

Universal Health Organisation (UHO)

Weekly Newsletter – 12 May 2023



The weekly newsletters bring the updates on the science, battered and bruised during the pandemic, legal updates and impact of activism for a just society, across the world. These are small steps to promote Transparency, Empowerment and Accountability – the ethos of the UHO.

The Lancet unhappy with the low impact of Covid-19 in India continues to misinform.

The Lancet, one of the world's top medical journals, seems unhappy with the low toll of Covid-19 in India compared to the West. In an [editorial dated 06 May 2023](#), it accused India of being “wholly untrustworthy” in reporting the number of deaths from Covid-19. The editorial makes sweeping statements about the political landscape in India raising doubts about democracy in India. It overlooks that in the pandemic, all democracies, including UK, where the Lancet is published, revealed fault-lines. Censorship of scientists who questioned the mainstream narrative was rampant, media was controlled and propaganda was profound, all signs of authoritarianism. The recent sacking of Andrew Bridgen a British MP from his party, for expressing concerns on the proposed [WHO Pandemic Treaty](#), bears testimony that Western democracies are faring worse.

The Lancet states that the official government figures place deaths at 530000 while the WHO excess death estimates are near 4.7 million. It conveniently overlooks that the WHO figures are based on dubious mathematical models in place of ground level robust data. For example, estimates of number of deaths in India from Covid-19 based on serosurvey data from the field reassure us that the Indian government figures are authentic. [Ioannides](#), early in the pandemic, based on population level serosurveys inferred that the infection fatality rate (IFR), for persons below 70 years was in the range of 0.03% to 0.04%. Majority of the Indian population, over 97% are below 70 years of age. As a rule of thumb if we apply the 0.04% IFR and extrapolate the rate to the total Indian population (around 1400000000), the total estimated deaths is 560000, very near to the official Indian figure of 530000 mentioned in the Lancet editorial. In fact, deaths in India may be still lower due to its much lower obesity rates compared to Western populations.

Politics in relation to health should stress the negative influence of politics & corruption in suppressing science. A BMJ editorial poignantly states that when good science is suppressed by politics and corruption, [people die](#). Papers published in leading Western medical journals, under the influence of politics and corruption misguided the world in adopting the same measures in poor countries with disastrous collateral harm. The Lancet itself has been responsible for the biggest publishing [scam](#) in recent history by publishing a paper based on fake data to tarnish the image of a cheap drug like hydroxychloroquine in early treatment of covid-19. Later the paper had to be retracted. Now, who is “wholly untrustworthy?” The

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Lancet editorial is the perfect example of the pot calling the kettle black!

WHO says Monkeypox is no longer a global health emergency

The WHO, on 11 May 2023, declared that monkeypox is [no longer a global health emergency](#). The WHO had declared monkeypox a global health emergency in July 2022. This declaration was made by the Director General of WHO, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus [overruling the consensus of his expert advisers](#). So much for medical consensus harped throughout the last three years. All the more intriguing considering that Tedros, who is not a medical professional, defied his advisers who were doctors.

Do we give a sigh of relief that monkeypox is no longer a global health emergency? Or should we be apprehensive? While the monkeypox wicket fell for a duck what is the guarantee that such bogie calls will not be more frequent after the proposed WHO pandemic treaty? Such false triggers have the potential to propagate panic through propaganda among people. With the far reaching provisions in the proposed pandemic treaty giving unlimited powers to an unelected body like the WHO, with no accountability, the future is ominous.

Scientists Outdo Nature: “Three Parent Baby” Born using DNA replacement Technology in UK.

Serious ethical concerns surround the [report](#) of a baby born incorporating the DNA of three parents in the United Kingdom. The child in UK is one of the five such children born since 2016. Most of the DNA came from two parents and very little from a third donor, a woman. The genetic engineering technique is used to prevent the child being born with a serious mitochondrial disease. Mitochondrial Replacement Therapy (MRT) uses in-vitro-fertilization (IVF), to replace the unhealthy DNA from the parents' egg or an embryo with a donor's DNA. While uncertainty surrounds the long term effects of such technology, in the interim it raises ethical issues. Mitochondrial donation if done after fertilization raises some religious issues in communities and countries where abortion is illegal. Apart from religious concerns many ethicists have reservations about “genetic engineering tools” crossing ethical and legal boundaries to modify early embryos and manipulate the characteristics of future children which may have unforeseen consequences.