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Report Says, **Vaccine Advisers Have Serious Conflicts**

By Glenn King, PhD, RD, CN

A report released December 17, 2009 finds the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have failed the job of screening medical experts concerning financial conflicts when the CDC hired them to advise the agency on vaccine safety, says officials.

An investigation found that most of the experts chosen to serve on advisory panels in 2007 for evaluating vaccines for flu and cervical cancer had direct conflicts that were never resolved, the report said. Some were legally barred from considering the issues, but did so anyway.

Daniel R. Levinson, the inspector general of the Department of Health and Human Services, found that the centers failed nearly every time to ensure that the experts adequately filled out forms confirming they were not being paid by companies with an interest in their decisions.

The report revealed that 64 percent of the advisers had conflicts of interest that were never identified or were left unresolved by the centers. Thirteen percent failed to have an appropriate conflicts form on file at the agency at all, which should have barred their participation in the meetings entirely, says Levinson. Additionally, three percent actually voted on matters that ethics officers had already barred them from considering.

The inspector general recommended that the centers do a far better job of screening. In a reply from Dr. Thomas R. Frieden, the agency's new director, he agreed.

"Since the period covered in this review, C.D.C. has strengthened the financial disclosures and conflict-of-interest process by instituting improved business processes and realigning responsibilities and oversight," says Dr. Frieden.

As numerous medicines have been pulled from the market in recent years, concerns are escalating that experts may be recommending medical products... even ones they know to be unsafe... in part because manufacturers are paying them.

As a result, government agencies, medical societies and medical journals have become increasingly insistent that experts disclose potential conflicts. And while the experts invariably insist that they have done so, government audits still routinely find large gaps between these disclosures and the experts' actual income from consulting.

Although Congress tightened the rules on outside consulting after similar conflicts were found among members of advisory panels to the Food and Drug Administration, little attention has been paid to the conflicts of advisers to the C.D.C.. This is despite the agency's committees having significant influence over what vaccines are sold in the

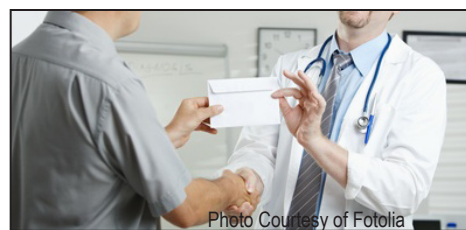


Photo Courtesy of Fotolia

United States, what tests are performed to detect cancer and how coal miners are protected.

Mr. Levinson identified that most of the advisers had either a job or a grant from a company or other entity whose interests were affected by the committees' discussions, and a considerable number actually owned stock in such companies.

Rosa DeLauro, a Connecticut Democrat Representative, said she had long been a supporter of the C.D.C. stated: "That is why I am so concerned about this report issued by the inspector general exposing serious ethics violations within the C.D.C. All members of the federal advisory committees, whose recommendations direct federal policy, should be without conflict of interest."

Government agencies are established by those we vote into office, for the protection of the public. This concept is from the founding fathers of this country. These agencies are servants of the people to look out for their welfare. The people are to hold these government agencies accountable by how they vote and by raising their voice to be heard when the job is not being accomplished. 🗣️

What the Massachusetts election means to your health

We do not publish views on political issues, although this issue is directly related to our health in the U.S. I think Dr. Robert J. Rowen, MD said it well enough to provide his quote.

"I tend to stay out of non-medical politics in my writings. But the recent win in Massachusetts of the long shot Republican is a most telling story, especially for Obamacare.

Senator Ted Kennedy was a stalwart champion of socialized medicine, and Big Brother sitting in between you and your doctor. He and Richard Nixon almost passed a medical bill that included the "public option" back in the 1970s. With due respect for him as a public servant, my thoughts on his health policies, I admit, were a bit jaded. He's from a very wealthy family. And as a Senator, he was given some of the best health insurance in the country (by you and me, I might add)! So no matter what he foisted upon you, he would always have access to the best medical care available. Or at least the best conventional care available.

Sadly, Mr. Kennedy died in the arms of conventional medicine, as do millions of Americans every year. He fought for more FDA rules and regulations, the very agency that seeks to destroy competition to Pharma. And, if Obamacare were to pass, likely millions more would die. That plan will force you into a government system that would drastically limit your choices. And all of those choices would be within conventional medicine.

I believe that concerned Americans are quickly waking up, as draconian government powers accelerate. They are tired of government officials ignoring them. They're tired of the fake and false promises that government is the solution. They are at last beginning to see it as the problem. Indeed, we were promised a most transparent show of "health care" issue discussions in the 2008 elections. But House and Senate

leaders attempted to iron out differences between their many hundreds of pages bills behind closed doors in secret.

Kudos to the largely "blue" Massachusetts for electing a minority candidate. To me, this was not a partisan election, Republican vs. Democrat. Those labels mean little to me. I believe that it was an awakening public speaking out and demanding that government be reined in. Brown focused on being the vote needed to filibuster Obamacare. That message resonated! I see this as a hopeful sign that people don't want the government this involved in medicine.

Except for a very few (Congressman Ron Paul — a strong defender of medical freedoms — comes to mind), most incumbents have grown fat on the government largesse. Voters should "throw the bums out" in every election until they learn that they are our servants, not our rulers. They have to learn that they cannot demand that we surrender our Freedoms for fake security. We have repeatedly seen what security the government has given us in return for surrender of freedoms. We have a bankrupt Social Security system, a bankrupt Medicare system, and a beyond bankrupt federal government. Would the Obamacare system have been any different given the Feds are batting a thousand with these other programs?

We also know Obamacare would be horrible for seniors. The Massachusetts election may have saved your access to much needed medical care. But it's not over yet. Please keep the pressure on your elected officials. They need to hear your voice more than ever," says Robert J. Rowen, MD. 🗣️

Upcoming TKM® Classes For 2010

Classes subject to change without notice.
For more information on classes or to register, visit the Calendar page at www.kinginstitute.org.

Special Announcement

The TKM® Textbook classes, Level 1 through Level 7, will have a five times increase in Early Registration (E.R.) discount.

It was \$50 discount for E.R., but for 2010 it will be \$250.

This is to help the economical situation of most people, because this information is too important to miss in these times of great need.

TKM®: EMT

Date: January 29

Location: Manila, PH.

Instructors: Rosemarie Glenn & Andrew Alarcon

Tuition: PS2,500 Contact: Marge: +63 917 510 4490

TKM®: EMT

Date: January 30

Location: Raytown, MO (Kansas City)

Instructor: Andrea EuDaly

Tuition: \$175 Deposit: \$85

TKM®: EMT / Self Help

Date: February 25-27

Location: Carrollton, TX

Instructors: Glenn King, PhD & Alphonzo Monzo, ND

Tuition: \$475 Deposit: \$240

TKM®: Level 1 and 2

Date: March 1 - 5

Location: Sebring, FL

Instructor: Jim Robertson, ND

Tuition: \$895 Deposit: \$450

Additional classes are listed online at:
www.kinginstitute.org

You may also register online.