

Universal Health Organisation (UHO)

Weekly Newsletter – 26 Apr 2024



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.

Announcement: Membership & endorsements to the UHO invited: <https://uho.org.in/member.php>

In the USA, Government was the main spreader of “Misinformation” during the Covid19 Pandemic!

Dr Jay Bhattacharya, Epidemiologist & Health Economist at Stanford University, USA was recently invited by Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), to talk on the measures adopted during the Covid-19 pandemic. Dr Bhattacharya was hosted by the MIT Students for open inquiry and supported by the MIT Free Speech Alliance.

He stated that, “...the Government was the main spreader of misinformation in this pandemic!...” In his talk Prof Bhattacharya analyzed all the interventions taken by the US government and with evidence showed how they were misinformation and distortion of the science. These included lockdowns, school closures, social distancing, mask mandates and pushing of mass vaccination with propaganda of the vaccines being safe and effective while denying the role of naturally acquired immunity.

He discussed how scientists with alternative views were censored. Prof Bhattacharya, along with Prof Sunetra Gupta of Oxford University and Prof Martin Kuldorff had authored the [Great Barrington Declaration](#), which recommended rational pandemic measures based on sound epidemiological principles such as focused protection of the elderly and letting young people and children who faced minimal threat as confirmed by studies, to go about their normal life. This would have not have closed businesses and schools leading to economic and educational setbacks.

Within four days of this declaration, government scientist Francis Collins wrote to Anthony Fauci, the medical adviser to the White House, that “fringe epidemiologists” i.e. Bhattacharya, Sunetra Gupta, and Martin Kuldorff, (from Stanford, Oxford and Harvard respectively), need to be rebutted immediately. Francis Collins, Anthony Fauci and their followers brought out the [“John Snow Memorandum”](#) countering and ridiculing the Great Barrington Declaration.

Dr Bhattacharya mentioned that the Great Barrington Declaration was one of the least original documents he has ever written implying that the document was based on sound and well known epidemiological and scientific principles. So while the proponents of the Great Barrington Declaration were maligned, faced harassment and ridiculed, subsequent events proved them right.

UHO feels that such open and transparent discussions hosted by reputed institutions like the MIT in the USA, is a healthy development providing a ray of hope towards restoring the debate and discussion which is essential to revive the science abandoned during the pandemic. Such discussions on mainstream platforms will also bring about the countercurrent from inside the system, and, hopefully doctors and scientists will stand up for science, in case of future false alarms.

A similar transparency was evident in our country as well. A couple of months ago, the country’s

Universal Health Organisation (UHO), Regn. No: Greater Mu/0000280/2023 (The Societies Regn. Act, 1860),
Regn. No: F-0082902(GBR) (Mumbai Public Trust Act, 1950)

Managing Committee: Dr Amitav Banerjee (Chairperson), Dr. Arvind Singh Kushwaha, Dr. Gayatri Panditrao,
Mr. Ashutosh Pathak, Mr. Prakash Pohare, Dr Veena Raghava (Treasurer), Prof Bhaskaran Raman (Secretary),
Dr. Praveen K Saxena, Dr. Maya Valecha

Shramjeevan Building, Gala No. 409, 4th Floor, Near Indian Petrol Pump, Wadala Truck Terminal, Antophill, Wadala, Mumbai 400037
Website: <https://uho.org.in/> , Email: admin@uho.org.in

Universal Health Organisation (UHO)

Weekly Newsletter – 26 Apr 2024



premier medical institution, AIIMS, New Delhi, together with National Academy of Medical Sciences, [hosted a guest talk](#) on future strategies of the Covid-19 vaccines where the speaker had full freedom to discuss debatable issues raising serious questions on how the pandemic was handled. The audience actively participated with some uncomfortable questions, including adverse events of the vaccines, which were discussed in detail.

Emergency Use Authorization [EUA] – the Path to Public Health Quackery

The misuse of provisions of “Emergency Use Authorization” can lead down the path to “Public Health Quackery,” a phenomenon in the Covid-19 pandemic illustrated by Prof Jay Bhattacharya during the lecture hosted by MIT. Quackery thrives on panic of the people and propaganda and is countered by science. Once science is suppressed by censorship or calling alternative views as misinformation, as it was during the pandemic, quackery rules with potential for harm to the people, no liability or questions asked.

“Emergency Use Authorization” [EUA] was one of the jargons which the pandemic threw up with few people understanding the implications of this term. The USA made a number of hasty decisions keeping up the panic generated by the initial overestimation of the lethality of the virus. Even after the estimates of lethality were found to be off the mark a few months into the pandemic by [field studies](#), the media and government spokesperson kept up the impression as if the virus posed an existential crisis to humankind. Such was the impact of propaganda and panic that in spite of hard data, the citizens of the world, including the highly literate and many in the medical profession, lost the capacity to think logically and complied with unscientific, illogical and draconian interventions far out of proportion of the threat posed by the virus.

In this scenario, the provisions of “Emergency Use Authorization” were misused by the USA. The world blindly imitated the USA. What followed was a “Public Health Quackery,” unprecedented in magnitude at a global scale.

Hitherto, the Emergency Use Authorization” was meant to be granted only for disasters of great magnitude such as extreme and grave emergencies as a result of deployment of chemical, biological, or nuclear agents of mass destruction. The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) [describes the EUA provisions](#) in the following manner, “EUA countermeasures may be used in emergencies, to diagnose, treat or prevent serious or life-threatening diseases or conditions caused by biological, chemical or nuclear agents where there are no adequate, approved and available alternatives.

Drastic situations call for drastic measures. EUA was enacted to deal with such situations. Natural phenomena like pandemics with a virus with infection fatality rate of [0.05%](#) for the majority of humanity below the age of 70 years (only around 3% of the Indian population is above this age), should not have qualified as an existential threat to invoke EUA. EUA by its very nature does not require strict regulatory oversight or adherence to stringent clinical trial or manufacturing standards.

We feel it is unfortunate that the bar was set so low in the Covid-19 pandemic. Without proper evaluation of the actual threat, panic and propaganda pushed EUA of a number of drugs and interventions which have potential for short term and long term harms far greater than from the virus.

Universal Health Organisation (UHO), Regn. No: Greater Mu/0000280/2023 (The Societies Regn. Act, 1860),
Regn. No: F-0082902(GBR) (Mumbai Public Trust Act, 1950)

Managing Committee: Dr Amitav Banerjee (Chairperson), Dr. Arvind Singh Kushwaha, Dr. Gayatri Panditrao,
Mr. Ashutosh Pathak, Mr. Prakash Pohare, Dr Veena Raghava (Treasurer), Prof Bhaskaran Raman (Secretary),
Dr. Praveen K Saxena, Dr. Maya Valecha

Shramjeevan Building, Gala No. 409, 4th Floor, Near Indian Petrol Pump, Wadala Truck Terminal, Antophill, Wadala, Mumbai 400037
Website: <https://uho.org.in/> , Email: admin@uho.org.in

Universal Health Organisation (UHO)

Weekly Newsletter – 26 Apr 2024



These errors of judgment and acts of omission call for a proper investigation for fixing accountability. Or at least scientific evaluation of the benefits and harms of each intervention, perhaps even condoning those who took decisions under pressure and panic. Anything short of this amounts to quackery.

It is unfortunate that instead of doing this, the WHO without any pushback from most world governments is working towards a Pandemic Treaty and amendments to the International Health Regulations (IHR), which will facilitate many such hasty and disproportionate draconian measures on occurrence or even apprehension of a future pandemic. The Public Health Quackery will be propagated all over again.

Panic is being fueled around the H5N1 influenza virus (Bird Flu): Should we worry?

Fragments of the H5N1 virus have been [found in milk in Texas, USA](#). This does not mean that these fragments are capable of transmitting the infection to humans or animals. Nor does it mean that the virus is replicating or has the potential to replicate.

These fragments were recovered from samples of milk from the commercial supply chain and the traces of genetic material do not pose any risk to the consumers.

In [India, the bird flu outbreak](#) has been detected among ducks in two panchayats in Alappuzha District, Kerala. The Health Minister of Kerala has asked the Director of Health Services to take precautionary measures under the Kerala Public Health Act 2023. In response to the identification of the virus in ducks, about 2000 ducks have been culled in the district.

Alappuzha district in Kerala has been reporting Bird Flu among ducks for the past decade and there has been no human outbreaks. Only sporadic human cases have been reported globally over the past two decades since the surveillance for the H5N1 virus was heightened. According to the WHO, there have been 889 human cases with [463 deaths caused by H5N1](#) since 2003 in 23 countries.

Against this background of low human risk over the past 20 years, isolating the virus fragments by highly sensitive tests should not generate undue population level panic.

Even indiscriminate mass culling of poultry needs careful caution and consideration as there have been concerns that this gruesome intervention is sometimes driven [by cash incentives](#) as compensation is given for culled poultry and not for poultry which succumb to the infection.

The Kerala Health Minister advising the health authorities to take action according to the Kerala Public Health Act of 2023 is also a matter of concern. The provisions in the recently enacted Kerala Public Health Act are harsh and draconian on the lines of the proposed WHO Pandemic Treaty and amendments to the International Health Regulations. One can only hope that other states do not follow suit.

Equally concerning is the fact that the USA is [stockpiling vaccines](#) against the Bird flu virus, even as the Centre for Disease Control (CDC), Atlanta, USA maintains that there is low risk of transmission to humans. Recently after the virus particles were isolated from cattle, only two human cases, both mild have occurred in the USA. There have been no human deaths. No human to human transmission

Universal Health Organisation (UHO), Regn. No: Greater Mu/0000280/2023 (The Societies Regn. Act, 1860),
Regn. No: F-0082902(GBR) (Mumbai Public Trust Act, 1950)

Managing Committee: Dr Amitav Banerjee (Chairperson), Dr. Arvind Singh Kushwaha, Dr. Gayatri Panditrao,
Mr. Ashutosh Pathak, Mr. Prakash Pohare, Dr Veena Raghava (Treasurer), Prof Bhaskaran Raman (Secretary),
Dr. Praveen K Saxena, Dr. Maya Valecha

Shramjeevan Building, Gala No. 409, 4th Floor, Near Indian Petrol Pump, Wadala Truck Terminal, Antophill, Wadala, Mumbai 400037
Website: <https://uho.org.in/>, Email: admin@uho.org.in

Universal Health Organisation (UHO)

Weekly Newsletter – 26 Apr 2024



has been recorded.

The US is holding stockpiles of three lots of H5N1, all of them having traces of mercury which has potential to harm the nerves and brain. The pharmaceutical companies involved are Sanofi, GSK, and CSL Sequirus. These companies, in addition to Moderna are working to develop newer Bird flu vaccines and have declared enough capacity to vaccinate the whole US population in case of an emergency.

We fear that heavy investments by pharma giants in vaccine development for a non-existent pandemic will create various conflicts of interests. There are uncertainties surrounding both the efficacy and side effects of the Bird flu vaccines. Policy makers at all levels in the USA, such as the CDC, the FDA and the NIH have ties and get funding from pharma companies. If they take decisions against the background of their conflicts of interest, we fear the same chaos and anarchy will be created as during the Covid-19 pandemic to push the stockpiled vaccines. America being the bellwether, what it does other nations imitate. And if the WHO with given the apathy of nations is able to push through the Pandemic Treaty and the amendments to the IHR, we may witness once again movement restrictions, mask mandates, vaccine mandates and vaccine passports by the nexus of big pharma, policy makers and career scientists working in tandem.

A group of concerned citizens from the country have sent an open [letter to the President of India](#) expressing serious concerns on the Pandemic Treaty and called for greater transparency and discussion on it as it will affect millions of lives. It is an appeal to all citizens to join the movement against such treaties which are a threat to our democracy.

Universal Health Organisation (UHO), Regn. No: Greater Mu/0000280/2023 (The Societies Regn. Act, 1860),
Regn. No: F-0082902(GBR) (Mumbai Public Trust Act, 1950)

Managing Committee: Dr Amitav Banerjee (Chairperson), Dr. Arvind Singh Kushwaha, Dr. Gayatri Panditrao,
Mr. Ashutosh Pathak, Mr. Prakash Pohare, Dr Veena Raghava (Treasurer), Prof Bhaskaran Raman (Secretary),
Dr. Praveen K Saxena, Dr. Maya Valecha

Shramjeevan Building, Gala No. 409, 4th Floor, Near Indian Petrol Pump, Wadala Truck Terminal, Antophill, Wadala, Mumbai 400037

Website: <https://uho.org.in/> , Email: admin@uho.org.in