

## **Newsletter 25 Review of the SBS Program “Jabbed” and the COI in Vaccination Policy**

**14 June 2013**

The program “Jabbed” presented in Australia on SBS TV (26<sup>th</sup> May 2013) was presented as a scientific program on vaccines yet it was notable for the lack of scientific evidence presented to demonstrate that vaccines are ‘safe and effective’. This film used ‘fear and emotion’ of the diseases to promote vaccines and it did not provide any transparent data or statistics to support the conclusion that “the benefits of vaccines outweigh the risks.” It was full of ‘statements’ (opinion) about the benefits of vaccines and ‘theories’ about how they worked but no empirical evidence of their safety and efficacy.

In fact the biggest misleading statement about the use of vaccines is on the Australian Government’s website. The government has incorrectly used the word ‘immunisation’ when ‘vaccination’ is the appropriate word to use. These 2 words have very different meanings and they cannot be used interchangeably – as the government has done. Here are the differences between these two words:

<http://vaccinationdecisions.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Definition-of-vaccination-terms-for-website-130303.pdf>

I have provided here a summary of the program ‘Jabbed – Love, Fear and Vaccines’ (SBS 26<sup>th</sup> May 2013) and more detailed information below:

### **Summary:**

- 1) The film relied on anecdotal evidence (individual stories) of the dangers of whooping cough and measles. These were emotional stories to make people fearful of the diseases and they do not represent the scientific evidence that is used to make public health policy.
- 2) The program described the procedure of ‘vaccination’ as “folk medicine handed down through the generations”. It did not present any scientific- evidence of its effectiveness with data from:
  - I. Random controlled clinical trials of vaccinated and unvaccinated participants to demonstrate that vaccines protect against infectious diseases or

- II. Models of the level of antibody titre induced by vaccines that is needed to protect against each infectious disease.
  - III. Transparent data on the number of vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals who are hospitalised with these diseases.
- 3) It described the theory of vaccine created herd immunity but did not provide any evidence that vaccines can actually create herd immunity. Here are the reasons why 'vaccine created herd immunity' is a unproven theory
- <http://www.vaccinationdecisions.net/resources/Questioning%20Herd%20Immunity%20Created%20by%20Vaccination.pdf>

The SBS film was created with the assistance of Professor Robert Booy, co-director of the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS) and A/Prof Julie Leask, also from the government NCIRS.

**Here are the unsupported claims that have been made in this film:**

- "Diseases will return if parents stop vaccinating". Yet it did not provide evidence that vaccines controlled infectious diseases or evidence of the number of vaccinated and unvaccinated children that catch the diseases and are admitted to hospital. It simply stated "it is indisputable that vaccines have prevented thousands of deaths and illnesses." Yet the historical evidence clearly shows infectious diseases were controlled before most vaccines were used. Here is the evidence  
<http://www.vaccinationdecisions.net/resources/Comments%20by%20Public%20Health%20Officials%201900%20-%202000.pdf>
- The program focused on emotional cases of infectious diseases e.g. an infant with whooping cough and an adult with measles. This is anecdotal evidence and not the type of evidence that public health policies are designed on. At the same time it was claimed in the program that the information that is spread on the internet focuses on "emotional stories about the dangers of vaccines" and "these stories go viral on the net and get exaggerated as they are passed around". Yet *Jabbed* only presented emotional stories of infectious diseases and not scientific evidence of the effectiveness of vaccines.

- It was stated that the “internet is increasing fears about vaccines” yet mainstream media (TV and newspapers) are promoting vaccines on the “fear” of infectious diseases. *Jabbed* used anecdotal evidence (stories about children with whooping cough, pneumococcal disease and measles) to promote vaccines “for the community good”. It did not provide the statistics which demonstrate the ‘risk of these diseases to the majority of children’ in specific countries. It even claimed that “Whooping cough (pertussis) is re-emerging after 50 years”. Our public health knowledge of whooping cough does not support this claim as whooping cough is a common infection that was not a serious risk to most children in Australia after 1950.
- It was claimed in the film that “the vast majority of measles cases (in the outbreak in UK) were unvaccinated”. There was no evidence provided for this statement and the public is required to “believe” this claim without proof. This is not evidence-based science. In addition, the child who died of pneumococcal disease in the US did not have a spleen and this made the child more susceptible to the disease than most children. This is anecdotal evidence (a story) that is not representative of the risk of the disease to the majority of children.
- The program used worldwide statistics of death and illness to infectious diseases even though the government scientific advisors who assisted the producer, Professor Robert Booy and A/Prof Julie Leask from the NCIRS, know that the risk of infectious diseases varies significantly between countries due to different environmental and lifestyle factors.
- The program described the procedure of ‘vaccination’ as “folk medicine handed down through the generations”. It did not present any scientific- evidence of its effectiveness with data from:
  - IV. Random controlled clinical trials of vaccinated and unvaccinated participants to demonstrate that vaccines protect against infectious diseases or
  - V. Models of the level of antibody titre induced by vaccines that is needed to protect against each infectious disease.
- In 1790 Edward Jenner used cowpox to protect against smallpox but the effectiveness of this vaccine was never tested in controlled clinical trials. The elimination of smallpox was assisted by the special characteristics of the virus that

make it less contagious than other viruses such as measles. This meant that isolating cases of smallpox was effective in controlling this disease once sanitation, hygiene and nutrition were improved in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. A vaccine had been around for 150 years before this disease was eliminated. Smallpox vaccine was responsible for many illnesses and deaths as described by Alfred Russell Wallace in the 1890 and in the USA experiment on health workers in 2003 which had to be stopped due to deaths and other serious neurological reactions.

- Paul Offit (holder of a patent for Rotovirus vaccine and consultant to Merck pharmaceutical company) suggested 'people are not sophisticated enough to understand how vaccines work' and hence they are fearful of the vaccines. This is patronising to the public and there is no mention in this film of the ingredients of vaccines that are being injected into the tissues of infants with each vaccine.
- Gustav Nossal presented the theory of how vaccines work but no evidence that they actually do work. Where were the models of antibody titre from trials of vaccinated and unvaccinated participants proving that vaccines protect against disease?
- The film described the theory of 'herd immunity' but provided no evidence that 'vaccine created' herd immunity works. It is known that herd immunity can be created by 'natural exposure' to the infectious organism but there are many reasons why vaccine created herd immunity may not work in practice.
- An increase in the number of measles cases can be created by a change in the monitoring of the disease. For example increasing the surveillance of measles or changing the case definition of the disease can increase the number of cases of a disease in an area. This program did not produce transparent evidence for any statistics produced in the film.
- Adverse events after vaccines were described as 'extremely rare'. This is not a quantity or an accurate estimate of the frequency of events that are occurring. Government regulators that are being funded by industry (e.g. US FDA and Australia's TGA) have not designed surveillance systems to accurately determine causal events and the frequency of these events (Prof. Peter Collignon 2010).
- Scientists at the Florey Institute have postulated a theory that a 'mutated gene' is the cause of the seizures that occur in some children after vaccination and most

likely the cause of autism as well. These scientists believe it is just a 'coincidence' that the onset of these conditions occurs after vaccination and that the vaccine is just the trigger for a disease that would occur in these children anyway. There have been no studies funded of vaccinated and unvaccinated children to prove with scientific-evidence that vaccines are not causing autism or other neurological conditions. Instead the public is expected to accept without proof the theory that has been postulated by the Florey Institute. This is not evidence-based science.

- Prof Ian Frazer and his team have taken the HPV vaccine to Tibet (Bhutan) to vaccinate all women against cervical cancer. This campaign occurred after 4 deaths to HPV vaccine in India. These were downplayed in the SBS program and there was no mention of the thousands of other serious adverse reactions that have been documented on the Sanevax website <http://sanevax.org/> including over 100 deaths globally. The parents who set up the SANEVAX website trusted the government and vaccinated their daughters yet Ian Frazer comments that 'people want to believe the vaccine is wrong for some reason'.

I ask Professor Frazer:

*"What motive would parents have for making up this information when these parents have dutifully vaccinated their daughters on government advice that this vaccine will prevent cervical cancer?"*

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