

# AUTISM MEDIA CHANNEL

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Delivered Via Fax: 1-847-434-8000

June 17, 2016

Benard P. Dreyer, MD, FAAP, President, and  
Fernando Stein, MD, FAAP, President-Elect  
The American Academy of Pediatrics  
141 Northwest Point Boulevard  
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007-1098

Dear Drs. Dreyer and Stein:

The undersigned organizations have joined together to make a formal request to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) for a retraction of the 2004 article “Age at first measles-mumps-rubella vaccination in children with autism and school-matched control subjects: a population-based study in metropolitan Atlanta” (DeStefano F, Bhasin TK, Thompson WW, Yeargin-Allsopp M, Boyle C. *Pediatrics*. 2004 Feb;113(2):259-66).

Two years ago it was made public that Dr. Frank DeStefano, Dr. Marshallyn Yeargin-Allsopp, Dr. Colleen Boyle, and Dr. William Thompson, employees of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and Dr. Tanya Bhashin, a contractor to the agency committed egregious acts that violate the ethics of research and government policies.

In August 2014 the public learned: (1) a protocol was established prior to the onset of the study, from which it was agreed from the outset not to deviate; (2) the data showed a statistically significant correlation between the timing of the measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccine and autism, in particular in African American boys and children with “isolated” autism; (3) a determination was made to change the protocol with the specific intent of covering up the risk of autism following the MMR; (4) the authors intentionally destroyed study-related government documents in order to hide the autism finding; and (5) the published paper omitted the race findings.

As a result, for 10 years, the public, pediatricians world-wide, and policy makers were denied access to knowledge that delaying the MMR vaccine in African American boys from 18-24 months to 36 months reduced their risk of developing autism. Furthermore, the opportunity to investigate racial disparities in vaccine safety has been set back by a decade.

Co-author, Dr. Frank DeStefano confirmed to investigative journalist Sharyl Attkisson that the authors changed the study protocol mid-stream. The CDC also issued a statement confirming the omission of data from the article. In August 2014, Ms. Attkisson reported, “A spokesman for the journal *Pediatrics* today said the publication stands by the study despite the news. “There’s a standard process that journals follow when an article is questioned,” said the spokesman. “Those discussions took place between the editors of *Pediatrics* and the authors of this study, and the editors concluded the research was appropriately conducted.” Later reports by other media outlets suggest that only two of the authors were consulted, and not Dr. Thompson.

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Dr. Thompson, who now has federal whistleblower status has provided documents and statements to the United States Congress. Some of these documents have been made public, and confirm his allegations. A documentary, *Vaxxed from Cover-up to Catastrophe* details the allegations, includes segments of Dr. Thompson’s statements on audio; and a conclusion by Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine awardee Luc Montagnier M.D. that scientific fraud had occurred.

Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) now affect at least 1 in 42 boys. A half century ago, when autism was a rare disorder, doctor’s hypothesized that autism was because of ‘cold mothers’; a theory debunked by Dr. Bernard Rimland. Today, research has confirmed that some autism has a genetic basis, but that at least half are related to environmental factors such as air pollution, toxin exposure, and medications including vaccines. Furthermore, Vaccine Injury Compensation Programs in the United States and other countries have confirmed through compensation that vaccine induced brain injury resulting in ASD has occurred including with the MMR.

As President and President-elect of the AAP, and given the statement that Congressman Posey made on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives this year confirming that Dr. Thompson had spoken to him and shared documents which confirm his allegations, we ask that you officially retract the article, “Age at first measles-mumps-rubella vaccination in children with autism and school-matched control subjects: a population-based study in metropolitan Atlanta”.

The public’s trust in the CDC has been violated. We can only begin to heal this rift and restore trust by getting to the full truth and by correcting the record. It is unconscionable that the AAP would continue to align itself with the CDC and support this article given the mounting evidence of corruption and cover-up. Pediatricians and medical professional world-wide rely on the AAP’s journals and expect the organization to retract papers with even a hint of misconduct. There is much more than a hint of misconduct here.

Sincerely,



Polly Tommey, Founder  
Autism Media Channel

Dan Olmstead  
Age of Autism

Candace MacDonald  
Generation Rescue

Wendy Silvers  
Million Mamas Movement

John Gilmore  
Autism Action Network

Ginger Taylor  
Health Choice

Lisa Wiederlight  
SafeMinds

Teri Arranga  
Autism One

Nancy Cale  
Unlocking Autism

cc:

Lewis R. First, MD, Editor *Pediatrics*  
The Honorable William Posey, Member of Congress  
Thomas Frieden, MD, Director, CDC