

Open Letter  
The University of Wollongong

VICE-CHANCELLOR PAUL WELLINGS

Dear Professor Wellings,

I am concerned about the libellous information being presented on Wikipedia about my UOW research. I am therefore requesting that the University of Wollongong (UOW) corrects the academic record on Wikipedia to ensure that comments about my research are truthful and accurate. In the UOW conduct rules it states that UOW is committed to *Academic Integrity*, including the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility, and this is why I chose to complete my research at UOW. It also states that 'Students and staff of UOW are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects these values'. In order to protect student's reputations it is necessary for universities to correct the false and misleading information about student research that is presented to the public by organised lobby groups.

The Wikipedia entry uses journalists comments and the personal opinions of individuals, to falsely disparage the validity of the scientific literature I am presenting. This is not proper scientific debate - it is a suppression of the literature using political strategies. My research has been assessed by clinical scientists, immunologists and public health experts *before* it was examined in humanities, and yet the public is being misinformed by professional lobby groups about the validity of my research.

Here is a summary of the information on Wikipedia that is preventing the public from receiving accurate information on vaccination – an issue central to population health:

- I have never been an 'anti-vaccination campaigner' and my research is promoting ***informed choice in vaccination***
- My thesis does not advance a 'conspiracy theory'. These are the words of journalists (Emily Laurence (ABC) and Kylar Loussikian (News Ltd)).
- In January 2016 professional lobby group activists requested that UOW assess its procedures for awarding PhD's after my thesis was published on the UOW website. UOW agreed to this request but stated that my thesis would not be investigated *because all the correct procedures had been followed in line with the high standards of scholarship by other Australian universities.*
- Alison Jones, the executive dean of the UOW Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health (and her colleagues) have used a political strategy of attempting to influence public opinion by presenting their personal opinions of vaccination on the UOW website. She has also published an article that attempts to suppress the scientific literature I am presenting <sup>1</sup>.
- In my thesis I provide evidence that "not all of the recommended vaccines are safe, effective or necessary" and that the combined schedule of vaccines is most likely doing more harm than good in the population through the increase in chronic illness such as autism, allergies, autoimmune diseases and other neurological damage. My poster presented to health professionals at the Australian Health Promotion conference in Perth in 2009 summarises these arguments and is attached to this letter.
- My research on the HPV vaccine that shows it is not safe, effective or necessary was published in the *Infectious Agents and Cancer* journal in 2013 and presented at two international conferences. Doctors/academics are entitled to present their personal opinions about my research but they should not be using disparaging and false comments to suppress scientific debate. Their personal opinions should be open for debate.
- In 2012 the whooping cough vaccine was promoted in the media by parents of a child who had died from whooping cough. This strategy to promote wc vaccine was used again in 2015.

The evidence from parents is considered 'anecdotal evidence' and it is not used to design public health policies. Therefore it should not be used to promote vaccines to the public in the media. In 2010-12 the Australian Skeptics lobby group provided financial awards to parents who were promoting vaccines to the public. I discussed these issues in a letter to the Australian Health Department in 2012 to ensure transparency in government policy, yet lobby group activists wilfully misinterpreted my comments in the mainstream media and on social blogs. I have never had any communication with the parents who are promoting vaccines in the media and my argument was that anecdotal evidence should not be used to promote vaccines to the public.

- UOW has informed me that it does not 'support or promote student research'. This should be stated on the UOW website because this is not the public's understanding of the role of universities. I was also unable to get funding for my independent research – *research that is in the public interest*. When the media started misrepresenting my research it became necessary for me to set up a website to promote my research and correct the misinformation provided by professional lobby groups. My website clearly states that I am an ***independent researcher promoting informed choice in the use of vaccines***.
- Professional lobby groups including the Australian Skeptics, the Friends of Science in Medicine (FSM) and SAVN, have used the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act to misinform the public about the validity of my research. John Dwyer is a member of the FSM who has disparaged my research in the mainstream media and John Cunningham is a leader of SAVN who has also made false and misleading comments and allegations about my research. Matthew Berryman is a UOW staff member and subscriber to the Skeptics groups/SAVN, and he misused his UOW title in 2012 to present misinformation about my research in the Wollongong media. His comments about my research were taken from a Skeptic's blog.
- Many of the comments on Wikipedia about my research are referenced to journalists such as Emily Laurence (ABC) and Kylar Loussikian (News Ltd) who have misinterpreted my research and never interviewed me for a comment.

In 2014 I chose UOW to research vaccines so I could participate in a scientific debate of this topic. Instead I am finding that journalists and the personal opinions of doctors/academics and a political smear campaign, are being used to suppress debate on this topic. This could be because universities are now largely sponsored by industry ***and many university departments receive equity in the sponsored projects***. The allocation of funding for different university projects is also influenced by industry sponsors. It has also been brought to my attention that, Robert Booy, co-director of the government NCIRS from 2005-2015, is a Vaxigrants judge for the \$100,000 grants being offered to Australian immunisation providers by Sanofi Pasteur to raise community immunisation rates 2. Is this practice transparent to the public who place their trust in medical practitioners to promote procedures that are ***in their best interests*** and not the best interests of industry?

How can universities promote ***Academic Integrity*** in the progression of knowledge if they are not required to support and promote all student research that is done in the public interest? These strategies are demonstrating the selection of science for academic debate and financial rewards to promote vaccines to the public. Both Robert Booy and Peter McIntyre (co-directors of the government NCIRS) have declined to attend a public debate to discuss mandatory vaccination policies *before* the policies were implemented 3. Population health is at risk if mandatory medical procedures cannot be openly debated.

Please could you address these questions for the public and ensure that that academic record about my research is corrected on Wikipedia to reflect the values that UOW promotes in its staff and student conduct policy. If you are unable to correct the entry in Wikipedia I would expect you to

fulfil the role of universities by publishing a press release to correct the false and misleading information about my research that is being framed to the public by professional lobby groups.

Yours Sincerely,

Judy Wilyman PhD

The Science and Politics of Australia's Vaccination Policies (<http://ro.uow.edu.au/theses/4541/>)

References:

1. <https://social-epistemology.com/2016/07/18/public-health-and-the-necessary-limits-of-advocacy-kevin-dew/#comments>
2. <https://www.retailpharmacymagazine.com.au/vaxigrants-raise-immunisation-rates/>
3. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=srTsNXUjRFM&feature=youtu.be>