

# Universal Health Organisation (UHO)

## Weekly Newsletter – 21 Jul 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.*

### **Of Mice, Monkeys, Men & Women: Anti-aging Drugs, is media hype jumping the red light?**

A [headline](#) in Business Today reports that Harvard scientists have developed an anti-aging drug in record time. David Sinclair, a genetics professor at Harvard has tweeted about his research on anti-aging drugs which he has tested on mice and monkeys so far. His research over three years has identified molecules that can reverse cellular aging and revive cells.

While researchers hope these results could someday be translated to human beings, there is likely decades of work to be done before age reversal in humans become a reality. Only few papers on the topic have been published so far and all is not rosy, as some mice developed teratoma (tumors) as a result of [similar experiments](#) earlier.

While billions will be invested in anti-aging research as the developed West has an aging population, poor countries in Asia and Africa are struggling with child and maternal malnutrition. Hope the poor countries do not lose the way while allocating budgets for public health.

### **Assessing the quality of “science” behind mask wearing**

During the 2.5 to 3 year period between April 2020 and the end of 2022, much of the world had mandated masks for all, including children. Further, proponents of masks were claiming to be following the “science” and denigrating skeptics as “covidiot”. It is now common knowledge even among laypersons that mask wearing did not prevent Covid. Was there strong science behind the advice, nay not just advice but *mandate*, to wear masks?

The US, particular its CDC was the bellwether for global response to Covid-19 pandemic. There was a [recent analysis](#) assessing the *quality* of 77 scientific studies published by CDC Atlanta, USA since 2019.

Of these, over a quarter (22/77) were *observational studies* without a comparator group. Such observational studies occupy a low rung in the quality of scientific studies as they do not have experimental control. It is worth noting that even children of class-1 are taught the need for experimental control, when they experiment with plant growth with and without sunlight.

Importantly, *none* of the 77 studies were *randomized studies*. Randomized studies are considered the highest quality scientific evidence as they offer the best opportunity to exclude confounding factors such as seasonality. It is telling that one of the most resource-rich entities could not conduct a single high quality scientific study in an entire 3-year period. You as the reader can now decide the quality of “science” followed by mask and mask mandate proponents.

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Two randomized studies outside USA, the [Danish Mask Study](#) and the [Bangladesh Mask Study](#) showed hardly any benefit of masks. The [Cochrane Review on Masks](#), the highest form of evidence also concluded that face covers did not impact transmission. Unfortunately, as has been the practice any evidence going against the so called mainstream narrative is unpalatable. Not surprisingly there is an attempt to [fuzz the evidence](#) of this review.

### Health Emergency declared in Peru due to outbreak of Guillian-Barre Syndrome

A health emergency has been [declared](#) in Peru following a spike in cases of Guillian-Barre Syndrome (GBS). In recent months over 191 cases of GBS have been reported in the country, 4 of them fatal. In June 2023 itself there were 96 cases as against the monthly average of 20 cases. The average age of the patients was 41 years, and 58% were males. About 21% had stomach symptoms and around 24% had respiratory symptoms. Eleven percent had *Campylobacter jejuni* infection of the intestines.

GBS is a rare neurologic disease that attacks the peripheral nervous system—typically the feet, hands, and limbs—causing numbness, weakness, pain, and occasionally, fatal paralysis or permanent neurological effects. The most common trigger for GBS is infection with *Campylobacter jejuni*, a bacterial strain that causes gastroenteritis, or infection of the digestive tract.

A large UK [study](#) has found no association of GBS with Covid-19 infection. Researchers had already [commented](#) before the mass vaccine roll out for Covid-19 that one should not jump to associations of GBS with Covid-19 vaccine! Anticipatory bail?