suzanne Cory, President, Australian Academy of Science

Science of Immunisation Working Group:

Professor Tony Basten (Co-Chair)

Professor Francis Carbone

Professor Ian Frazer (Co-Chair)

Professor Patrick Holt

Dr Julie Leask

Professor Peter McIntyre

Professor Terry Nolan

Professor Judith Whitworth

Science of Immunisation Oversight Committee:

Professor Ian Gust

Professor Fiona Stanley

Professor Robert Williamson

Dr Martin Callinan, Science Policy Manager, Academy of Science

Stephen Pincock, consulting science writer

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Elizabeth Hart** <eliz.hart25@gmail.com>

Date: Sun, Dec 9, 2012 at 8:49 PM

Subject: The Science of Immunisation: Questions and Answers

To: cory@wehi

Cc: tonybasten@, wendy.freeman@uq, beatemies@

Professor Cory

I am currently reading **The Science of Immunisation: Questions and Answers**.

I note that the membership of the Working Group who prepared the questions and answers, and the Oversight Committee of Academy Fellows, is listed on the last page.

Can you please advise if disclosure statements for these people, i.e. detailing any possible conflicts of interest, are publicly available on the Australian Academy of Science website?

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely
Elizabeth Hart