

**From:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Sent:** Fri, 15 Mar 2024 15:15:35 +0000  
**To:** Donbeck, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Subject:** RE: (from Amy) FW: RML Campus Tour Security Discussion

Here are some quick thoughts I had from yesterday that we can discuss at 12:30.

- Analogy for the community tours: It's like we will be inviting a bunch of reporters to interview our folks, but we won't know who will show up ... Wa Post, Epoch Times, NYT, Daily Mail, The Intercept, White Coat Waste blogger, etc. That's why I think it's important to vet who signs up and be willing to say "no" to those with red flags. What I heard yesterday is that no vetting will be done beyond the NIH's "blocked" list, which isn't the same.
- I think the new NIH police chief was wrong about the political paraphernalia and am hoping Art Bennet (or Melinda? Sara?) can answer that Q asap. I do not want to be in the position of having to tell someone they can't tour unless they remove their hat/button. I think that should be the role of the security staff. Our county has an extremely active political group that IMO would try and make this into an issue (even if / esp. if the sign-up sheet clearly laid out the rules).
- Amy is 100% correct about what happens if anyone acts out during a tour; it completely changes the vibe and affects both the tour lead and the rest of the group, not to mention the awkwardness of having to call security to escort someone off campus.
- Like I said in my email to Sonja and Josh yesterday – if RML staff have concerns about safety / security from within the Hamilton community, why would we consider opening our doors to some of those same people? That's why I strongly think we need to thoroughly vet all guests with security.
- I'd be interested in knowing what Jill thinks about doing the tours. IMO it's premature to start them up again.

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**From:** Donbeck, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, March 15, 2024 9:01 AM  
**To:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: (from Amy) FW: RML Campus Tour Security Discussion

No, I'm not worried that you'd say the wrong thing. I think if anyone asks questions that require more science acumen, you can always say that I'll take your information and get back to you with an answer.

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**From:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, March 15, 2024 10:57 AM

**To:** Donbeck, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: (from Amy) FW: RML Campus Tour Security Discussion

Yes. Shouldn't take long, I just want to make sure I heard what you heard, see what you thought of the discussion, and see if you want me to have a scientist with me to answer vax / covid Qs. You seemed hesitant when I told you I answered a covid origins Q from a student during the last tour.

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**From:** Donbeck, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, March 15, 2024 8:54 AM  
**To:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: (from Amy) FW: RML Campus Tour Security Discussion

Do you have time at 12:30 (my time) to talk?

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**From:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, March 15, 2024 10:51 AM  
**To:** Donbeck, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Subject:** (from Amy) FW: RML Campus Tour Security Discussion

FYI. Kind of bothers me that Brad didn't speak up, but I get it ... he supports all those NIH police folks who were on the call.

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**From:** Blackburn, Amy (NIH/OD) [E] (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 14, 2024 3:41 PM  
**To:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: RML Campus Tour Security Discussion

I am really sorry that I was not on the call. (b)(6)  
(b)(6)

Please don't feel deflated. I am not done arguing my case. I am very disappointed that no one said that this was a bad idea. I called Brad and he told me about it. I literally asked him why didn't you tell them this and he said that he didn't feel that it was his place to do that. So that is why I sent the email.

If something happens during one of these tours, it is going to cause so much more anger in the community.

**Amy J. Blackburn, M.S.**  
Chief, NIH Visitor Center and Lead for OD Special Events  
Office of Communications and Public Liaison  
National Institutes of Health

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**From:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 14, 2024 5:02 PM

**To:** Blackburn, Amy (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>

**Subject:** RE: RML Campus Tour Security Discussion

Thanks Amy, appreciate your input and hope things are ok with you ... Brad mentioned you had (b)(6)

The timing of your email was perfect; I had just sent something similar (attached) to two of the participants from today. I plan to share some thoughts tomorrow with Kathy.

Bottom line: I felt pretty deflated during / after the meeting. I think people totally missed the point that even if 10% our tour guests have ulterior motives for being there, the effort isn't worth the time.

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**From:** Blackburn, Amy (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>

**Sent:** Thursday, March 14, 2024 2:45 PM

**To:** Johnson, Debbie (NIH/NIAID) [C] <(b)(6)> Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>; Moss, Bradley (NIH/OD/ORS) [E] <(b)(6)>; Donbeck, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)> Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)> Rowland, Craig (NIH/OD/ORS) [E] <(b)(6)>; Gorewitz, Lindsay (NIH/OD/ORS) [E] <(b)(6)>; Spruill, Cleveland (NIH/OD/ORS) [E] <(b)(6)> Albright, Chris (NIH/OD/ORS) [E] <(b)(6)>; Bloom, Marshall (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)> Moe, Duane (NIH/OD/ORS) [E] <(b)(6)>; Schmitt, Kristine (NIH/ORS) [E] <(b)(6)>; Brown, Lawrence (NIH/OD/ORS) [E] <(b)(6)> Campbell, Leslie (NIH/OD/ORS) [E] <(b)(6)>; Kellar, Joshua (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>

**Cc:** Scarbrough, Sandra (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)> Chertow, Jessica (NIH/OD/ORS) [E] <(b)(6)>; Feldmann, Heinrich (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>; Best, Sonja (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>; DeLeo, Frank (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)> Steele-Mortimer, Olivia (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)> Priola, Sue (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)> Andersen, Katelyn (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)> Nealy, Michael (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)> Maynard, Chad (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>

**Subject:** RE: RML Campus Tour Security Discussion

Good evening, everyone!

My apologies for missing today's meeting. It was a priority of mine to share my perspective and thoughts on hosting visitors at RML. I was going to express some concern for starting in person tours up again at RML due to the image RML/NIAID has with some community members. I don't know that everyone's intentions would be to better understand RML/NIAID/NIH, but to create a debate or issues during the tour. My suggestion would be to have a presentation at a local school or controlled environment off-campus first to get a pulse of the community's intentions and attitude before anyone was invited to the campus.

I have had whack-a-doodles on tours in the CC and it is a very uncomfortable experience not only for myself and our team, but also the other group participants. Once that one individual or small group of individuals starts, the whole dynamic changes and you are now in a role of keeping eyes on this

individual, providing a tour, carefully crafting your response, and trying to make the other participants who have good intentions, feel comfortable. It can be a no-win situation. If you need to have someone escorted off, then that story may do more damage in the community than what is already there. You could be opening the gates to groups that could risk the safety of employees, research, and community members if the possibilities are not considered.

I think it would be possible to create a power point or video, such as ones that are on our NIH Virtual Tour and use that to meet with and educate the community first. I am attaching a link to the NIH Virtual Tour for you to see some of our videos if you have not seen it before. <https://www.nih.gov/virtual-tour/>

I don't mean to be a stick in the mud or all about doom and gloom, I just wanted to make some safe suggestions for being able to educate and change the perception of RML within the community and keeping safety in mind. If you choose to do the power point or professional videos, or just do the tours, we will support you in any way that we can.

Thanks, and I hope to meet with everyone soon to further develop next steps.

**Amy J. Blackburn, M.S.**

Chief, NIH Visitor Center and Lead for OD Special Events  
Office of Communications and Public Liaison  
National Institutes of Health

-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** Johnson, Debbie (NIH/NIAID) [C] <(b)(6)>

**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 11:50 AM

**To:** Johnson, Debbie (NIH/NIAID) [C]; Blackburn, Amy (NIH/OD) [E]; Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Moss, Bradley (NIH/OD/ORS) [E]; Donbeck, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]; Rowland, Craig (NIH/OD/ORS) [E]; Gorewitz, Lindsay (NIH/OD/ORS) [E]; Spruill, Cleveland (NIH/OD/ORS) [E]; Albright, Chris (NIH/OD/ORS) [E]; Bloom, Marshall (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Moe, Duane (NIH/OD/ORS) [E]; Schmitt, Kristine (NIH/ORS) [E]; Brown, Lawrence (NIH/OD/ORS) [E]; Campbell, Leslie (NIH/OD/ORS) [E]; Kellar, Joshua (NIH/NIAID) [E]

**Cc:** Scarbrough, Sandra (NIH/OD) [E]; Chertow, Jessica (NIH/OD/ORS) [E]; Feldmann, Heinrich (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Best, Sonja (NIH/NIAID) [E]; DeLeo, Frank (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Steele-Mortimer, Olivia (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Priola, Sue (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Andersen, Katelyn (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Nealy, Michael (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Maynard, Chad (NIH/NIAID) [E]

**Subject:** RML Campus Tour Security Discussion

**When:** Thursday, March 14, 2024 10:00 AM-11:00 AM (UTC-07:00) Mountain Time (US & Canada).

**Where:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

**Purpose of the meeting:** The discussion will focus on ways to ensure appropriate security screening for tour participants and mitigation measures that can be implemented should we have a security incident with a participant, or during a tour. RML is looking to restart community tours this summer via registration through our public library. In 2018, OCGR and OSM lead tours of this type for about 120 people. The library gathers a list of names and contact information for participants in advance of the tour for submission to NIH Police and Security. There have been recent negative, politically motivated and false information pieces on RML circulating online and in the news. We would like to discuss messaging to distribute before tours to participants on prohibited items (including weapons, etc. as well as any political/campaign paraphernalia prohibited by the Hatch Act), appropriate security screening

required for participants, and response to security threats or other incidents that may occur during tours.

Please let Ken Pekoc and I know if there are others we should include in this discussion. Debbie will make every effort to try to find a mutually open spot on everyone's calendars.

Josh Kellar  
Associate Director  
Office of Operations Management  
Rocky Mountain Laboratories, NIAID  
903 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Hamilton, MT 59840  
Office: (b)(6)  
Cell: (b)(6)  
(b)(6)

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## Microsoft Teams meeting

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(b)(6)

Meeting ID: (b)(6)

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(b)(6) United States, Bethesda

Phone Conference ID: (b)(6)

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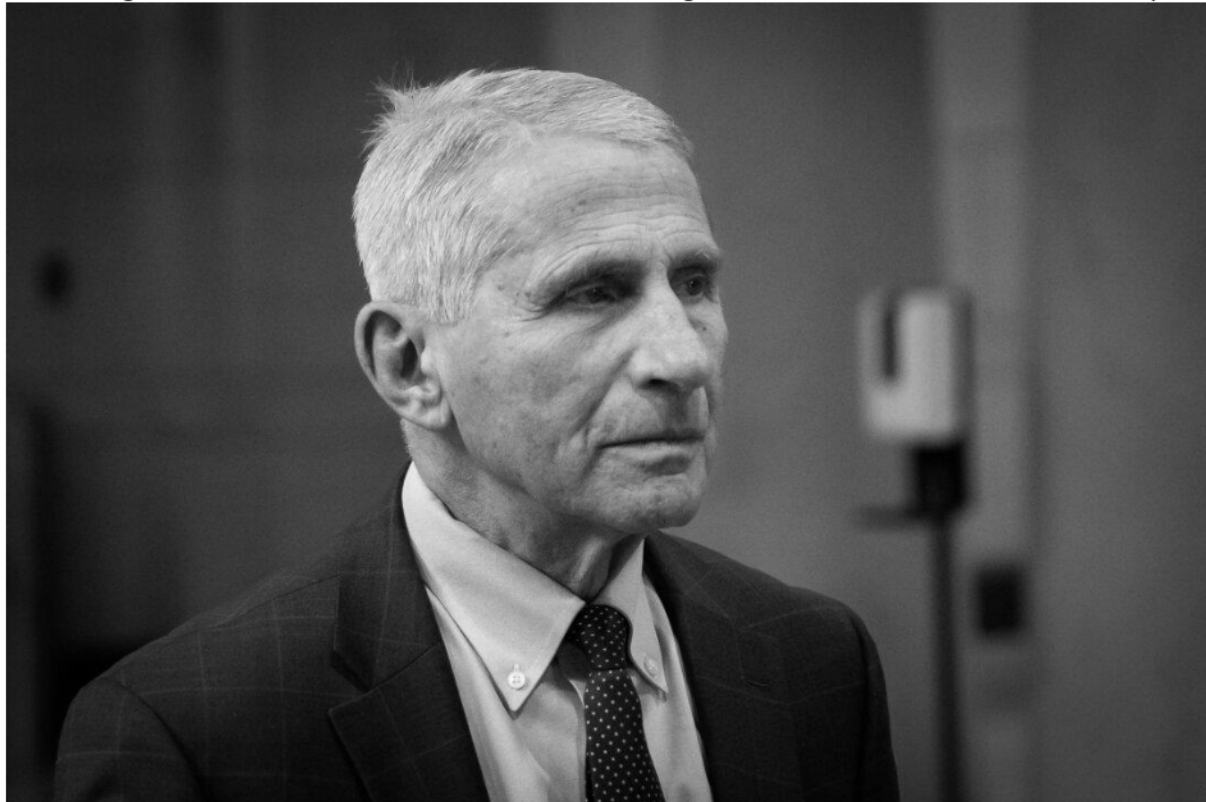
**From:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Sent:** Tue, 12 Mar 2024 14:07:22 +0000  
**To:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Subject:** FW: Epoch Times: Fauci Deputy Warned Him Against Vaccine Mandates: Email  
<https://bit.ly/4abO31x>

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**From:** Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C] (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 12, 2024 7:54 AM  
**To:** NIAID COGCORE (b)(6); NIAID OCGR Leg (b)(6) NIAID  
OD AM (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Epoch Times: Fauci Deputy Warned Him Against Vaccine Mandates: Email  
<https://bit.ly/4abO31x>

## Fauci Deputy Warned Him Against Vaccine Mandates: Email

Mandating COVID-19 vaccination 'is not worth the cost,' government doctor warned Dr. Anthony Fauci.



Dr. Anthony Fauci, ex-director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, in Washington on Jan. 8, 2024. (Madalina Vasiliu/The Epoch Times)



By Zachary Stieber

3/11/2024

Mandating COVID-19 vaccination was a mistake because of ethical and other concerns, a top government doctor warned Dr. Anthony Fauci after Dr. Fauci promoted mass vaccination.

“Coercing or forcing people to take a vaccine can have negative consequences from a biological, sociological, psychological, economical, and ethical standpoint and is not worth the cost even if the vaccine is 100% safe,” Dr. Matthew Memoli, director of the Laboratory of Infectious Diseases clinical studies unit at the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), told Dr. Fauci in an email.

“A more prudent approach that considers these issues would be to focus our efforts on those at high risk of severe disease and death, such as the elderly and obese, and do not push vaccination on the young and healthy any further.”

Employing that strategy would help prevent loss of public trust and political capital, Dr. Memoli said. The email was sent on July 30, 2021, after Dr. Fauci, then the director of the NIAID, claimed that communities would be safer if more people received one of the COVID-19 vaccines and that mass vaccination would lead to the end of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We’re on a really good track now to really crush this outbreak, and the more people we get vaccinated, the more assuredness that we’re going to have that we’re going to be able to do that,” Dr. Fauci said on CNN the month prior.

Dr. Memoli, who has studied influenza vaccination for years, disagreed, telling Dr. Fauci that research in the field has indicated that yearly shots sometimes drive the evolution of influenza.

Vaccinating people who have not been infected with COVID-19, he said, could affect the evolution of the virus that causes COVID-19 in unexpected ways.

“At best what we are doing with mandated mass vaccination does nothing and the variants emerge evading immunity anyway as they would have without the vaccine,” Dr. Memoli wrote. “At worst it drives evolution of the virus in a way that is different from nature and possibly detrimental, prolonging the pandemic or causing more morbidity and mortality than it should.”

The vaccination strategy was flawed because it relied on a single antigen, introducing immunity that lasted for only a certain period of time, Dr. Memoli said. When the immunity weakened, the virus was given an opportunity to evolve.

Some other experts, including virologist Geert Vanden Bossche, have offered similar views. Others in the scientific community, such as U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention scientists, have said vaccination prevents virus evolution, though the agency has acknowledged it doesn’t have records supporting its position.

## **Other Messages**

Dr. Memoli sent the email to Dr. Fauci and two other top NIAID officials, Dr. Hugh Auchincloss and Dr. Clifford Lane. The message was first reported by the Wall Street Journal, though the publication did not publish the message. The Epoch Times obtained the email and 199 other pages of Dr. Memoli’s emails through a Freedom of Information Act request. There were no indications that Dr. Fauci ever responded to Dr. Memoli.

Later in 2021, the NIAID's parent agency, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and all other federal government agencies began requiring COVID-19 vaccination, under direction from President Joe Biden. In other messages, Dr. Memoli said the mandates were unethical and that he was hopeful legal cases brought against the mandates would ultimately let people "make their own healthcare decisions."



Dr. Matthew Memoli in an undated image. (NIAID via The Epoch Times)

"I am certainly doing everything in my power to influence that," he wrote on Nov. 2, 2021, to an unknown recipient. Dr. Memoli also disclosed that both he and his wife had applied for exemptions from the mandates imposed by the NIH and his wife's employer. Her request had been granted, but his had not, Dr. Memoli said. It's not clear if it ever was.

According to Dr. Memoli, officials had not gone over the bioethics of the mandates. He wrote to the NIH's Department of Bioethics, pointing out that the protection from the vaccines waned over time, that the shots can cause serious health issues such as myocarditis, or heart inflammation, and that vaccinated people were just as likely to spread COVID-19 as unvaccinated people.

He cited multiple studies in his emails, including one that found a resurgence of COVID-19 cases in a California health care system despite a high rate of vaccination and another that showed transmission rates were similar among the vaccinated and unvaccinated.

Dr. Memoli said he was "particularly interested in the bioethics of a mandate when the vaccine doesn't have the ability to stop spread of the disease, which is the purpose of the mandate."

The message led to Dr. Memoli's speaking during an NIH event in December 2021, several weeks after he went public with his concerns about mandating vaccines.

"Vaccine mandates should be rare and considered only with a strong justification," Dr. Memoli said. He suggested that the justification was not there for COVID-19 vaccines, given their fleeting effectiveness. Julie Ledgerwood, another NIAID official who also spoke at the event, said that the vaccines were highly effective and that the side effects that had been detected were not significant. She did acknowledge that vaccinated people needed boosters after a period of time.

The NIH and many other government agencies removed their mandates in 2023 with the end of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

A request for comment from Dr. Fauci was not returned.

Dr. Memoli told The Epoch Times in an email he was "happy to answer any questions" but that he needed clearance from the NIAID's media office. That office then refused to give clearance.

Dr. Jay Bhattacharya, a professor of health policy at Stanford University, said that Dr. Memoli showed bravery when he warned Dr. Fauci against mandates.

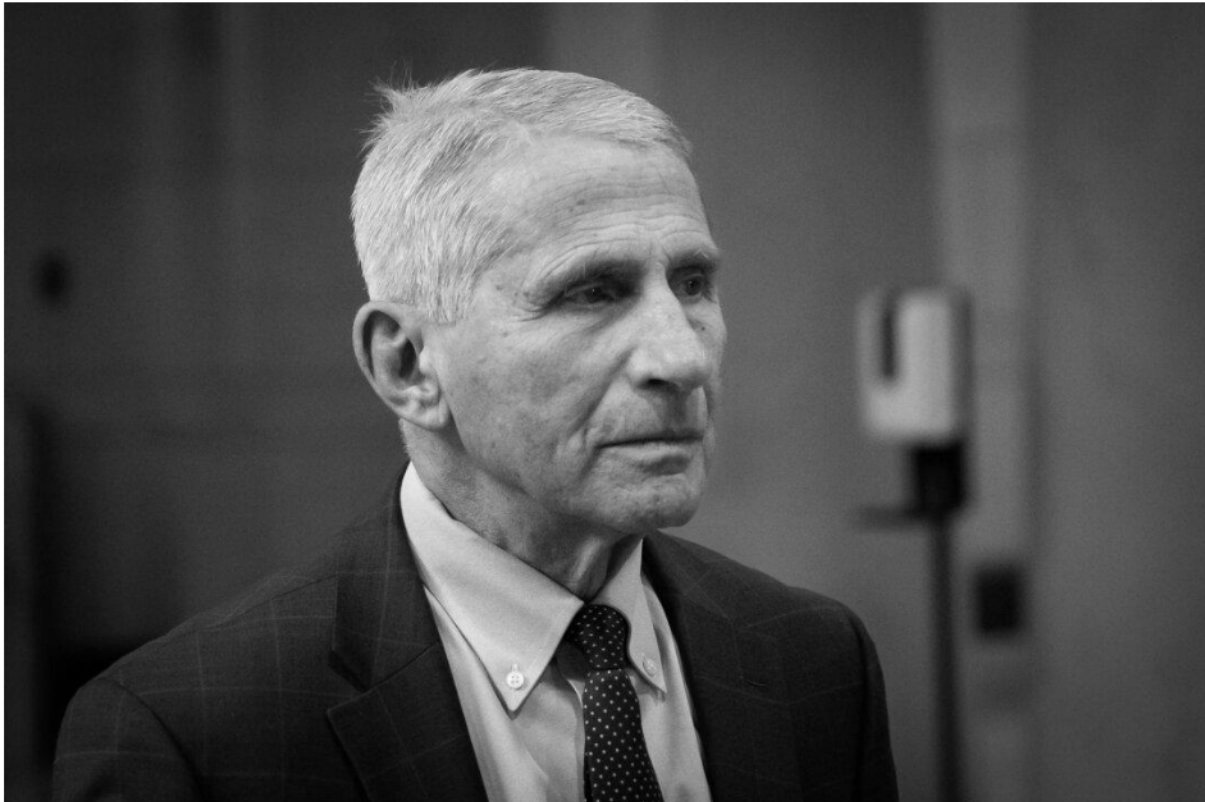
“Those mandates have done more to demolish public trust in public health than any single action by public health officials in my professional career, including diminishing public trust in all vaccines.” Dr. Bhattacharya, a frequent critic of the U.S. response to COVID-19, told The Epoch Times via email. “It was risky for Dr. Memoli to speak publicly since he works at the NIH, and the culture of the NIH punishes those who cross powerful scientific bureaucrats like Dr. Fauci or his former boss, Dr. Francis Collins.”

1372

**From:** Folkers, Greg (NIH/NIAID) [C]  
**Sent:** Tue, 12 Mar 2024 13:53:58 +0000  
**To:** NIAID COGCORE; NIAID OCGR Leg; NIAID OD AM  
**Subject:** Epoch Times: Fauci Deputy Warned Him Against Vaccine Mandates: Email  
<https://bit.ly/4abO31x>

## Fauci Deputy Warned Him Against Vaccine Mandates: Email

Mandating COVID-19 vaccination 'is not worth the cost,' government doctor warned Dr. Anthony Fauci.



Dr.

Anthony Fauci, ex-director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, in Washington on Jan. 8, 2024. (Madalina Vasiliu/The Epoch Times)



By Zachary Stieber  
3/11/2024

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“Coercing or forcing people to take a vaccine can have negative consequences from a biological, sociological, psychological, economical, and ethical standpoint and is not worth the cost even if the vaccine is 100% safe,” Dr. Matthew Memoli, director of the Laboratory of Infectious Diseases clinical studies unit at the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), told Dr. Fauci in an email.

“A more prudent approach that considers these issues would be to focus our efforts on those at high risk of severe disease and death, such as the elderly and obese, and do not push vaccination on the young and healthy any further.”

Employing that strategy would help prevent loss of public trust and political capital, Dr. Memoli said. The email was sent on July 30, 2021, after Dr. Fauci, then the director of the NIAID, claimed that communities would be safer if more people received one of the COVID-19 vaccines and that mass vaccination would lead to the end of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We’re on a really good track now to really crush this outbreak, and the more people we get vaccinated, the more assuredness that we’re going to have that we’re going to be able to do that,” Dr. Fauci said on CNN the month prior.

Dr. Memoli, who has studied influenza vaccination for years, disagreed, telling Dr. Fauci that research in the field has indicated that yearly shots sometimes drive the evolution of influenza.

Vaccinating people who have not been infected with COVID-19, he said, could affect the evolution of the virus that causes COVID-19 in unexpected ways.

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The vaccination strategy was flawed because it relied on a single antigen, introducing immunity that lasted for only a certain period of time, Dr. Memoli said. When the immunity weakened, the virus was given an opportunity to evolve.

Some other experts, including virologist Geert Vanden Bossche, have offered similar views. Others in the scientific community, such as U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention scientists, have said vaccination prevents virus evolution, though the agency has acknowledged it doesn’t have records supporting its position.

## Other Messages

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Later in 2021, the NIAID’s parent agency, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and all other federal government agencies began requiring COVID-19 vaccination, under direction from President Joe Biden. In other messages, Dr. Memoli said the mandates were unethical and that he was hopeful legal cases brought against the mandates would ultimately let people “make their own healthcare decisions.”



Dr. Matthew Memoli in an undated image. (NIAID via The

Epoch Times)

“I am certainly doing everything in my power to influence that,” he wrote on Nov. 2, 2021, to an unknown recipient. Dr. Memoli also disclosed that both he and his wife had applied for exemptions from the mandates imposed by the NIH and his wife’s employer. Her request had been granted, but his had not, Dr. Memoli said. It’s not clear if it ever was.

According to Dr. Memoli, officials had not gone over the bioethics of the mandates. He wrote to the NIH’s Department of Bioethics, pointing out that the protection from the vaccines waned over time, that the shots can cause serious health issues such as myocarditis, or heart inflammation, and that vaccinated people were just as likely to spread COVID-19 as unvaccinated people.

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“Those mandates have done more to demolish public trust in public health than any single action by public health officials in my professional career, including diminishing public trust in all vaccines.” Dr.

Bhattacharya, a frequent critic of the U.S. response to COVID-19, told The Epoch Times via email. “It was risky for Dr. Memoli to speak publicly since he works at the NIH, and the culture of the NIH punishes those who cross powerful scientific bureaucrats like Dr. Fauci or his former boss, Dr. Francis Collins.”

1372

**From:** Jim Ainsworth  
**Sent:** Mon, 11 Mar 2024 20:26:30 -0400  
**To:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Auchincloss, Hugh (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Lane, Cliff (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Collins, Francis (NIH/NHGRI) [E]; (b)(6)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fauci Deputy Warned Him Against Vaccine Mandates: Email

## ***Fauci Deputy Warned Him Against Vaccine Mandates: Email***

Zero Hedge

Monday, Mar 11, 2024 - 05:40 PM ET

*Authored by Zachary Stieber via The Epoch Times (emphasis ours),*

**Mandating COVID-19 vaccination was a mistake due to ethical and other concerns, a top government doctor warned Dr. Anthony Fauci after Dr. Fauci promoted mass vaccination.**

**“Coercing or forcing people to take a vaccine can have negative consequences from a biological, sociological, psychological, economical, and ethical standpoint and is not worth the cost even if the vaccine is 100% safe,” Dr. Matthew Memoli, director of the Laboratory of Infectious Diseases clinical studies unit at the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), told Dr. Fauci in an email.**

**“A more prudent approach that considers these issues would be to focus our efforts on those at high risk of severe disease and death, such as the elderly and obese, and do not push vaccination on the young and healthy any further.”**



*Dr. Anthony Fauci, ex-director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID, in Washington on Jan. 8, 2024. (Madalina Vasiliu/The Epoch Times)*

**Employing that strategy would help prevent loss of public trust and political capital, Dr. Memoli said.**

**The email was sent on July 30, 2021, after Dr. Fauci, director of the NIAID, claimed that communities would be safer if more people received one of the COVID-19 vaccines and that mass vaccination would lead to the end of the COVID-19 pandemic.**

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**Dr. Memoli, who has studied influenza vaccination for years, disagreed, telling Dr. Fauci that research in the field has indicated yearly shots sometimes drive the evolution of influenza.**

**Vaccinating people who have not been infected with COVID-19, he said, could potentially impact the evolution of the virus that causes COVID-19 in unexpected ways.**

**“At best what we are doing with mandated mass vaccination does nothing and the variants emerge evading immunity anyway as they**

would have without the vaccine,” Dr. Memoli wrote. “At worst it drives evolution of the virus in a way that is different from nature and possibly detrimental, prolonging the pandemic or causing more morbidity and mortality than it should.”

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Later in 2021, the NIAID’s parent agency, the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH), and all other federal government agencies began requiring COVID-19 vaccination, under direction from President Joe Biden.

In other messages, Dr. Memoli said the mandates were unethical and that he was hopeful legal cases brought against the mandates would ultimately let people “make their own healthcare decisions.”

“I am certainly doing everything in my power to influence that,” he wrote on Nov. 2, 2021, to an unknown recipient. Dr. Memoli also disclosed that both he and his wife had applied for exemptions from the mandates imposed by the NIH and his wife’s employer. While her request had been granted, his had not as of yet, Dr. Memoli said. It’s not clear if it ever was.

According to Dr. Memoli, officials had not gone over the bioethics of the mandates. He wrote to the NIH's Department of Bioethics, pointing out that the protection from the vaccines waned over time, that the shots can cause serious health issues such as myocarditis, or heart inflammation, and that vaccinated people were just as likely to spread COVID-19 as unvaccinated people.

He cited multiple studies in his emails, including one that found a resurgence of COVID-19 cases in a California health care system despite a high rate of vaccination and another that showed transmission rates were similar among the vaccinated and unvaccinated.

Dr. Memoli said he was “particularly interested in the bioethics of a mandate when the vaccine doesn't have the ability to stop spread of the disease, which is the purpose of the mandate.”

The message led to Dr. Memoli speaking during an NIH event in December 2021, several weeks after he went public with his concerns about mandating vaccines.

“Vaccine mandates should be rare and considered only with a strong justification,” Dr. Memoli said in the debate. He suggested that the justification was not there for COVID-19 vaccines, given their fleeting effectiveness.

Julie Ledgerwood, another NIAID official who also spoke at the event, said that the vaccines were highly effective and that the side effects that had been detected were not significant. She did acknowledge that vaccinated people needed boosters after a period of time.

The NIH, and many other government agencies, removed their mandates in 2023 with the end of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

A request for comment from Dr. Fauci was not returned. Dr. Memoli told The Epoch Times in an email he was “happy to answer any questions you have” but that he needed clearance from the NIAID's media office. That office then refused to give clearance.

Dr. Jay Bhattacharya, a professor of health policy at Stanford University, said that Dr. Memoli showed bravery when he warned Dr. Fauci against mandates.

**“Those mandates have done more to demolish public trust in public health than any single action by public health officials in my professional career, including diminishing public trust in all vaccines.” Dr. Bhattacharya, a frequent critic of the U.S. response to COVID-19, told The Epoch Times via email. “It was risky for Dr. Memoli to speak publicly since he works at the NIH, and the culture of the NIH punishes those who cross powerful scientific bureaucrats like Dr. Fauci or his former boss, Dr. Francis Collins.”**

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**To:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Sunday Strip: TSA Speed Dating

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# Sunday Strip: TSA Speed Dating

A few of my favorite things

ROBERT W MALONE MD,  
MS  
MAR  
10

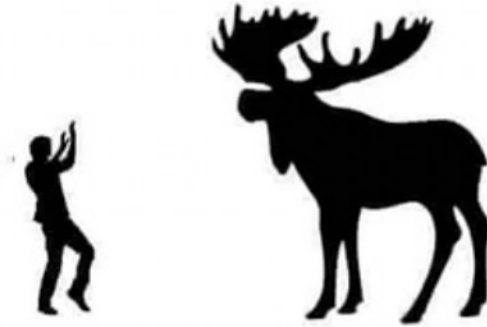


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I see a little silhouetto of a man

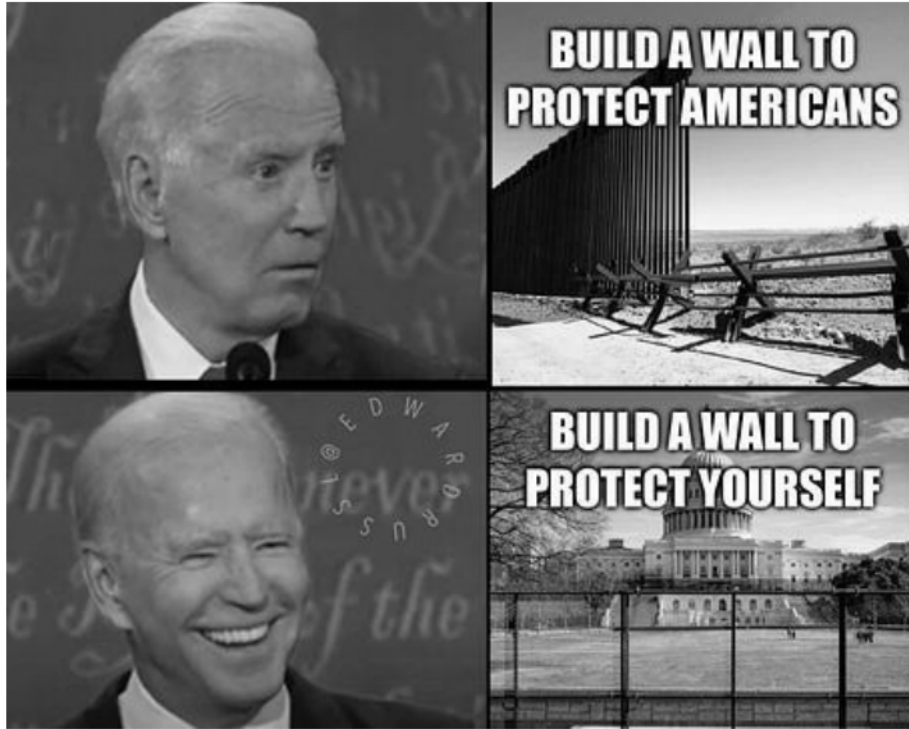


Scare a moose, scare a moose...

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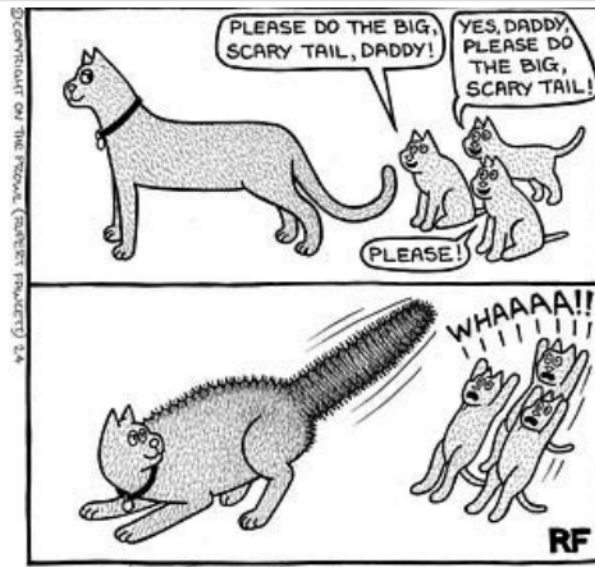
World Leaders on  
their way to another  
climate conference











The revolution has begun



**When you hate capitalism so you call it fascism because you don't know what either one means**



Declaration Of Memes

---

**Socialism**



**"Democratic"  
Socialism**





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## ABOUT US

*"...A Handful Of Men And Women, Individuals Of Character, Had A Vision. A Vision To See The Return Of Righteousness, Justice, And Truth To Our Great Nation."*

Ronald Reagan, Remarks to CNP's 10th Anniversary Celebration

Jill and I spent the last three days at an important meeting of conservatives in Dana Point, CA. The Council for National Policy practices Chatam House rule - so I can't reveal who was there but some really good strategy has come out of the discussions on how to stop the World Health Organization from enacting their new International Health Regulation (IHR) amendments and Pandemic health treaty.

As you all know, The World Health Organization is working on a global pandemic treaty regarding pandemic preparedness that would "grant it absolute power over global biosecurity, such as the power to implement digital identities/vaccine passports, mandatory vaccinations,

travel restrictions, standardized medical care and more” ([Epoch Times](#)).

Please take a moment and read about the proposed amendments, the new treaty and sign the declaration at the Sovereignty Coalition.

### Sovereignty Coalition

---

Dana Point in Orange County, CA really is beautiful and is still full of patriots. It is good to know there are still pockets of sanity in this state! But now it is time to pack our stuff and get the heck out of California. We will be back at the farm by tonight, where we get to rest up for a few days before heading out to a horse event in Tennessee on Thursday.

Have a great day folks!



And now time to drive down the airport for another date with my favorite krew.



---

## The Disturbing Truth About COVID's 'Toxic Protein' | FALLOUT

**FALLOUT LINK**

The virus that causes COVID-19 is now understood to have originated in China's Wuhan Institute of Virology. Yet there is still, to this day, a concerted effort to hide this fact from the public.

Alex Washburne, a mathematical biologist and researcher of economic, ecological, and epidemiological systems, recently released an article, synthesizing all evidence surrounding the COVID-19 lab leak theory.

How do we know this virus does not have natural or zoonotic origins? How do we know that the virus originated in a lab? And how do we know there was a concerted effort to cover up the facts?

We reveal all that and more in this episode.



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**To:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Congressional News

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# Congressional News

Censorship, January 6 and an update on political prisoner John Strand

ROBERT W MALONE MD,  
MS  
MAR  
5



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**THE WEAPONIZATION OF THE NATION  
HOW NSF IS FUNDING THE DEVELOPMENT  
CENSOR ONLINE SPEECH "AT SCALE" AI  
ACTIONS**

---

Below are excerpts from the executive summary of the Interim Staff Report of the Committee on the Judiciary and the Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government U.S. House of Representatives. The new report is titled:

THE WEAPONIZATION OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION: HOW NSF IS FUNDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF AUTOMATED TOOLS TO CENSOR ONLINE SPEECH “AT SCALE” AND TRYING TO COVER UP ITS ACTIONS

This 79 page report is damning.

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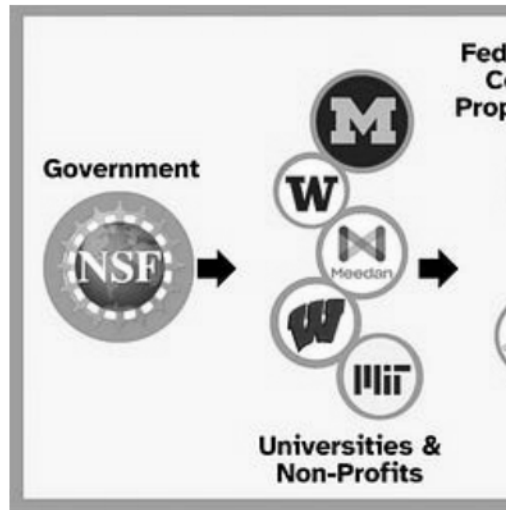
*Our misinformation service helps policy makers at platforms who want to . . . push responsibility for difficult judgments to someone outside the company . . . by externalizing the difficult responsibility of censorship.”*

---

(The above statement is from the) Speaker’s notes from the University of Michigan’s first pitch to the National Science Foundation (NSF) about its NSF-funded, AI-powered WiseDex tool.<sup>1</sup> This interim report details the National Science Foundation’s (NSF) funding of AI powered censorship and propaganda tools, and its repeated efforts to hide its actions and avoid political and media scrutiny.

In the name of combatting alleged misinformation regarding COVID-19 and the 2020 election, NSF has been issuing multi-million-dollar grants to university and non-profit research teams. The purpose of these taxpayer-funded projects is to develop artificial intelligence (AI)- powered censorship and propaganda tools that can be used by governments and Big Tech to shape public opinion by restricting certain viewpoints or promoting others.

Non-public documents obtained by the House Judiciary Committee and the Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government demonstrate that these federal bureaucrats, “disinformation” researchers, and non-profit groups understood that their actions— “content moderation” and combatting so-called misinformation—amounted to “censorship.” And yet, NSF forged ahead, supporting new technologies that would essentially enable the censorship of online speech “at scale.”



But NSF’s taxpayer funding for this potential automated censorship is only half of the story. The Committee and the Select Subcommittee have also obtained, via document requests and subpoenas, nonpublic emails and other documents that reveal a years-long, intentional effort by NSF to hide its role in funding these censorship and propaganda tools from media and political scrutiny. From legal scholars such as Jonathan Turley to conservative journalists, NSF tracked public criticisms of its work in funding these projects. NSF went so far as to develop a media strategy that considered blacklisting certain American media outlets because they were scrutinizing NSF’s funding of censorship and propaganda tools.

The First Amendment prohibits the government from “abridging the freedom of speech.” Thus, “any law or government policy that reduces that freedom on the [social media] platforms . . . violates the First Amendment.” To inform potential legislation, the Committee and Select Subcommittee have been investigating the Executive Branch’s collusion with third party intermediaries, including universities, non-profits, and businesses, to censor protected speech on social media. The Committee and Subcommittee have uncovered serious violations of the First Amendment throughout the Executive Branch, including:

- The Biden White House directly coercing large social media companies, such as Facebook, to censor true information, memes, and satire, eventually leading Facebook to change its content moderation policies;
- Stanford’s Election Integrity Partnership (EIP)—created at the request of the Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)—working with the federal government to flag thousands of links and submit

recommendations directly to large social media platforms to censor Americans' online speech in the lead-up to the 2020 U.S. election

- The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) harassing Elon Musk's Twitter (now X) because of Musk's commitment to free speech, even going so far as to target certain journalists by name.

As egregious as these violations of the First Amendment are, each still faced the same limitation: the censors were human. **Senior Biden White House officials had to spend time personally berating the social media companies into changing their content moderation policies. Social media executives expended considerable time and effort responding to the White House's threats and evaluating the flagged content. Stanford had nearly a hundred people working for the EIP in shifts flagging thousands of posts, which was only a fraction of the number of election related posts made in the fall of 2020.**

**But what happens if the censorship is automated and the censors are machines?** There is no need for shifts or huge teams of people to identify and flag problematic online speech. AI driven tools can monitor online speech at a scale that would far outmatch even the largest team of "disinformation" bureaucrats and researchers. This interim report reveals how NSF is using American taxpayer dollars to fund the tools that could usher in an even greater threat to online speech than the original efforts to censor speech on social media. **The NSF-funded projects threaten to help create a censorship regime that could significantly impede the fundamental First Amendment rights of millions of Americans, and potentially do so in a manner that is instantaneous and largely invisible to its victims.**

The Committee and the Select Subcommittee are responsible for investigating "violation[s] of the civil liberties of citizens of the United States." In accordance with this mandate, this interim staff report on NSF's violations of the First Amendment and other unconstitutional activities fulfills the obligation to identify and report on the weaponization of the federal government against American citizens.

The Committees' and Select Subcommittees' investigations remains ongoing.

---

*“A censor is a man who knows more than he thinks you ought to.”*

*– Laurence J. Peter*

---

The second piece of Congressional news comes from the Office of Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene.



**MARJORIE TAYLOR GREENE**  
Representing the 14th District

**BREAKING: Congresswoman  
Introduces the Matthew Lawrence Perna Act of 2024**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 1, 2024

[PERMALINK](#)

Media Inquiries: [mtgpress@mail.house.gov](mailto:mtgpress@mail.house.gov)

Press release as follows:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 1, 2024

WASHINGTON D.C. — Today, Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene is proudly introducing the Matthew Lawrence Perna Act of 2024, named in honor of Matthew Perna, a victim of the cruel and unusual treatment inflicted by Joe Biden’s Department of Injustice, tragically leading to his untimely death.

This vital legislation is a critical step in ensuring that the political persecution witnessed in the aftermath of January 6th is curtailed by the law. *The Matthew Lawrence Perna Act* enacts several essential reforms, including:

- **Prohibition of Detention for Nonviolent Political Protesters:** This bill bars the unjust detention of nonviolent political protesters and allows for civil action against any violations.
- **Fair and Speedy Trials:** Ensures fair and speedy trials for defendants while providing remedies against malicious over-prosecution.
- **Limiting Government Surveillance and Investigation:** Restricts the government's ability to use national defense or foreign policy justifications to deny citizens knowledge of government surveillance or investigation.
- **Consistent Sentencing Guidelines:** Mandates that judges impose sentences consistent with applicable guidelines for defendants involved in covered political protest offenses.
- **Transfer of Venue:** Permits the transfer of venue in criminal trials for nonviolent political protestors in Washington, D.C.

The punitive and unconstitutional treatment of January 6th defendants by Biden's Department of Injustice exposes a deeply flawed two-tiered justice system weaponized against American citizens. With 1,314 individuals charged so far, Matthew Graves is set to charge one per day this year, highlighting the unjust targeting of peaceful protestors. At the same time, violent Antifa and BLM criminals remain on the streets and evade accountability.

*"Having personally witnessed the abuses in the DC jail, where patriotic Americans are left to suffer by the very government meant to protect them, it is evident that reform is urgently needed,"* **stated Congresswoman Greene.**

Matthew Perna's tragic death serves as a stark reminder of the consequences of unchecked government brutality. His life could have been spared if not for the relentless persecution by the Biden regime.

The Matthew Lawrence Perna Act is a beacon of hope, ensuring that Matthew did not perish in vain and holding the Biden regime accountable for its crimes against American citizens.

This bill was originally introduced in the 117th Congress by former Congressman Louie Gohmert, Congresswoman Greene was the only co-sponsor of the legislation. Now, the sole sponsor of this bill in the 118th Congress, Congresswoman Greene urges all of her colleagues to sign on as a co-sponsor and ensure no non-violent political protestor is ever treated with such inhumanity in the United States ever again.

---

**Please contact your Congressional Representative in support of the The Matthew Lawrence Perna Act, sponsored by MTG.**

**Find your Representative**

---

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True story.

← **JOHN STRAND** ✓  
3,443 posts

JOHNSTRAND.COM



**JOHN STRAND** ✓  
@JohnStrandUSA

Political Prisoner 🇺🇸 Sentenced to Fed. Prison For Being Present on J6 as a Hired Bodyguard for a Doctor who had a permit to give a Medical Freedom Speech

📍 Political Prisoner 🔗 [JohnStrand.com/contact](https://JohnStrand.com/contact) 📅 Joined September 2021

49 Following 32.8K Followers

I consider John Strand a friend and a hero. He could have taken a plea deal and served a couple of months in jail. He refused on principle.

The government then slapped on a felony charge of obstruction of an official proceeding and he is now serving a 32 month prison sentence. Only recently has he been allowed to see his attorney - after at least six months in prison.

Found guilty by jury on 9/27/22 of five charges. **Strand was found guilty of the felony charge of obstruction of an official proceeding**, as well as misdemeanor offenses of entering and remaining in a restricted building or grounds, disorderly and disruptive conduct in a restricted building or grounds, disorderly conduct in a Capitol building, and parading, demonstrating, or picketing in a Capitol building.



The MSM articles on John are salacious smear pieces, reminiscent of the *National Enquirer* in its hey day. They are sickening to read.

For a different perspective on January 6th, please watch The Epoch Times Documentaries:

[The Real Story of January 6](#)

Part 2 features John's story

[The Real Story of January 6 Part 2: The Long Road Home](#)

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**To:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Sunday Strip: What Universe Are We In?

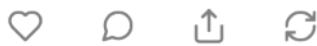
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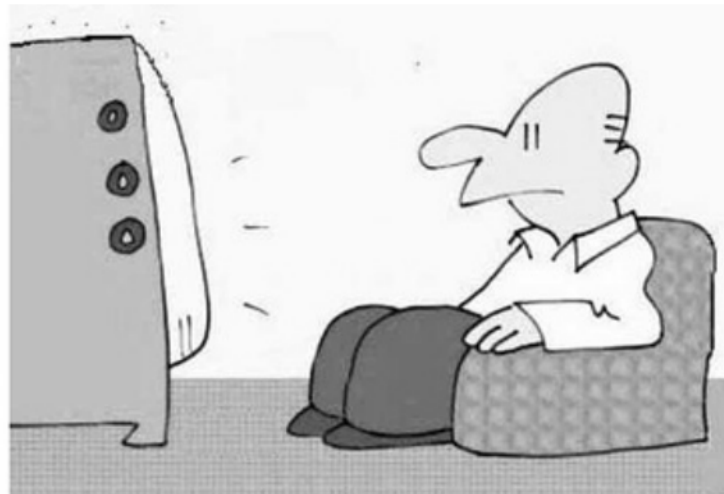
## Sunday Strip: What Universe Are We In?

Fascinated fools and muzzled free thinkers.

ROBERT W MALONE MD,  
MS  
MAR  
3



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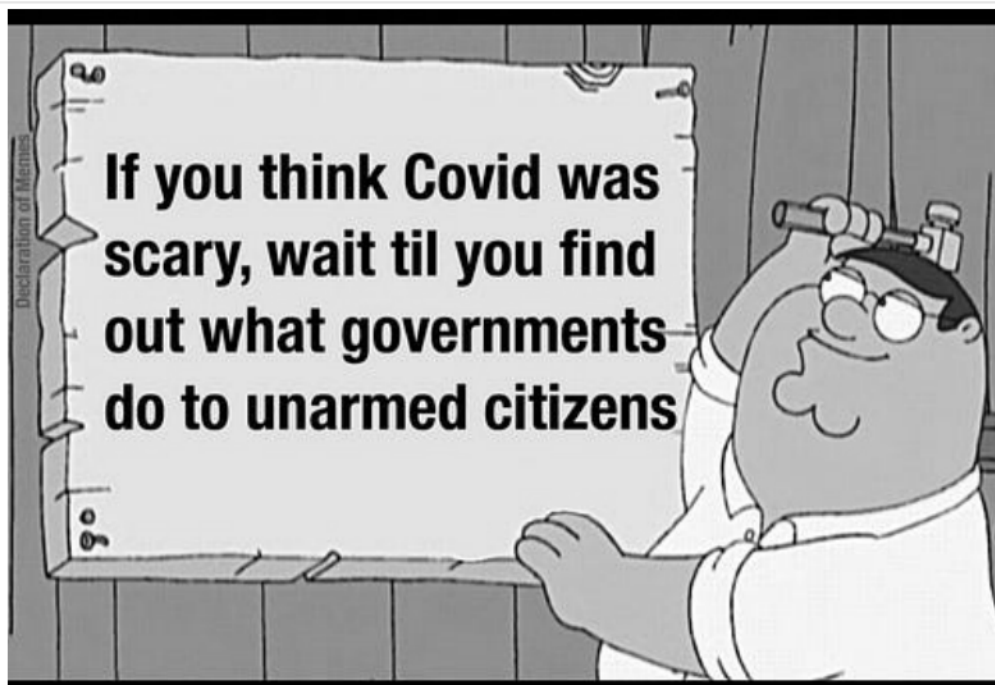
"Welcome to 'All Sides of the Issues.' Here's our panel of commentators — a communist, a socialist, a liberal, and a progressive...."

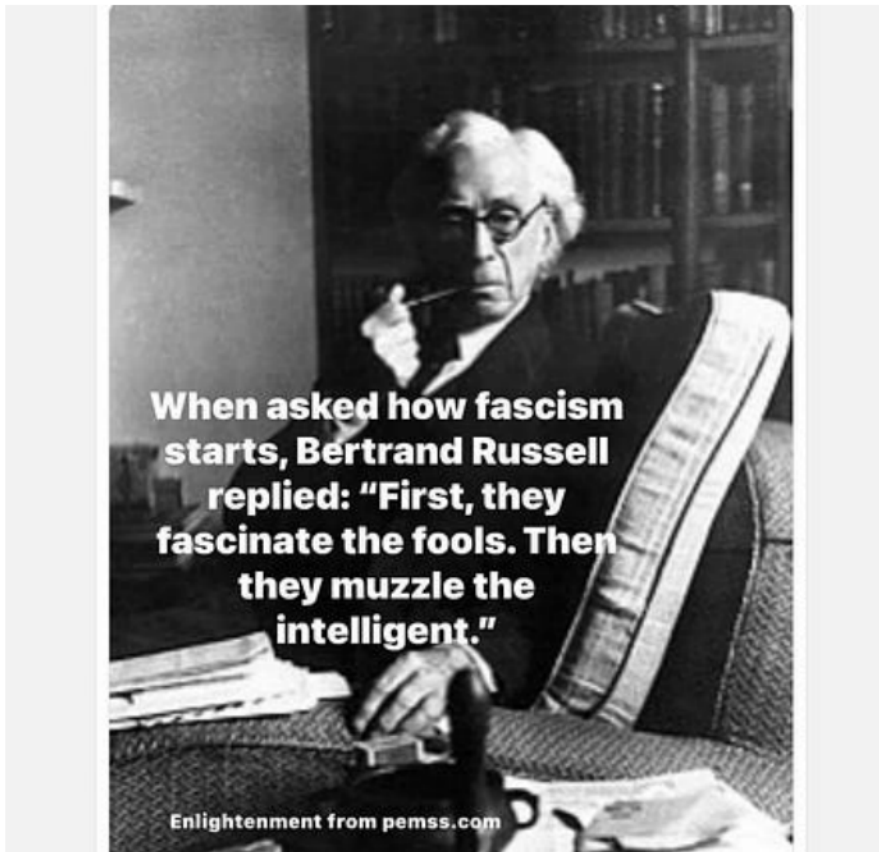
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**I GAVE MY FREEDOM AWAY TO GET  
MY FREEDOM BACK AND I'M STILL  
NOT FREE AND IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT.**



TURN OFF  
YOUR TV  
NEWS

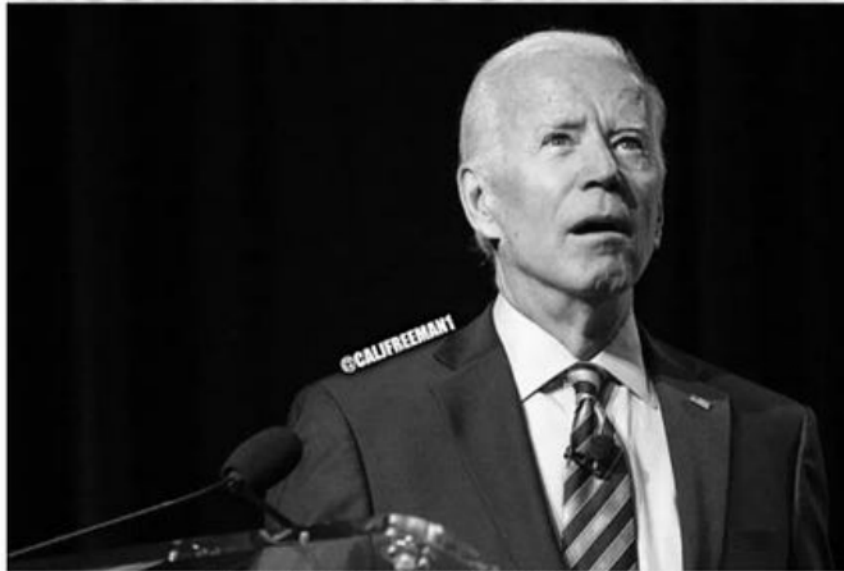






Man Struggling To Feed His  
Family Just Happy He Can  
Fund A War With His Taxes

**IF MENTALLY  
INCOMPETENT TO STAND TRIAL...**



**THEN MENTALLY  
INCOMPETENT TO BE PRESIDENT**

**NOTHING SAYS THAT YOU CHEATED  
AND STOLE THE ELECTION MORE THAN:**

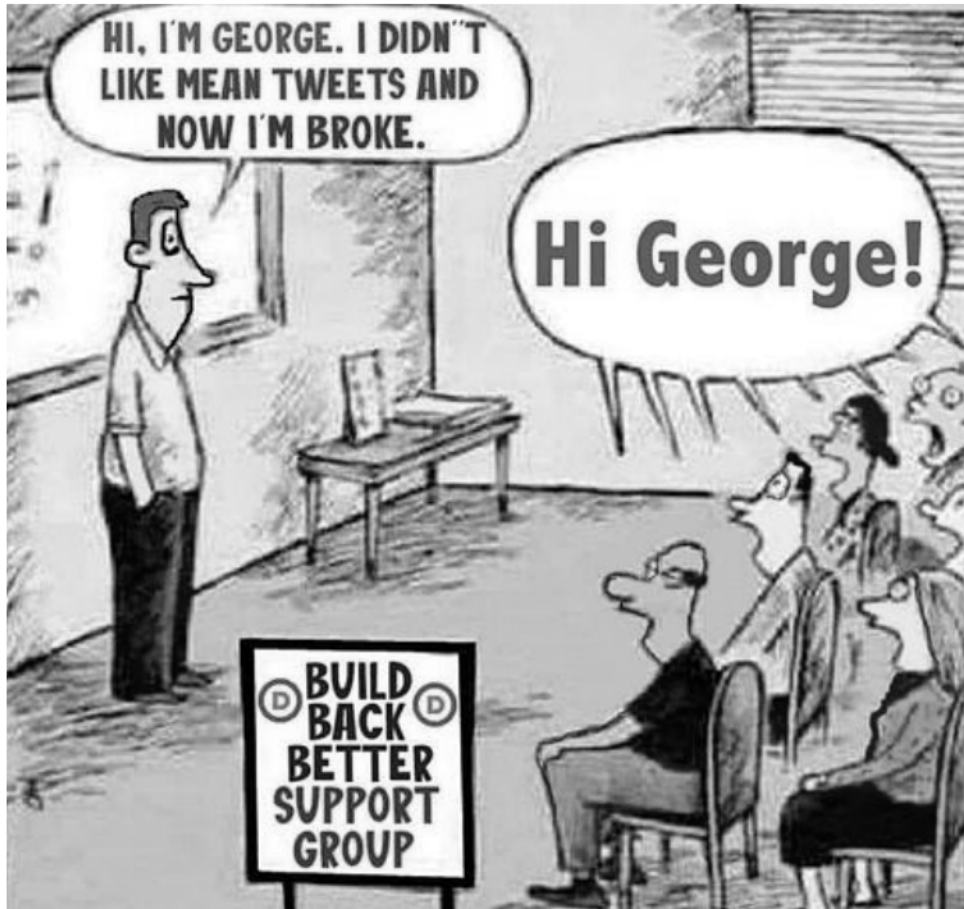
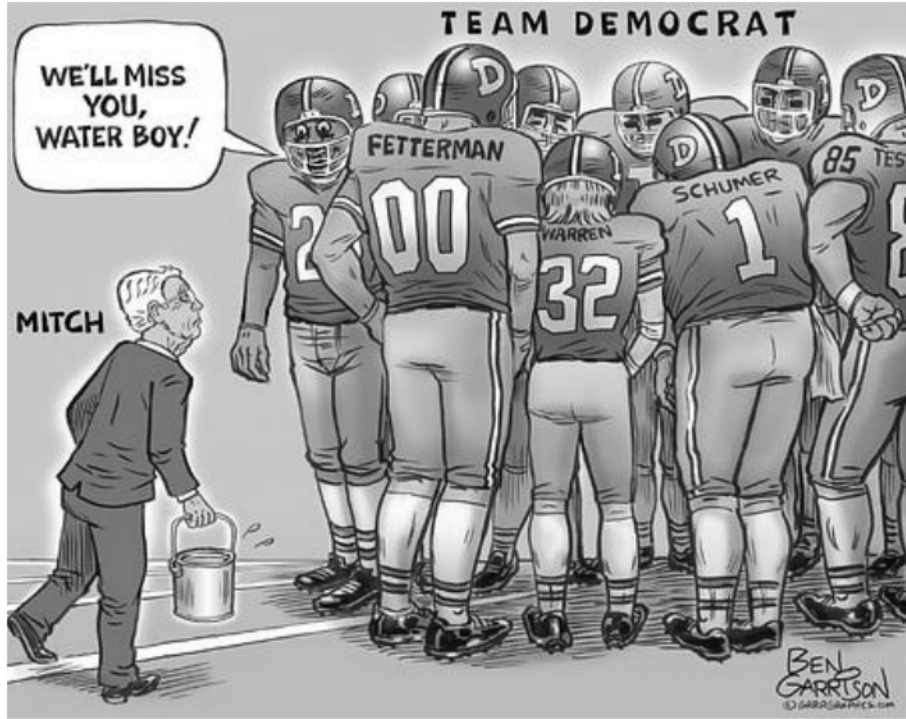


**INDICTING AND ARRESTING YOUR  
POLITICAL OPPONENTS FOR SAYING THAT  
YOU CHEATED AND STOLE THE ELECTION**

@GodandCountryy

I know someone who's about to take Joe to the train station....









It's a serious medical emergency: you're minding your own business when you hear an opinion you slightly disagree with.

Will the doctors be able to save this man's life?

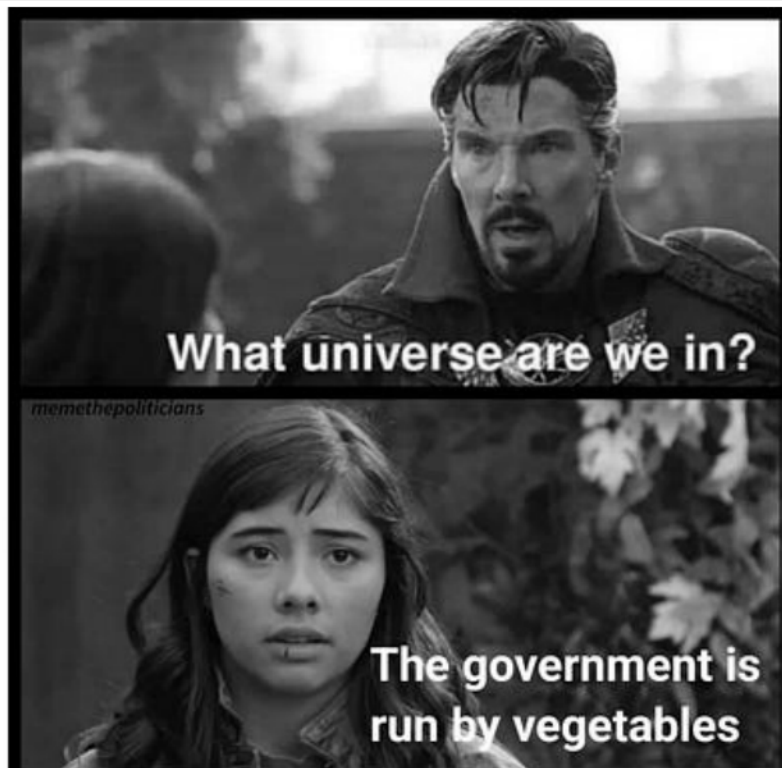




Liberal white women who complain it's too dangerous to walk alone at night signing the petition to release violent criminals



When someone says entertainment  
and media are brainwashing our kids



---

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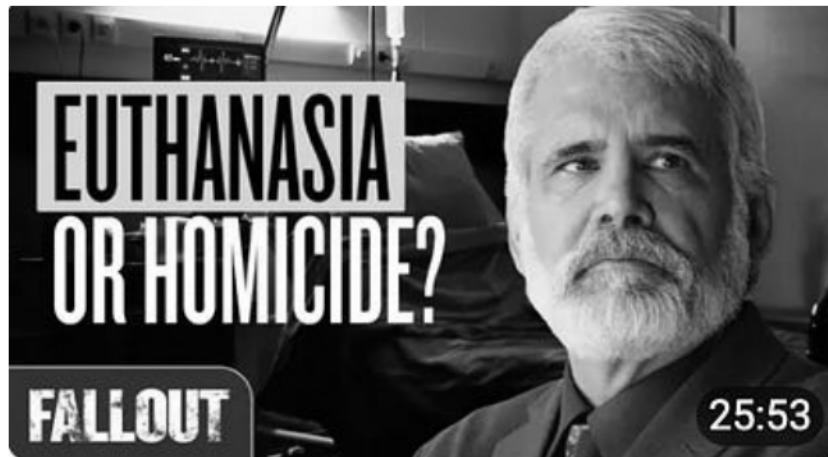
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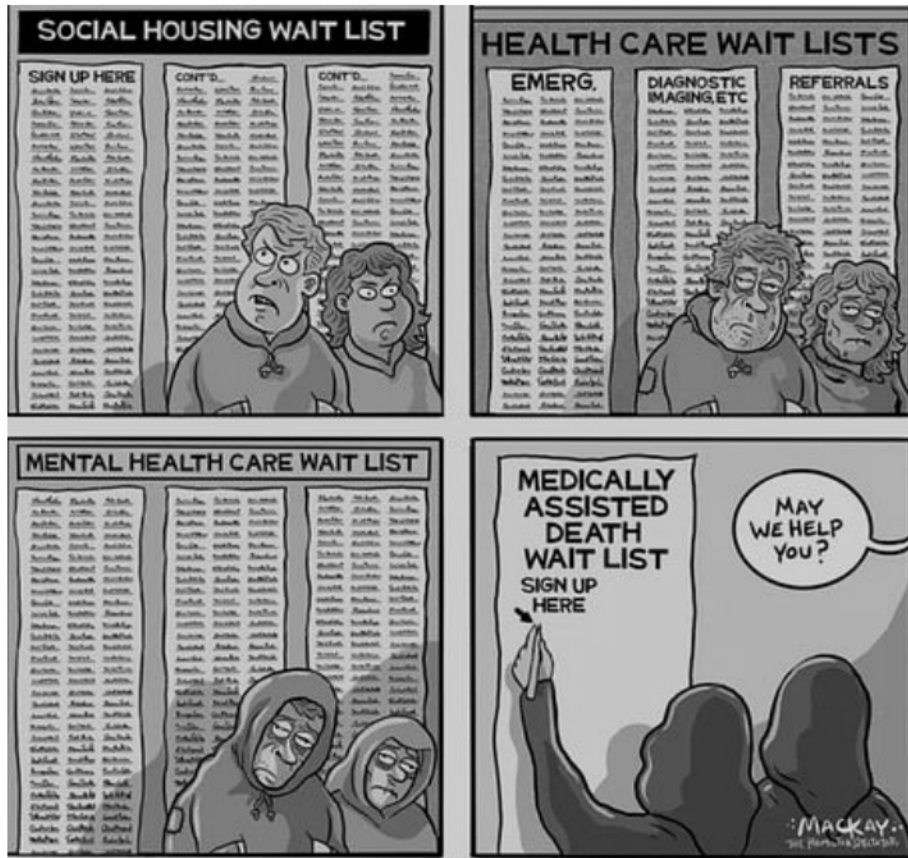


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**Robert Malone on Assisted Suicide: What Happens When the Government Has a Financial Incentive in Your Death?**

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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] US Warfighter and Force Readiness: Toxin Exposure and Job Mandates

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# US Warfighter and Force Readiness: Toxin Exposure and Job Mandates

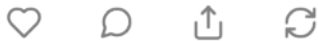
Did the COVID vax mandates trigger PACT Act TERA Clauses?

ROBERT W MALONE MD,

MS

MAR

2



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The John J. Pershing VA Medical Center held its third face-to-face PACT in Pocahontas, Arkansas, and we were able to bring vital information to (Department of Veterans Affairs via Facebook)

## **Guest editorial, Dr. Crisanna Shackelford**

---

Dr. Crisanna L. Shackelford (Shack): Advocating for Medical Freedom in the Battle for Choice.

With over 32 years of combined Active Duty Navy and Department of Defense (DOD) Federal Service, Dr. Crisanna L. Shackelford (Shack) has dedicated her career to national security, intelligence, warfare, strategic planning, and public policy. Following her 'coerced' retirement from DOD due to her staunch ethical and scientific opposition to its COVID policies, and armed with a deep understanding of the inner workings of the DOD, both regarding defense biologics policies and their impact on the workforce, Shack's expertise seamlessly transitions from wargaming and nonlinear warfare to recognizing critical links between health crises and national security. With a keen understanding of global integrated threats and their interdependencies among state, non-state, and supranational actors, she passionately advocates for medical freedom. Shack comprehends the profound implications for both individual rights and global

stability. Connect with Shack at @DrC\_Shackelford on X where you can find her work on Redefining Defense Readiness and at @RealReactionsNP on X for her advocacy for the vaccine injured.

Shack is an occasional writer and some of her work can be found on

### **Interdependencies's Newsletter**

Asking the complex, interdependent questions.

By interdependencies

---

In addition to overall governmental transparency and accountability, one of the most pressing current unmet COVIDcrisis needs is for compensation and treatment of those damaged by the genetic “vaccine” products. The official government denialism concerning those so damaged continues in the present, and is supported by an ongoing propaganda and censorship campaign despite abundant documentation (including thousands of peer-reviewed publications) of these harms. Among other sources, these harms are chronicled in the award winning Epoch times documentary “[The Unseen Crisis](#)”. The programmatic failure of the [dysfunctional “vaccine courts” for civilians](#) has been well documented, but what about the warfighter and other military service-affiliated personnel who have been damaged by the mandated COVID “vaccine” products?

Following the @SenRonJohnson remarks at the [International Crisis Summit ICS-5](#) with @RWMaloneMD @BrookeMillerMD @DrHarveyRisch and an esteemed lineup of global contributors, the discourse delved into the profound toxicity of the "vaccines" and its dire implications for our national security and defense readiness posture. The revelation that the Secretary of Defense (SECDEF) mandated a toxic exposure through the 'vaccine' mandates for our entire Armed Forces raises alarming concerns. While the SECDEF may not be fully aware of the ramifications, his actions, along with those of the Biden Administration, inadvertently triggered the [PACT Act](#) (see also [here for Wiki summary](#)) and [TERA memorandum](#) legislation. The passage of the PACT Act in 2022 underscores the critical nexus between toxic exposure, national security, warfare capabilities, and defense readiness posture. The mandate for COVID-19 injections represents a forced toxic exposure with catastrophic implications for our national security and defense readiness posture.

The VA TERA SOP states:

“Vaccines and medications in general are not considered participation in a Toxic Exposure Risk Activity (TERA) because there is no scientific or medical evidence that supports the conclusion that vaccines and medications administered to Service Members have resulted in long-term adverse health effects.” Obtained from VA Whistleblower - VA SOP

With this communication, the VA's internal Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) reveal a concerning disregard for vaccine-related toxicity. According to the VA SOP, vaccines and medications are not considered to meet criteria for participation in a Toxic Exposure Risk Activity (TERA), due to a purported lack of scientific evidence supporting long-term adverse health effects resulting from their administration to Service Members.

This official VA position reveals a stark disparity between reported experiences of service members and the extensive documentation of adverse effects in both the scientific literature and internal US HHS communications obtained via FOIA, raising profound concerns regarding the transparency and accountability of VA policies surrounding vaccine-related injuries.

The specific ramifications of this policy extend far beyond individual service members, and pose a significant threat to our nation's security and defense readiness posture. By evading accountability for the forced exposure of our military to toxic injections, this policy undermines the foundational goals of the PACT Act, undermines warfighter morale, undermines recruitment and therefore force readiness objectives and jeopardizes our ability to defend against external threats.

Just as censorship distorts information and compromises decision-making in democracies, the suppression of evidence regarding the harmful effects of these injections compromises our military's ability to accurately assess its readiness and effectiveness.

As highlighted by Dr. Robert Malone, the manufacturing of engineered toxic proteins in the bodies of warfighters and other service members in response to these mandates echoes the practices observed in military-industrial research laboratories overseen by entities including

globally-aligned and funded organizations (for example, ECO Health Alliance), further emphasizing the gravity of the situation.

***As stated by Dr. Robert Malone:***

"We've caused people to manufacture an engineered toxic protein in their body that we took directly from the military industrial research laboratory activities that were being performed under the oversight of the CCP and the People's Liberation Army." - [@RWMaloneMD](#)

Dr. Robert Malone's statement underscores the gravity of the situation, as our Armed Forces were compelled to accept injections which would cause production of engineered toxic proteins throughout their bodies, tissues and cells. This stark evidence demands government recognition under the PACT Act.

The discrepancy between VA policies and the known health implications of modified-mRNA technology is deeply concerning, given the well documented multiple pathways of toxicity and long-term implications to those who have accepted these products. The impact extends beyond US borders to coalition partners whose armed forces also succumbed to the injection mandate, amplifying the urgency of addressing these systemic failures.

### **DNA Contamination and other Toxins**

Given the toxic pathways activated by the spike protein, LNPs, frameshifted uncharacterized protein translation products and DNA fragment contamination/adulteration [see for example work of Dr. Kevin McKernan et al], there is a strong scientific and ethical basis to consider COVID-19 mRNA injections as a toxic exposure risk activity [TERA].

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## **Title 38 USC 1151 [Benefits for persons disabled by treatment or vocational rehabilitation]**

Title 38 USC 1151 outlines eligibility criteria for compensation related to VA healthcare-related disabilities. The gravity of the situation is underscored by Section 1168 of Title 38, U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, which mandates medical evaluations for veterans claiming disabilities resulting from service-related toxic exposures. However, despite this legal mandate, veterans continue to face significant hurdles in accessing the necessary evaluations and support, exacerbating the severity of their conditions, and denying them the care and compensation they urgently need.

### **Section 1168 of Title 38, U.S. Code**

Section 1168 of Title 38, U.S. Code, mandates medical evaluations for veterans claiming disabilities resulting from service-related toxic exposures. It emphasizes the importance of thorough medical assessments to determine the extent of disabilities attributable to toxic exposures during military service. See Section 1168.

## **Whistleblower Advocacy and Demands for Transparency**

### *Early Warnings and Suspicions*

To mitigate future security threats, it is imperative that the US Government and the US Department of Defense address the failures in transparency and accountability highlighted by whistleblowers within the VA as well as a wide range of advocates outside the organization. Concerns raised about the COVID-19 residual scheme, compounded by suspicions of intentional concealment of vaccine-related injuries, underscore systemic issues that compromise our readiness and national security. As whistleblowers continue to advocate for transparency and accountability, urgent action is needed to ensure the health and well-being of service members and veterans. Prioritizing transparency in reporting and addressing adverse events is crucial to safeguarding against future threats to our military readiness and national security.

Dr. Crisanna Shackelford (@DrC\_Shackelford on X) tweeted the data from a FOIA request of the Veterans Healthcare Administrations (VHA) database known as Legacy, reporting that tens

of thousands of veterans were hospitalized within six months following the COVID vaccine. See for example [Shackelford on X](#) . Moving forward, fostering a culture of transparency, accountability, and evidence-based decision-making will be paramount in restoring trust and confidence in the military healthcare system. By amplifying the voices of affected individuals, advocating for policy reform, and demanding transparency in vaccine administration, we can work towards a system that prioritizes the safety and welfare of those who have served our nation. [see image below]



Veterans Health Administration  
VHA FOIA Office (105HIG)  
810 Vermont Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20420

In Reply Refer To: **FOIA Request 24-04155-F**

February 5, 2024

[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]:

This letter is the initial agency decision to your January 4, 2024, request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, submitted to the Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Central Office FOIA Office requesting the data held within the Veterans Health Administration's database known as "Legacy." My request pertains to aggregated hospital admission data for veterans post-COVID-19 vaccination.

**Details of the Request:**

- **Data Required:** Aggregated data on hospital admissions of veterans following their COVID-19 vaccination.
- **Time Frame:** The six months subsequent to each veteran's COVID-19 vaccination date.
- **Specific Database:** The data should be sourced exclusively from the "Legacy" database.
- **Purpose:** The intent is to conduct a comprehensive analysis of post-vaccination hospital admissions.
- **Data Format:** Please provide the data in an aggregated, electronic format, ensuring no individual veterans can be identified.

Your FOIA request was received in my office on January 10, 2024.

## Challenging the VA's Stance

To challenge the VA's flawed stance, it's imperative to highlight the discrepancies in their approach to COVID-19 *vaccinations*. As stated throughout this article -- VA's denial of long-

term adverse effects disregards the significant differences between traditional vaccines and modified-mRNA technology. This oversight not only ignores the known harms associated with the COVID-19 genetic vaccines but also undermines the need for comprehensive medical evaluations and benefits for affected service members. The whistleblower's demand for transparency underscores the urgency of reevaluating policies that fail to recognize the toxic nature of modified-mRNA vaccines and the associated risks to military personnel. Recognizing the implications of mRNA injections as a toxic exposure risk activity is essential to safeguarding the health and well-being of service members and veterans. 1168 and TERA

In February, 2023, a whistleblower within the VA submitted yet another demand for transparency – see Conclusion 6. In part – the conclusion states – “...Given the toxic pathways activated by the spike protein, LNPs, and DNA contamination, there is a strong scientific and ethical basis to consider COVID-19 mRNA injections as a toxic exposure risk activity [TERA]”

From: Freeman III, Sonny D. VBAUYSAL  
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2023 6:36 AM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Whistleblower Complaint and Request for Recognizing COVID-19 EUA mRNA Vaccines as a Toxic Exposure Risk Activity (TERA)  
Importance: High

Dear Secretary Denis McDonough and all esteemed members of my managerial chain,  
I hope this email finds you well. As a VA Rating Veteran Services Representative and a Combat Veteran, I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding the VA's current stance on the COVID-19 EUA mRNA vaccines. I urge you to consider the following arguments for recognizing these vaccines as a Toxic Exposure Risk Activity (TERA).

**1. Introduction to the Spike Protein's Role in COVID-19 and Vaccines:** The spike protein allows SARS-CoV-2 to anchor itself onto human cells via its receptor Angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 (ACE2). This protein is key in the pathology of COVID-19. When ACE2 is occupied by its link with the virus, it can no longer play its essential anti-inflammatory role, leading to hyper-inflammation in COVID-19. It is this very spike protein that mRNA and DNA vaccines produce in large and uncontrolled quantities in the body.

**2. Toxic Pathways of the Spike Protein, Lipid Nanoparticles, and DNA Contamination:**

- Spike Protein:** The spike protein, both from the virus and the vaccines, can activate the complement system, leading to cytokine storm, endothelial inflammation, and thrombosis. Additionally, it can dysregulate the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system and attenuate the Mas receptor activity, leading to inflammation.
- Lipid Nanoparticles (LNPs):** LNPs are crucial for delivering the mRNA into cells but can cause inflammatory responses. Recent studies have shown that LNPs, upon intradermal administration in mice, led to massive neutrophil infiltration, activation of diverse inflammatory pathways, and production of various inflammatory cytokines and chemokines. Notably, intranasal inoculation with the same dose of LNP caused a high mortality rate in mice. The inflammatory nature of the LNPs could explain their potent adjuvant activity and their superiority, compared to other adjuvants, in supporting the induction of adaptive immune responses. The side effects observed with the SARS-CoV-2 vaccine's first dose are likely associated with the LNPs' inflammatory properties.
- DNA Contamination:** DNA fragments have been detected in both Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna mRNA COVID-19 vaccines. The discovery of DNA fragments in vaccines, particularly when paired with lipid nanoparticles (LNPs), is alarming and suggests a grave oversight in vaccine formulation. These DNA fragments, if not adequately degraded, can act as potent immunostimulants, potentially triggering unpredictable and harmful immune responses. The inclusion of LNPs, designed to boost cellular uptake, could further intensify the cellular absorption of these DNA fragments, amplifying their harmful effects. There's a looming threat of this DNA integrating into the host genome, which, even if statistically rare, could have catastrophic long-term health consequences. The absence of comprehensive long-term studies on this matter is a glaring gap in our understanding, and the toxic exposure risk cannot be ignored or downplayed.

**3. VA's Current Policy on Conceding Participation in Toxic Exposures Risk Activities:** VA has ordered claims processors to liberally construe toxic exposure risk activity relating to military occupational claims but prohibits the consideration of mRNA vaccines with multiple known pathways of toxicity. This discrepancy is concerning, especially given the long-term health implications of the vaccines.

**4. Lack of Mechanism for Tracking Long-Term Effects:** There is no mechanism in place for tracking the long-term effects of the COVID-19 shots. Recognizing these vaccines as a TERA would create a valuable mechanism for linking vaccine injury claims to diagnostic codes. Assigning a specific issue identifier would facilitate a structured and comprehensive tracking system, ensuring that long-term effects are adequately monitored and addressed.

**5. Ethical Concerns:** It is highly unethical for the VA to have a policy stating there is no scientific or medical evidence to support the conclusion of long-term health effects. The fact that the entire military was mandated to receive this vaccine raises further ethical concerns. Excluding the mandated injection from considerations of toxic exposure creates the appearance of intent to cover up vaccine injuries.

**6. Conclusion:** Given the toxic pathways activated by the spike protein, LNPs, and DNA contamination, there is a strong scientific and ethical basis to consider the COVID-19 mRNA vaccines as a toxic exposure risk activity (TERA). Failing to act on this information could implicate all the recipients, as the fact that the COVID-19 mRNA injections are a toxic exposure "risk activity" is undeniable. It is our duty to ensure the health and well-being of our veterans, and I urge the VA to take these concerns seriously.

**References:**

1. Jean-François Eugard, Dominique Crestan, Christian Perronne, Jean-Marc Sabatier, Xavier Azaibert, Elizabeth A. Rodgers, Peter A. McCallough. (2023). Toxicity of SARS-CoV-2 Spike Protein with Respiratory Infection and Produced from COVID-19 mRNA and Adenoviral DNA Vaccines. *Archives of Microbiology and Immunology*, 7, 123-138.
2. Palmer, M. (2023, May 1). Alternate mechanisms of mRNA vaccine toxicity: which one is the main culprit? *ChCE.org*.
3. Speicher, D. J. (2023, October 19). DNA fragments detected in monovalent and bivalent Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna mRNA COVID-19 vaccines from Ontario, Canada: Exploratory dose response relationship with serious adverse events. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1101/2023.10.19.23281225>
4. Nilsen, Sonia, Zhen Qin, Sonya Jacobsen, Aunelle Boutau, Henri Estaboni, and Batond Z. Igdirli. (2023). The mRNA LNP Platform's Lipid Nanoparticle Component Used in Preclinical Vaccine Studies Is Highly Inflammatory. *Science*, 24(12), 3034-3038. <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.1211101>. Full Text.
5. Palmer, M. (with contributions from Bhakdi, S., DesBois, M., Hooper, B., Rosenick, D., Holland, M., & Fitts, C. A.). (2023). mRNA Vaccine Toxicity. *ChCE.org*

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response.

Sonny Freeman  
Rating Veteran Service Representative  
Department of Veterans Affairs – RO 318  
#Division-Salem, North Carolina  
[REDACTED]



## Warfare | Non-Governmental Censorship Forces | NATSEC IMPLICATIONS

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*The potential ramifications on warfare readiness are profound and cannot be overstated.*

---

The potential ramifications on warfare readiness are profound, and cannot be overstated. As we navigate an evolving landscape of conflict, characterized by intricate strategies and tactics, it's imperative to recognize the vulnerabilities created by misinformation and compromised defense readiness. The complicity of the Department of Defense (DOD) in perpetuating misinformation regarding vaccine-related injuries further exacerbates our susceptibility to external threats.

This presents a stark reality: our adversaries, well-versed in exploiting weaknesses and wielding information as a weapon, could capitalize on our compromised military personnel and readiness posture. In this scenario, our ability to defend against unforeseen warfare tactics and strategies becomes severely compromised, potentially leading to devastating consequences for national security. As we confront these challenges, it's essential to prioritize strategies that bolster defense readiness and counteract the influence of misinformation, ensuring our military remains prepared to navigate the complexities of modern warfare.

In this evolving warfare environment, characterized by various facets and interdependencies, recent observations by Bret Weinstein shed critical light on its dynamics.

Weinstein's remarks prompt essential inquiries into the nature of contemporary global power struggles.

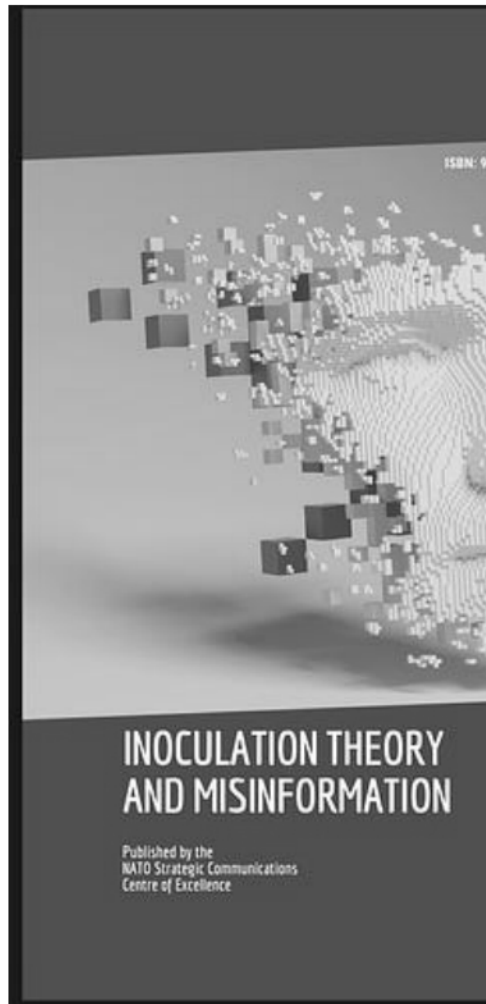
Bret comments about the...

“...insanity of throwing highly trained people, in many case, out of the US military for refusing to take the so-called vaccines...my sense at the time was that that likely had the purpose of getting rid of the kinds of people who refuse immoral orders...and it created a much more compliant force...”

Weinstein's observations prompt essential inquiries into the nature of contemporary global power struggles. His remarks regarding the expulsion of highly trained personnel for vaccine

refusal underscore the profound implications for the military's *operational ethos*. Weinstein's perspective, grounded in his expertise as a biologist, delves into the intricacies of nonlinear warfare, a concept increasingly relevant in today's geopolitical climate. This nonlinear warfare, in part, is executed by para-governmental censorship forces, shaping the information landscape, and influencing strategic decision-making. As discussions continue about the Department of Defense's complicity in mandating potentially harmful substances, Weinstein's insights compel us to delve deeper into the nature of contemporary global power struggles and their implications for national security.

Adding to the list of governmental organizations that are complicit, NATO STRATCOM COE's "Inoculation Theory" publication on psychology resilience highlights strategies to prevent the spread of misleading information, particularly by anti-vax groups. The document discusses building psychological resilience against misinformation through psychological "vaccines" or "inoculation", a concept akin to developing psychological antibodies against false narratives. This strategic approach mirrors the tactics employed by para-governmental censorship forces, illustrating the multifaceted nature of contemporary information warfare and its implications for national security. As we confront these challenges, it's essential to recognize the interconnectedness of information dissemination, non-linear warfare tactics, and defense readiness, as they collectively shape the security landscape of the future.



<https://stratcomcoe.org/publications/inoculation-theory-and-misinformation/217>

Summarizing, the VA has a fraudulent SOP that restricts acknowledging C19 toxic injections as qualifying for Toxic Exposure Risk Activity (TERA), despite legal frameworks intended to facilitate such recognition. How much more evidence will be needed to demonstrate the toxicity of these jabs and service-connected jab-injuries? Here are the VA's own words rationalizing this position, which directly contradict current science and evidence:

"Vaccines and medications in general are not considered participation in a Toxic Exposure Risk Activity (TERA) because there is no scientific or medical evidence that supports the conclusion that vaccines and medications administered to Service Members have resulted in long-term adverse health effects...."

In an era of increasingly unregulated Biodefense – biowarfare activities – the development of more modified-mRNA platform countermeasures, concerns are also raised as to what DOD will do to its troops to counter any government or non-government biowarfare attacks. In an article from NPR – “Made to order DNA...” still more concerns are raised

“Today, we are synthesizing more than 10,000 genes every month,” he says, showing off a lab at a Boston biotech company called Ginkgo Bioworks. Making genes from scratch used to be laborious and time-consuming, but not anymore. That's why federal officials are now considering new measures to prevent this rapidly advancing technology from being misused to create dangerous viruses or bioweapons.”

## **Conclusion and a glimpse into our Nation’s National Security – a Dystopian Future**

Envision a not-so-distant future where our Armed Forces become entangled in the intricate web of non-governmental censorship forces, knowingly or unwittingly contributing to their agenda. This unsettling scenario prompts any objective person to question the mandate of the COVID-19 jab and the associated toxin exposure. Was the Department of Defense (DOD) complicit in mandating this exposure to toxicity? What are the far-reaching implications for defense readiness, force posture, and ultimately, national security?

These inquiries underscore the pressing need for transparency, accountability, and evidence-based decision-making within our military and governmental institutions. The dangers posed by misinformation, censorship, and complicity in toxic mandates cannot be downplayed. They echo ancient stratagems employed by adversaries, drawing parallels to the tactics of Sun Tzu, who emphasized the importance of knowing oneself and one's enemy in order to secure victory.

As we navigate this intricate landscape of modern conflict, it is paramount to confront these challenges head-on. By prioritizing the safety and well-being of our service members, advocating for policy reform, and demanding transparency in decision-making processes, we can fortify our defenses against external threats and ensure the resilience and prosperity of our nation for generations to come.

**REF:**

18 U.S.C. § 178 - U.S. Code: (2) the term “toxin” means the toxic material or product of plants, animals, microorganisms (including, but not limited to, bacteria, viruses, fungi, rickettsiae or protozoa), or infectious substances, or a **recombinant or synthesized molecule**, whatever their origin and method of production, and includes— (A)any poisonous substance or **biological product that may be engineered as a result of biotechnology** produced by a living organism; or (3)the term “**delivery system**” means— (A)any apparatus, equipment, device, or means of delivery specifically designed to deliver or disseminate a biological agent, toxin, or vector; or (B)any vector; (4)the term “vector” means a living organism, or molecule, including a recombinant or synthesized molecule, capable of carrying a biological agent or toxin to a host.

<https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/18/178>

Notes at end:

*NOTE: It's imperative to emphasize that while commonly referred to as "vaccines," these injections, originally classified by manufacturers like Moderna and Pfizer as gene therapy, are, in essence, experimental gene therapies. Any use of the term "vaccine" is used here cautiously, reflecting the terminology commonly employed in public discourse, but it's crucial to recognize the accurate classification of these products as gene therapy. This distinction is essential to prevent proponents from advancing their version of public health under the guise of traditional vaccination.*

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Better late than never.

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## 2024 PRESIDENTIAL RACE





**Kurt Dillon**

2d · 🌐

Imagine we lived in a world where all cars were EVs, and then along comes a new invention, the "Internal Combustion Engine"! Think how well they would sell: A vehicle half the weight, half the price that will almost quarter the damage done to the road. A vehicle that can be refuelled in 1/10th of the time and has a range of up to 4 times the distance in all weather conditions. It does not rely on the environmentally damaging use of non-renewable rare earth elements to power it, and use far less steel and other materials.

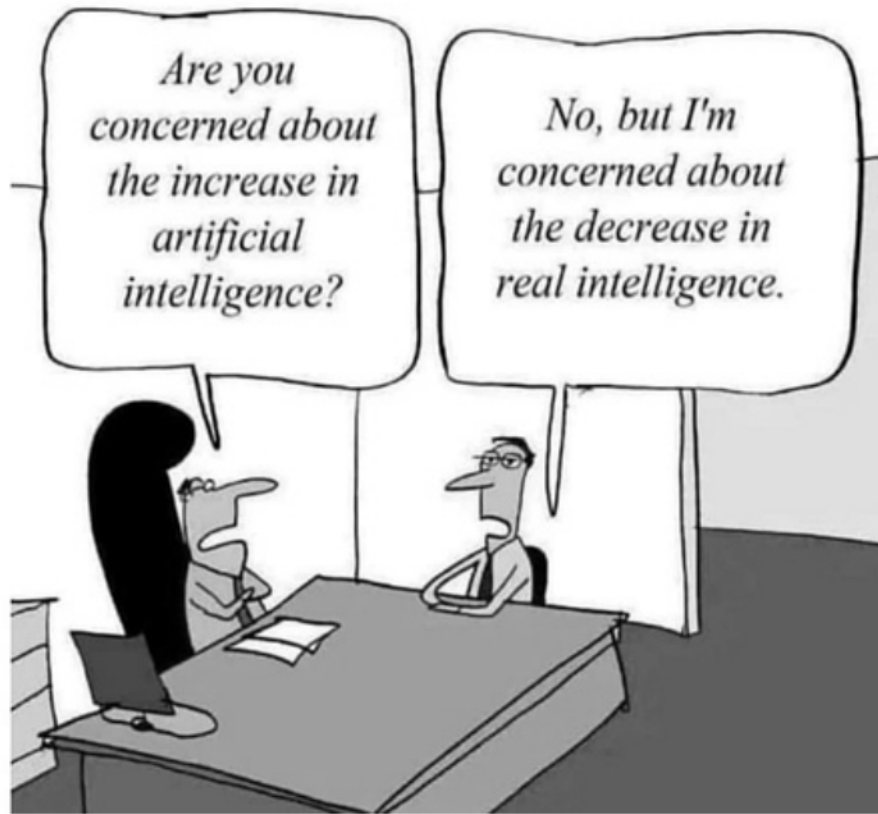
Just think how excited people would be for such technology, it would sell like hot cakes!

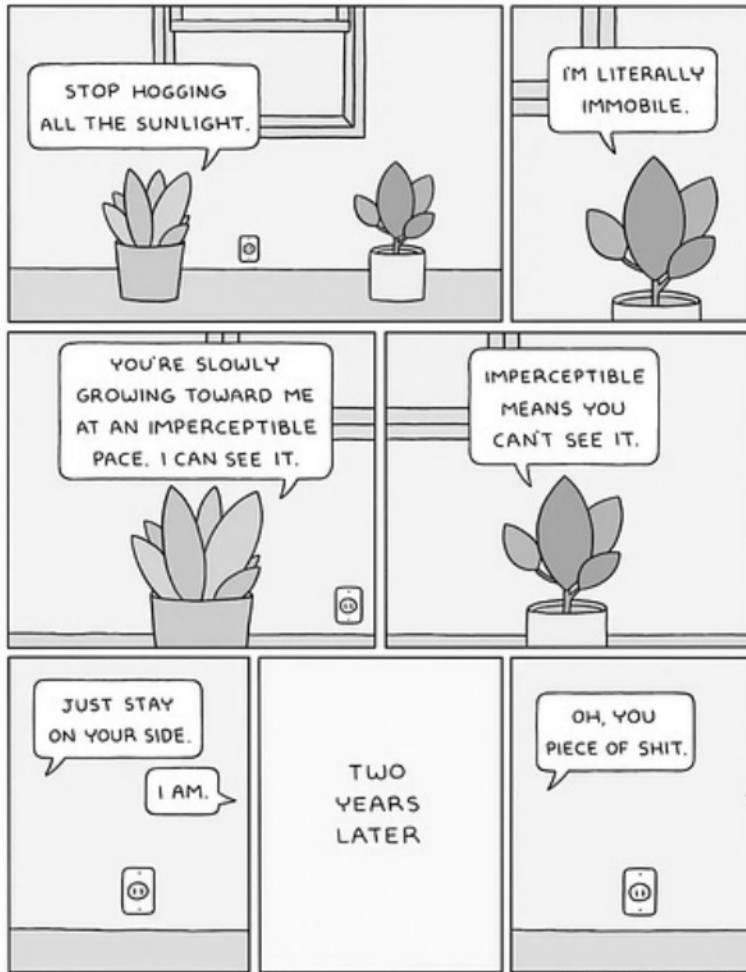
**They cut down all the trees**



**Then blamed the cows for  
farting.**







POORLY DRAWN LINES





**Please help I'm  
struggling to  
afford groceries**



**You obviously fail to  
understand what a  
good investment \$100  
Billion for Ukraine is**



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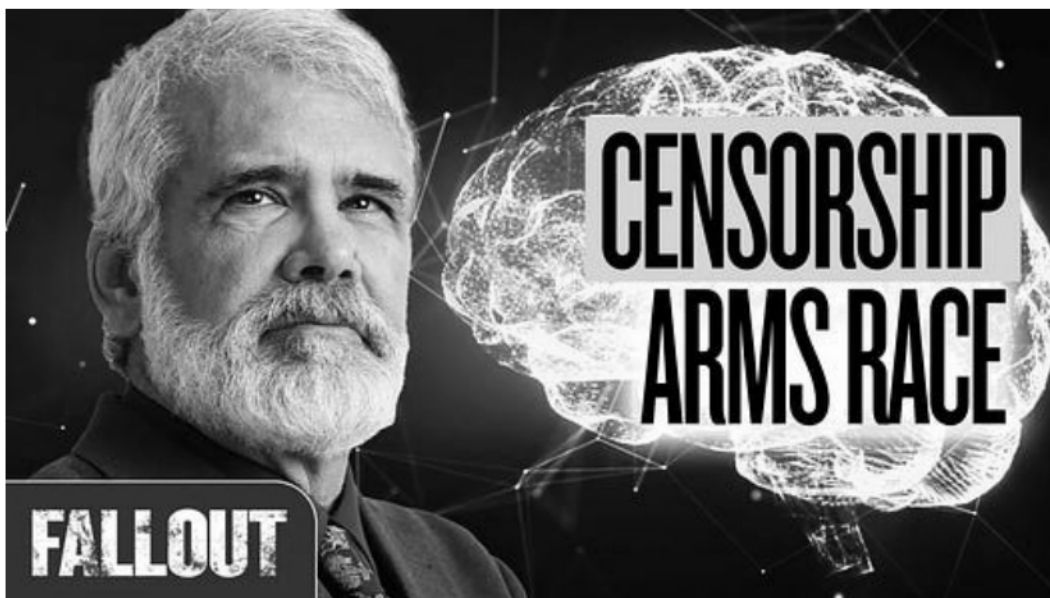


**"RELIGION IS SIMPLY SLAVERY.  
I CHOSE NOT TO BE A SLAVE."**





Jan Jekielek and I filmed for our series "*Fall Out*" at CPAC on media row yesterday. The episode is coming soon on Epoch TV



[PREMIERING 2/23, 9PM ET] FALLOUT with Robert Malone:

"Is Mercenary Censorship the New Face of Warfare?"

---

Today is the first day of the International Crisis Summit - the talks have been amazing and will be available on line soon.

If you wish watch the live stream, you can do so here:

[ICS Livestream link](#)





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# Why are Hispanics Mobilizing Around Trump?

"Food with Dignity"

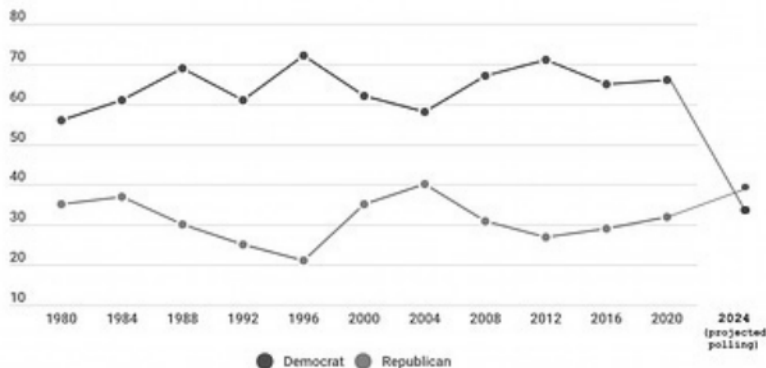
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## The National Latino Vote over Time

Latino voters' strongest showings for the Republican presidential candidate were in 2004 and 1984, and for the Democratic one in 1996 and 2012.



CPAC is one of my favorite conferences. Some of the things I enjoy about their format is that media row is just outside the main conference room where speakers such as President Trump, Vivek Ramaswamy, Nigel Farage, Tulsi Gabbard, Javier Milei grace the stage. Lined up one by

one and broadcasting live are media organizations like The Epoch Times, The War Room (Bannon), OAN, Real America's Voice, The New American, NewsMax, NTD News and The John Fredericks Media Network, and these are just a few of the many, many broadcasters. This is combined with the excellent vendor room - which is full of booths with conservative organizations and their top officials, as well as political candidates and conservative companies. The room is vast. Everyone is there to talk with people about their mission, what they are doing and what they have accomplished. Then there are the "stars". The speakers, foreign and domestic dignitaries and politicians. Just like everyone else, they are also there to listen to the talks. The energy, crowds (yes, it is huge - particularly on Friday and Saturday) are overwhelmingly supportive of each other.

For me, CPAC is kind of special because almost everyone knows me. I can't hardly walk through the crowded areas without getting mobbed by fans. I am overwhelmed and humbled by the fact that people feel so passionate about my work over the past three years. Furthermore, that fact that I will too will be speaking on the CPAC stage, shortly before President Trump, is one of the honors of my lifetime. It is so easy for me to brush off accolades, but here it is in my face. In my real life, at home - on the farm, we live quietly. I forget how many people support my work. For that I am very grateful.

## Conservative Political Action Conference

Annual meeting in the US and other  
countries



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**Overview**   Summary

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The **Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC; SEE-pak)** is an annual political conference attended by conservative activists and elected officials from across the United States and beyond. CPAC is hosted by the American Conservative Union (ACU). The first CPAC took place in 1974.

Anyway, yesterday I met Eva Sara Landau when I was registering for the CPAC conference at the Gaylord Hotel in Alexandria, Virginia. I have met Eva before at CPAC, and she is a vivacious, out-going, energetic person. So, as I waited for my badge, we struck up a

conversation. This is the fifth CPAC conference where she has volunteered, and she is very proud of the responsibilities that the organization has given her. She is an incredibly hard worker and her energy is infectious.



Eva is a political refugee who came to this country from Bolivia in 2009. She told me that she came in “the right way.” She arrived in the USA legally and had to pass through a series of road blocks, interviews, etc. and then wait years and years for her refugee status to be granted. During that time, she found a job. She supported herself. She points out that when people are given cash payments, food, medical care and housing - they lose their dignity. They become dependent on the state.

As she was registering me, I asked her and the other volunteers about what the turn-out for CPAC is this year. The group of registrars all agreed - this year may be the biggest CPAC ever. The reason why? According to Eva and her colleagues,

**People of hispanic origin in the USA are pissed off and scared.**

And they are coming to CPAC to get involved and to support Trump. Because this group of Americans see Trump as the one candidate who will secure the border. Who will fix the economy. Eva believes that the number one reason hispanics in this country legally have come to

the USA is for safety. To escape the drug lords, gangs, lawlessness and corrupt governments. Many have been persecuted, like Eva was, in the country of their birth.

They recognize that the porous border is a danger to the American way of life. To being safe. That the urban centers in the USA are being overwhelmed with people who do not deserve to be here. They have not earned it. They have cheated to get here.

Furthermore, while this group of legal immigrants had to work and continue to work, the US government is putting the illegal immigrants in the front of the line, displacing people who are here legally and going through the proper channels.

Eva pointed out to me that the US government is giving these illegal aliens not only food and housing, but computers, clothes, cash cards and more. Something that makes them dependent on the state and in particular, the democratic administration. It goes without saying, that the hope of the DNC is that this will translate into votes down the road.

There are 63.7 million (plus or minus) Hispanics in this country who can vote, who are here legally. Furthermore, it is no coincidence that more than 50% of border-patrol agents are Mexican Americans. The border is an issue that matters to this group of Americans. They know that the people pouring over the border have not been vetted, many are criminals and whereas in order to obtain a green card, one has to be vaccinated - even this requirement has been waived.

Recent polling suggests that inflation, rising cost of living, jobs and the economy, health care, crime, lack of affordable housing and the border top the list of concerns for hispanics who are eligible to vote. And the border issues keep climbing in importance. The Biden administration has failed on all of these fronts. We all recognize that it is time for a change.

Most hispanics are appalled by the progressive and woke agendas. 83% of hispanics in this country who are eligible to vote consider themselves religious.

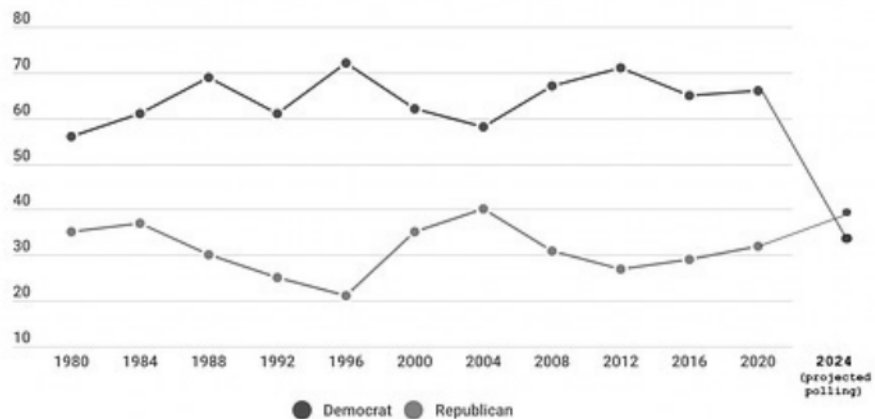
The polling of hispanics just gets progressively worse for Biden.

A 2024 USA Today and Suffolk University survey shows Trump ahead with 39% support among hispanic voters. This compares to Biden’s 34% support. This signals a huge change since 2020, when Biden had 65% of the approval from hispanic voters.

Below is a chart from AS/COA that documents how hispanic voters have voted in past elections, I have taken the most recent polling numbers and projected that onto this chart. The numbers are stunning.

## The National Latino Vote over Time

Latino voters’ strongest showings for the Republican presidential candidate were in 2004 and 1984, and for the Democratic one in 1996 and 2012.



I believe that the change in hispanic support for a democrat president is a bell weather for the 2024 election.

Barring censorship, data manipulation, propaganda or an act of Congress, President Trump will be the next president.

I believe that the country will benefit from this and I look forward to January 20th, 2025.

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# Friday Funnies: Dem Light

Echo chambers everywhere

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1998 2000



Jill does yoga. She has often tried to inspire me to take up yoga. So far, I have managed to resist all efforts...

Moving on.

---

I searched on "roundest bird"

This is what I found:



This birdling is known as the “Bearded Reedling.” Evidently it lives in “Eurasia”

Which then of course, what the heck is “Eurasia” exactly? Then I had to look up “Euraasia” - but that led to a completely different rabbit hole.

It turns out, there is no exact definition of “Eurasia.”

---

*Eurasia, geological and geopolitical term that relates in the former sense to the single enormous landmass composed of the continents of Europe and Asia and in the latter sense to the sociopolitical entity within that landmass whose exact borders are debated by scholars...Britannica*

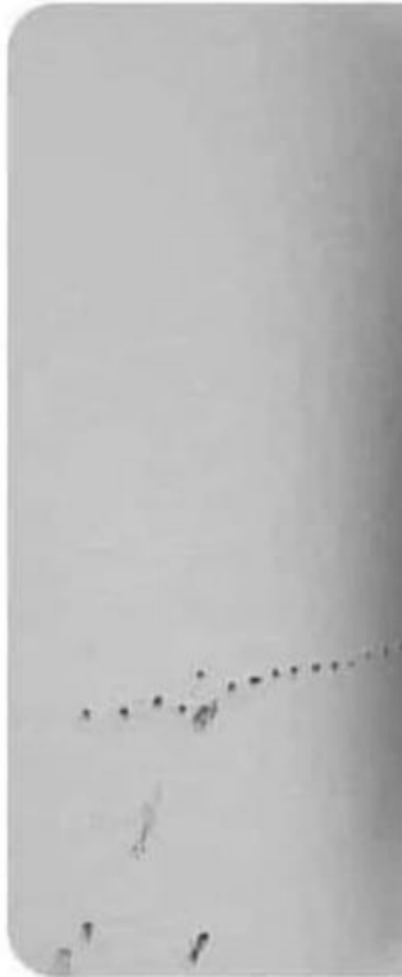
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In-laws invited u  
It was a trap



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I knew that  
there some  
me for mor





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**PREMIERING TONIGHT at 9:00 PM Eastern (February 2, 2024)**

**FALLOUT with Robert Malone: Are You Being Manipulated?**



[FALLOUT \(LINK\)](#)

The Chinese military strategist Sun Tzu once wrote: “The supreme art of war is to subdue the enemy without fighting.”

We live in an age of fifth-generation information warfare. Battles are not solely fought with guns and bombs. The new battlefield is in the minds of every citizen.

There are covert psychological operations at play to control what you see, what you hear, and what you’re allowed to think.

In this first episode of FALLOUT, our new EpochTV show co-hosted by Dr. Robert Malone and Epoch Times senior editor Jan Jekielek, we’ll be diving into some of the key tactics of disinformation.

After that, we’ll take a break—and head to Dr. Malone’s farm to get a glimpse into the magic of horse riding.

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**From:** Robert W Malone MD from "Who is Robert Malone"  
**Sent:** Mon, 29 Jan 2024 16:43:08 +0000  
**To:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] International Crisis Summit

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# International Crisis Summit

at CPAC, Washington DC during late February, 2024

ROBERT W MALONE MD,  
MS  
JAN  
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**WORLD-RENOWNED EXPERTS AT CPAC FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER**

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**FEB. 23, 2024 9AM - 6PM EST**

The International Crisis Summit (ICS) is excited to announce a joint venture with the upcoming CPAC DC event.

The 2024 CPAC DC is at the fantastic Gaylord hotel in Alexandria, and runs from Feb 21 to Feb 24 (Wednesday through Saturday). This year, it has a great line-up of speakers. If you have never been to a CPAC conference, you don't know what you are missing. There are typically around 5,000 to 10,000 people who attend this event.

CPAC Media row is not to be missed. This is a long row of media outlets - from which their conservative anchors are all broadcasting live. From Bannon to Epoch times to some many other news outlets, it is truly amazing event that operates during the entire CPAC conference. A crush of people gather at each booth to watch the live broadcasts.

The speakers at CPAC are always topnotch. This year I believe there are some big surprises planned. In the downstairs conference center, there are hundreds of booths from conservative organizations. These booths are full of experts and are an education in of themselves. I had no idea how many organizations are in this fight to retain our freedoms and many are there at CPAC. They are diverse, don't all share the same opinions and the grassroots activism is refreshing from the usual pablum the main-stream media throws at us.

This conference is one of the most diverse, inspiring events of my year, and I am proud to be a part of it. Rumor has it that I will be speaking on the main stage.

---

**This year, CPAC and the International Crisis Summit have arranged a breakout room at the Gaylord at CPAC for the International Crisis Summit to hold their public summit on Friday, February 23rd. There will only be 430 tickets on sale, so if you are interested - act fast.**

The theme and focus of this ICS meeting will be forward looking, with an emphasis on national and international public policy positions which address issues such as the WHO pandemic treaty, the proposed international health regulation changes, the farmer protest movement in Europe, policy proposals relating to gain of function research, government and non-governmental

deployment of censorship and propaganda, and the need to renegotiate the international biowarfare agreement, and a particular focus on current policy issues relating to Canada.

The speakers include a diverse mix of international politicians, scientists, physicians, investigators, and public health policy experts.

**The ICS conference will continue on Sunday as a closed session (speakers and media only - this will be livestreamed).** Our live-streaming and views of the presentations have literally reached billions and billions of people. Our presentations have changed the minds of millions of people about gain of function research and the COVID-19 origins, the mRNA vaccine, masks, lock-downs, alternative medicine and so much more. I consider it one of the most important projects I work on.

The views of the ICS 3 alone at the European Parliament reached over 4 billion views.



Finally, the ICS-5 has also arranged a special session at the Senate Building on February 26th (again speakers and media only, due to the size of the room), sponsored by Senator Ron Johnson -speakers to be announced. Due to restrictions on lobbying, this session is not funded by the ICS or the Malone Institute, but the ICS -5 and Malone Institute volunteers have worked hard to make this session in the Senate happen. Of course, a huge thank you to Senator Ron Johnson.

Due the globalist agendas and worldwide crises looming large for all of us, this particular conference is of utmost importance. The ICS has become a leading voice in the resistance against the globalist agenda - the sovereignty movement. It is also an opportunity for connections and networking amongst a group of people who need to work together to stymy the globalists and the take-over by the World Health Organization and the UN of national sovereignty. Although this event is happening at CPAC, this is only not a conservative issue.

This should be a bipartisan issue. This is about freedom and national sovereignty across all nations.

Jill and I are donating a fair amount of our own money to make this summit happen and to keep tickets prices very low, because it is extremely important to us. The Malone Institute is also helping to sponsor this International Crisis Summit. Another person who has donated heavily to the cause is Jerry Daniels, and the ICS-5 is grateful for his support.

The ICS-5 tickets are priced at \$95. This will include the full CPAC general admission (February 21-24) as well as the ICS admission (February 23-24, 2024). This is an amazing deal.

A note, the link for registration for the ICS conference is below. To get entry into the ICS portion, you must use this link, then your badge will indicate that you are given permission to go into the ICS 5 breakout room.

<https://cpac.org/dc/ics>

or...

### **ICS Registration**

---

We have a number of amazing volunteers, but the costs of this summit aren't trivial.

All the funds donated through the donation link below will go directly to supporting the summit. That includes the costs of leasing the Gaylord Conference space, speaker travel, live streaming and recording costs, etc.

### **Donate to ICS 5**

Please consider donating. Th ICS 5 summit will reach millions, if not billions of people. This is a critically important conference.

Finally, the ICS 5 could not do this work without the support of so many people over the years. The two people who have worked with me to put the ICS summits on in the EU Parliament, the

Roman Senate, the Romanian Senate, in France and now in DC have worked tirelessly, without pay and without recognition. They have chosen to remain fairly anonymous. So to Lilly and “Robbie” - we all thank you!

I also wish to acknowledge that most of the speakers are paying their own travel and lodging expenses - they are donating their time and resources to make this happen. No one is getting an honorarium or money for speaking. The ICS-5 organizers, including myself, are grateful for their support, time and effort.

---

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Please share this substack to others that might have an interest in attending or listening to the ICS-5.

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**From:** Zack Stieber  
**Sent:** Thu, 25 Jan 2024 14:06:39 -0500  
**To:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Cc:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

Hi Ken and Dr. Memoli, should we be expecting any responses to our questions, or an interview?

Thank you,  
Zack

On Mon, Jan 15, 2024 at 3:24 PM Zack Stieber (b)(6) wrote:  
Hi Ken and Dr. Memoli,

As promised, here are the questions.

—What compelled you to write to Dr. Fauci and other agency leaders?

—Did they ever respond to you? If so, what did they say?

—Why did you decide to go public in late 2021? Do you think the public would have been better served if you went public earlier?

—Were you surprised you were allowed to present your case against mandates during the NIH roundtable?

—What reception did you get from colleagues and superiors after the roundtable?

—Did you ever feel you were in danger of being fired for your opposition to the mandates?

—Did the NIH/NIAID ever approve your exemption request?

—Did you ever do the AFTERVAX study? If so, when are results expected? If not, why not?

—Looking back, would you have done anything differently with regards to the COVID-19 vaccines and/or the vaccine mandates?

—What are you working on nowadays?

Thank you,  
Zack

On Thu, Jan 11, 2024 at 4:25 PM Zack Stieber (b)(6) wrote:  
Thanks Ken, I will put together the questions and send them over.

Thank you,  
Zack

On Thu, Jan 11, 2024 at 2:01 PM Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)> wrote:

Hi Zack; please send your questions to Dr. Memoli and me.

Thanks

---

**From:** Zack Stieber <(b)(6)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 11, 2024 11:49 AM  
**To:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Cc:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

Hi Ken, thanks for the email. Dr. Memoli said he was happy to answer our questions. What can we do to make the interview work?

Thank you,

Zack

On Thu, Jan 11, 2024 at 1:31 PM Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)> wrote:

Hi Zack; Dr. Memoli shared your email. Sorry, but this interview won't work out.

NIAID Communications Office

---

**From:** Zack Stieber <(b)(6)>  
**Date:** Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 11:25 AM  
**To:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

Hi Dr. Memoli,

Good morning, hope you're having a good week.

We obtained some of your emails through a FOIA request and would like to set up an interview with you on them.

We can send over some of the questions we plan to ask ahead of time.

Do you have any availability next week?

Alternatively, we can send questions over and you can answer the questions over email.

Thank you,

Zack Stieber  
The Epoch Times

(b)(6)

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**From:** Newman, Raushanah (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Sent:** Tue, 23 Jan 2024 16:01:29 +0000  
**To:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Cc:** Shaffer, Meredith (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Subject:** Re: NIH/NIAID Freedom of Information Act request 61217 (Stieber/Epoch Times) - input needed

Thank you so much Dr. Memoli for your response!

Sincere regards,

Raushanah

---

**From:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Date:** Monday, January 22, 2024 at 10:56 AM  
**To:** Betz, Jordan (NIH/NHLBI) [C] <(b)(6)>  
**Cc:** NIAID DIR FOIA Facilitation Team <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** Re: NIH/NIAID Freedom of Information Act request 61217 (Stieber/Epoch Times) - input needed

Hi Jordan,

I have reviewed the emails, I am happy for everything there to be shared. I have no concerns or questions at all.

Matt

--

Matthew J. Memoli, M.D., M.S.  
Director, LID Clinical Studies Unit  
Laboratory of Infectious Diseases  
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases  
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---

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---

**From:** Betz, Jordan (NIH/NHLBI) [C] (b)(6)  
**Date:** Friday, January 19, 2024 at 4:29 PM  
**To:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Cc:** NIAID DIR FOIA Facilitation Team <NIAIDDIRFOIAFacilitationTeam@mail.nih.gov>  
**Subject:** NIH/NIAID Freedom of Information Act request 61217 (Stieber/Epoch Times) - input needed

Hi Dr. Memoli,

Our office received a FOIA request from Zachary Stieber of the Epoch Times for emails from you containing the words “mandate” or “mandated” and “vaccine” or “vaccination” from 11/10/21 to 11/10/22. This is a follow up to his previous requests (57329 and 61216) for your emails from 2021. It also partially overlaps with one from Aaron Siri of Siri & Glimstad LLP on behalf of ICAN, so you have already reviewed portions of the records last year. We need your input on the proposed redaction for the records that came back in the CIT search. I will send a copy of them separately through SEFT momentarily. Please review the proposed redactions and provide any input by Monday, January 29, 2024 so that we can respond to the request in a timely fashion. Happy to help answer any questions you may have.

Thanks,  
Jordan

Jordan Betz, PhD  
Policy Analyst  
Contractor with Axle Informatics  
Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Branch  
National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI), NIH  
(b)(6) Office  
301-496-9737 FOIA line

**From:** Robert W Malone MD from "Who is Robert Malone"  
**Sent:** Mon, 22 Jan 2024 17:46:23 +0000  
**To:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Homesteading: Winter Dreaming

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# Homesteading: Winter Dreaming

escaping from internet to reality.

ROBERT W MALONE MD,  
MS  
JAN  
22



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Winter is when we spend countless hours each morning fantasizing about and debating new projects that run the gamut from this year's new vegetable garden, woodland paths, land to be bush-hogged, interior design, decks and out-buildings to be built or rebuilt.

But the truth is that winter is also one of more productive times on the farm, in terms of construction and general design. The tyranny of the urgent overtakes us in the spring, with so many farm chores that endlessly fill our days. But with plants dormant in the winter, it is a good time to do those chores and big projects for which there never seems to be enough time to complete during the other seasons.

This winter has been especially productive since we have not had to travel since early December. Jill and I both savor the time at home- being on the farm is how we calm the inner demons and find peace. But then we both love a good project and find little use for being lazy.

Today's photo essay is has a lot of images - as it is a general update on all things at Home Malone. 'Cause winter doesn't slow us down here in Virginia.

First off, Jill is trying a new plant in the aerogarden. A variety of tomato called "Tom Thumb". It is supposed to be a micro tomato plant. So far, six weeks in with lots of growth and even a few buds have emerged.



Last fall, Jill took some seeds from a red dragon fruit and propagated them in the aerogarden. In late November, she repotted them into pots that she got on sale at the local nursery. They are doing amazingly well on a sunny window sill and are growing like weeds.

We have spent a fair bit of time reading up on the amazing dragon fruit plant - and honestly, everyone should have at least one as a house plant!



Note the outlet in the photo above has a timer on it. This is for the grow lamp for the lemon below.



About four years ago, we purchased this lemon tree. It lives outside in a pot for eight months of the year and inside for the rest. She gifts us with huge lemons that have excellent flavor and keep us in citrus all year round. Jill cut these lemons into slices and freezes them. So, she can use them as she needs.

She put a grow light on the lemon tree when it is indoors - and uses a basic heat lamp base for the socket. The base is from our local farm store (which is also used for a heat lamp bulb when we have baby poultry). As noted above, a timer is on the grow lamp - so one less thing to think about.

---

It is a jungle out there!

Our old office trailer and one time home, which is now mostly used to hold horse tack and supplies, has turned into an ad hoc green house. Each year, we buy plants that are sold as “annuals” - and we also grow various herbs. All die at the first frost.

This year, Jill brought them all into the office trailer and placed them in the back room -which has windows on all sides, then bought some overhead grow lights - which are hooked to a timer, and the effort has been a huge success.



Jill has a lemon, lime and olive tree, Sage, oregano and Rosemary as well as ferns and bananas growing in there. The lemon and lime trees are already producing flowers that have set.

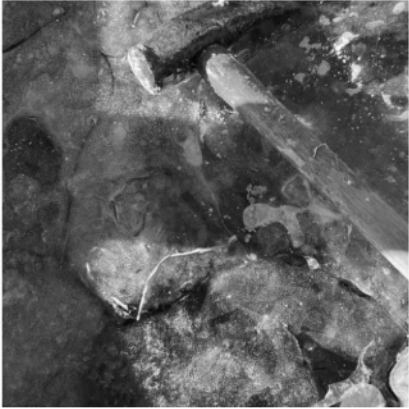
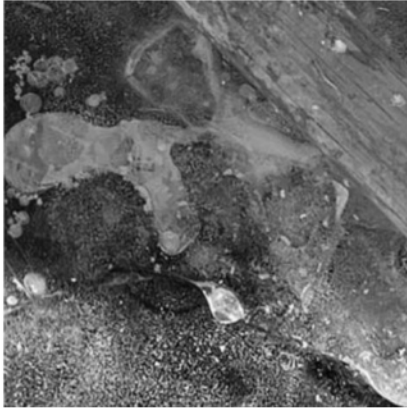
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This January has been exceptionally cold, with a few inches of snow that just doesn't want to melt off.

So, we have had to spend lots of time outside - feeding, making mashes with salt, breaking stock tank ice so the horses will drink twice a day and making sure everyone has lots of water to drink.



I think Jill and I mind the cold more than they do... But then, they generally don't have to break up the ice on top of their water tank.



---

This last week, we began work again on "Serenity". That is our name for a 110+ year old building on the farm that may have been a house or general store at one time. It had been abandoned for over fifty years. Over the past six years we have slowly been bringing it back to

life. When we got here, trees vines and other and plants had completely overgrown the building. Trees had pushed in a major wall. It was so overgrown, as were all the buildings on the farm, that locals didn't even know they were here.

This particular building was downright disgusting inside. Some of the most foul messes we had to clean up were past black vulture nests, about 500 pounds of grain in old burlap that had rotted into the cement, and an unknown sludge from water seepage. Another huge mess came from some drywall thrown in a pile on the floor where water had soaked it for years on end. Blech.



Some of the "Before" photos

In those top images, “Serenity” is actually under all that “foliage”.

When we first bought the property, we thought about making this building into a residence but quickly (pre-COVID) decided it wasn't feasible to do it quickly. So instead, we decided to build it out as a little conference center and meeting space that we could use for teaching, general meetings and demo projects. Also as an off-the grid space - that required no electricity in an emergency. We completely re-did the exterior and finished that about two years ago. We used a

local mill and all the wood siding is milled from local trees about two miles from here. We then used the same siding on the interior walls. A friend and neighbor helped with that part of the project. Jill found an old staircase for a few hundred bucks - that we refurbished and installed. Since then, we have been so busy that we haven't been able to devote any time to it.

This is the exterior shell now. I just have to laugh when I get the occasional Troll making accusations that I do not actually do any work on the farm... Yes, I was actually a carpenter and a farm hand before becoming a physician and scientist.



So, where are we today?

Here are some photos of the interior from today. We still have a long way to go - but progress is being made. Our extra time this weekend was spent getting back to work on the upstairs room. Which is why I have been absent in the comments section.

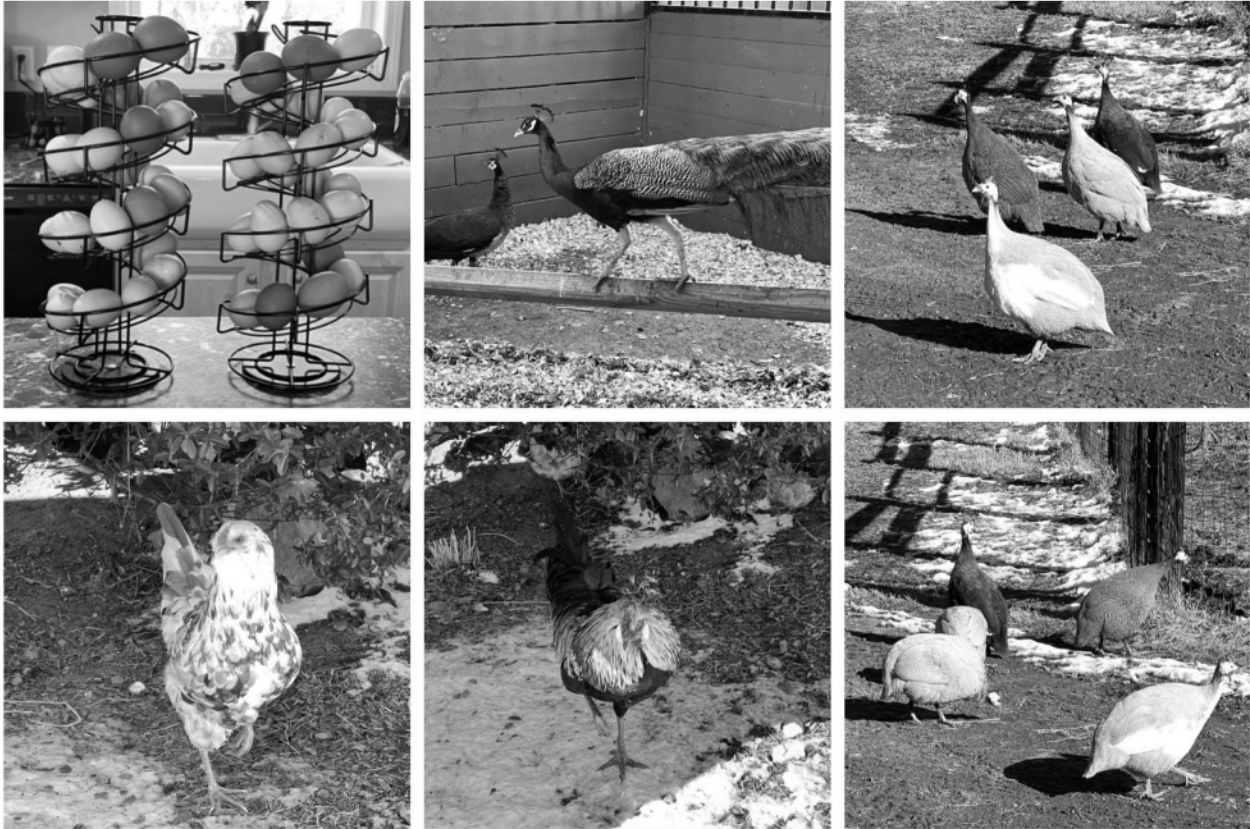


This weekend, Jill and I began putting up a poplar board ceiling in the upper floor (Jill pre-painted the boards - a brilliant idea). This will be the only room with a closed in ceiling but that room needs insulation above the ceiling, as it gets hot from the black standing seam metal roof above it.

Tomorrow a chimney sweep comes to redo the little stack in the main room, so that it will be safe for a wood burning stove. He is going to redo the chimney at the front of the building in March. Jill intends to get a wood burning cook stove for that room - So much planning, reading and learning about wood cooking stoves has been done. So much still to do!

---

On the poultry front: none of them are fans of the cold weather. But all seem to be thriving.



Jill also splurged early in December and bought 4 white emu eggs, which she has been diligently turning, keeping at the right humidity and temperature. The hatch date is around March 1st. This is our first time hatching emus, so fingers crossed!



These eggs weigh in at 1.5 pounds each!

---

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Finally, the Epoch Times and I are involved in doing a pilot for a series, which is still under wraps. Which is to say that I am not supposed to talk about it. I can write that Jan and a film crew spent two days here at the farm last week. While the photographer was here - she honored us with some photos.



So, in conclusion, being home for a couple of months has allowed us to really dive into our projects and farm again. It feels good to be home.

As you can see, some of our projects are large and some small. But there is a secret to getting things done... this, *“Blow up your TV, and plant a lot of peaches”*



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**From:** Betz, Jordan (NIH/NHLBI) [C]  
**Sent:** Mon, 22 Jan 2024 16:12:54 +0000  
**To:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Cc:** NIAID DIR FOIA Facilitation Team  
**Subject:** RE: NIH/NIAID Freedom of Information Act request 61217 (Stieber/Epoch Times) - input needed

Fantastic, thanks again!

Best,  
Jordan

---

**From:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2024 11:12 AM  
**To:** Betz, Jordan (NIH/NHLBI) [C] <(b)(6)>  
**Cc:** NIAID DIR FOIA Facilitation Team <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** Re: NIH/NIAID Freedom of Information Act request 61217 (Stieber/Epoch Times) - input needed

I am unconcerned. I have no problem with those being shared again.

Matt

--

Matthew J. Memoli, M.D., M.S.  
Director, LID Clinical Studies Unit  
Laboratory of Infectious Diseases  
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases  
National Institutes of Health  
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**From:** Betz, Jordan (NIH/NHLBI) [C] [REDACTED] (b) (6)  
**Date:** Monday, January 22, 2024 at 11:03 AM  
**To:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] [REDACTED] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** NIAID DIR FOIA Facilitation Team <NIAIDDIRFOIAFacilitationTeam@mail.nih.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: NIH/NIAID Freedom of Information Act request 61217 (Stieber/Epoch Times) - input needed

Thanks for the prompt review, Dr. Memoli!

For the other open request (61216 - Mr. Stieber's request for the attachments he initially agreed to exclude from the previous year's emails), did you want to re-review any of those records before we move that case forward? You previously reviewed them for FOIA requests 57239 and 57411 and didn't request any redactions then, but we want to make sure you've got the opportunity to review in case anything has changed. If you would like, I can provide you with a copy of those as well so you don't have to go digging through your files.

Thanks again,  
Jordan

---

**From:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] [REDACTED] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2024 10:56 AM  
**To:** Betz, Jordan (NIH/NHLBI) [C] [REDACTED] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** NIAID DIR FOIA Facilitation Team <NIAIDDIRFOIAFacilitationTeam@mail.nih.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: NIH/NIAID Freedom of Information Act request 61217 (Stieber/Epoch Times) - input needed

Hi Jordan,

I have reviewed the emails, I am happy for everything there to be shared. I have no concerns or questions at all.

Matt

--

Matthew J. Memoli, M.D., M.S.  
Director, LID Clinical Studies Unit  
Laboratory of Infectious Diseases  
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases  
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Phone: [REDACTED] (b) (6)

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**From:** Betz, Jordan (NIH/NHLBI) [C] <(b)(6)>  
**Date:** Friday, January 19, 2024 at 4:29 PM  
**To:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Cc:** NIAID DIR FOIA Facilitation Team <[NIAIDDIRFOIAFacilitationTeam@mail.nih.gov](mailto:NIAIDDIRFOIAFacilitationTeam@mail.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** NIH/NIAID Freedom of Information Act request 61217 (Stieber/Epoch Times) - input needed

Hi Dr. Memoli,

Our office received a FOIA request from Zachary Stieber of the Epoch Times for emails from you containing the words "mandate" or "mandated" and "vaccine" or "vaccination" from 11/10/21 to 11/10/22. This is a follow up to his previous requests (57329 and 61216) for your emails from 2021. It also partially overlaps with one from Aaron Siri of Siri & Glimstad LLP on behalf of ICAN, so you have already reviewed portions of the records last year. We need your input on the proposed redaction for the records that came back in the CIT search. I will send a copy of them separately through SEFT momentarily. Please review the proposed redactions and provide any input by Monday, January 29, 2024 so that we can respond to the request in a timely fashion. Happy to help answer any questions you may have.

Thanks,  
Jordan

Jordan Betz, PhD  
Policy Analyst  
Contractor with Axle Informatics  
Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Branch  
National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI), NIH  
(b)(6) Office  
301-496-9737 FOIA line

**From:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Sent:** Mon, 22 Jan 2024 16:11:52 +0000  
**To:** Betz, Jordan (NIH/NHLBI) [C]  
**Cc:** NIAID DIR FOIA Facilitation Team  
**Subject:** Re: NIH/NIAID Freedom of Information Act request 61217 (Stieber/Epoch Times) - input needed

I am unconcerned. I have no problem with those being shared again.

Matt

--

Matthew J. Memoli, M.D., M.S.  
Director, LID Clinical Studies Unit  
Laboratory of Infectious Diseases  
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases  
National Institutes of Health  
MSC 3203 33 North Dr  
Bethesda, MD 20892-3203  
UNITED STATES

Email: (b)(6)  
Phone: (b)(6)

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**From:** Betz, Jordan (NIH/NHLBI) [C] (b)(6)  
**Date:** Monday, January 22, 2024 at 11:03 AM  
**To:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Cc:** NIAID DIR FOIA Facilitation Team (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: NIH/NIAID Freedom of Information Act request 61217 (Stieber/Epoch Times) - input needed

Thanks for the prompt review, Dr. Memoli!

For the other open request (61216 - Mr. Stieber's request for the attachments he initially agreed to exclude from the previous year's emails), did you want to re-review any of those records before we move that case forward? You previously reviewed them for FOIA requests 57239 and 57411 and didn't request any redactions then, but we want to make sure you've got the opportunity to review in case

anything has changed. If you would like, I can provide you with a copy of those as well so you don't have to go digging through your files.

Thanks again,  
Jordan

---

**From:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2024 10:56 AM  
**To:** Betz, Jordan (NIH/NHLBI) [C] <(b)(6)>  
**Cc:** NIAID DIR FOIA Facilitation Team <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** Re: NIH/NIAID Freedom of Information Act request 61217 (Stieber/Epoch Times) - input needed

Hi Jordan,

I have reviewed the emails, I am happy for everything there to be shared. I have no concerns or questions at all.

Matt

--

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**From:** Betz, Jordan (NIH/NHLBI) [C] <(b)(6)>  
**Date:** Friday, January 19, 2024 at 4:29 PM  
**To:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Cc:** NIAID DIR FOIA Facilitation Team <NIAIDDIRFOIAFacilitationTeam@mail.nih.gov>

**Subject:** NIH/NIAID Freedom of Information Act request 61217 (Stieber/Epoch Times) - input needed

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Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Branch  
National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI), NIH  
(b)(6) Office  
301-496-9737 FOIA line

**From:** Betz, Jordan (NIH/NHLBI) [C]  
**Sent:** Mon, 22 Jan 2024 16:03:05 +0000  
**To:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Cc:** NIAID DIR FOIA Facilitation Team  
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**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2024 10:56 AM  
**To:** Betz, Jordan (NIH/NHLBI) [C] (b)(6)  
**Cc:** NIAID DIR FOIA Facilitation Team (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: NIH/NIAID Freedom of Information Act request 61217 (Stieber/Epoch Times) - input needed

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**Date:** Friday, January 19, 2024 at 4:29 PM  
**To:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
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**Subject:** NIH/NIAID Freedom of Information Act request 61217 (Stieber/Epoch Times) - input needed

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National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI), NIH  
(b)(6) Office  
301-496-9737 FOIA line

**From:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Sent:** Mon, 22 Jan 2024 15:56:27 +0000  
**To:** Betz, Jordan (NIH/NHLBI) [C]  
**Cc:** NIAID DIR FOIA Facilitation Team  
**Subject:** Re: NIH/NIAID Freedom of Information Act request 61217 (Stieber/Epoch Times) - input needed

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Matt

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National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI), NIH  
(b)(6) Office  
301-496-9737 FOIA line

**From:** Betz, Jordan (NIH/NHLBI) [C]  
**Sent:** Fri, 19 Jan 2024 16:30:08 -0500 (EST)  
**To:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Subject:** NIH/NIAID Freedom of Information Act request 61217 (Stieber/Epoch Times) - files for review

Dear Dr. Memoli,

Below is a link to access NIH's Secure Email and File Transfer (SEFT) system and download the records for FOIA request 61217. If you have not used this system before, you must create an account before you can access the files. If you encounter any problems with accessing the files, please let me know.

Thanks,  
Jordan

You have been sent a secure message/file(s).

To access the secure message/file(s), click on the following link or copy and paste the link into the browser.

Sender : Betz, Jordan (NIH/NHLBI) [C]

Link : (b)(6)

Sent To : Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E]

Expires : 2/19/24, 12:00:00 AM EST

NIH Secure Email Service, brought to you by the NIH Central Email Service.  
\*Proven\*Trusted\*

**From:** Betz, Jordan (NIH/NHLBI) [C]  
**Sent:** Fri, 19 Jan 2024 21:29:44 +0000  
**To:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Cc:** NIAID DIR FOIA Facilitation Team  
**Subject:** NIH/NIAID Freedom of Information Act request 61217 (Stieber/Epoch Times) -  
input needed  
**Attachments:** 61217 Request.pdf, Exemption 4, 5 and 6 considerations.docx

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# Submit New Request

## Requester Details

To modify request details please update your requester profile or contact the our office for assistance.

### **Zachary Stieber**

The Epoch Times  
229 W 28th St  
7th Floor  
New York City, NY 10001  
Phone 917-509-1875  
zack.stieber@epochtimes.nyc

Requester Default Category: Media

## General Information

Institute or Center	NIAID
Institute or Center Name	NIAID
Request Type	FOIA
Requester Category	Media

## Request Information

	Hello,
Description	Please provide all emails from Dr. Matthew Memoli that include the words "mandate" or "mandated" in addition to "vaccine" or "vaccination."
Date Range for Record Search:From	11/10/2021
Date Range for Record Search:To	11/10/2022
Description Document	

## Fee Information

Willing to Pay All Fees	No
Willing Amount	\$25
Fee Waiver Requested	Yes
Fee Waiver Request Reason	News media

## Expedite Information

Expedite Requested	No
Expedite Reason	

## Exemption 4 Considerations

**Exemption 4** permits withholding information that is both 1) confidential **and** 2) commercial or financial in nature.

### Factors that determine whether referenced materials are “Confidential”:

- Does the organization customarily keep the information private or closely-held?
- Did the NIH provide an express or implied assurance of confidentiality when the organization shared the information?
- Were there express or implied indications at the time the information was submitted that the government would publicly disclose the information?

### Considerations that suggest the referenced materials are “Commercial or Financial” in nature:

- Principal investigator’s history as a commercial scientist;
- Communications with a pharmaceutical company concerning the development of drugs based on the research at hand;
- Filing of a patent application or formation of a for-profit company.

### Commonly requested withholdings that cannot be protected by Exemption 4:

- Any information that has already been published somewhere (ex: in a published manuscript, in a preprint on bioRxiv, in the grant abstract or university website, etc.);
- Protocols, procedures, database/resources that are standard in the field;
- Information that is generally known to any reasonably educated person. Self-evident statements, or reviews of the general state of the art;
- Entire chunks of research sections; FOIA is a disclosure statute, so we can’t cut entire pages. Review must be done line by line to isolate only what is unique to a particular grant.

Please note, we generally release cost data and budget information contained in a grant application unless it is an inherently commercialized application such as an SBIR.

## Exemption 5 Considerations

**Exemption 5** protects "inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency." It is a form of executive privilege that protects information showing the process by which a government agency reached a particular decision or crafted a specific policy from disclosure to third parties.

Further, the Supreme Court holds that “[t]he deliberative process privilege protects from disclosure under FOIA in-house draft biological opinions that are both pre-decisional and deliberative, even if the drafts reflect the agencies’ last views about a proposal.”

## Exemption 6

**Exemption 6** permits withholding certain information if disclosure "would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." It is our responsibility to identify any personal information that should not be released, and we will redact that information from any material released to the requester. For your information, we withhold the following information as protected by Exemption 6 (what we refer to as "standard redactions"):

- Social Security Numbers
- Birthdates
- Home addresses and phone numbers
- Sources and amounts of pending support
- Percentage of effort on the project
- Institutional base salary amount

**From:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Sent:** Wed, 17 Jan 2024 22:00:21 +0000  
**To:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Subject:** (declined) RE: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

Hi Dr. Memoli. I just received word that HHS has decided this interview / email response to the Qs should not take place.

You are free to proceed as a private citizen, using your private email and/or phone, but you should not proceed as an NIH / NIAID employee.

---

**From:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 17, 2024 7:18 AM  
**To:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

Hi Ken,

Here are some clarifications below. Not for the reporter, but NIH/HHS should know that never approving the exemption is a sore point for people like me. They let us twist in the wind worried about our jobs for a year, and then never even gave us a final approval which leaves us hanging if there is another mandate in the future. I feel this was done on purpose to try to coerce us into getting the vaccine and I consider it highly unethical and disappointing. I would like to see the NIH director or even better the HHS secretary formally make an apology and an announcement that such a mandate was a mistake and that this should never happen again in a society that follows proper bioethics. I know I will be waiting until hell freezes over for the apology, but I feel people like me and those who took the vaccine due to coercion feel owed an apology, I know many employees like this who have contacted me.

Q6. Did you ever feel you were in danger of being fired for your opposition to the mandates?

A. There were times when I was worried about losing my job especially when we first started receiving emails about mandate deadlines from NIH/HHS, but I knew there were many protections in place for government employees like myself. I was concerned more about my medical license and not being able to continue to perform my job properly. Washington, DC directly threatened to take away my medical license which would have threatened my job (I need a medical license) so I applied for a Virginia license and protected myself that way. None of my superiors at NIH or anyone I physically worked with ever threatened me directly or allowed it to affect my work.

Q7. Did the NIH/NIAID ever approve your exemption request?

A. No, after enough time went by the mandate was rescinded and so I was told it was unnecessary.

--

Matthew J. Memoli, M.D., M.S.  
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**From:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)

**Date:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 12:15 PM

**To:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

NIH is asking for clarification on responses to Qs 6 and 7, per below in red:

Q6. Did you ever feel you were in danger of being fired for your opposition to the mandates?

A. There were times when I was worried about losing my job, although I knew there were many protections for government employees like myself. I was concerned more about my medical license and not being able to continue to perform my job properly. (This doesn't really answer the question; was he ever approached in a way that made him think he would lose his job? If not, then he should say this.)

Q7. Did the NIH/NIAID ever approve your exemption request?

A. No (This should be clarified that the mandate was dropped and so an exemption was not required).

---

**From:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 9:33 AM  
**To:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

Hi Matt ... received and just sent for clearance. Will apprise asap. Thanks

---

**From:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 6:48 AM  
**To:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

Hi Ken,

Below are my answers. I understand that NIAID and/or HHS doesn't want to address these things, but I believe that to be a major mistake. Until we do address these issues we will not regain trust with much of the public.

Matt

—What compelled you to write to Dr. Fauci and other agency leaders?

From the beginning I did not believe that the vaccine strategy being promoted was optimal due to my years of experience in the RNA respiratory viral field and expertise in this area both in the lab and clinically. I knew it was suboptimal for an RNA respiratory virus due to the nature of these viruses as they can change rapidly making single antigen vaccines limited in usefulness. I also had concerns about the mRNA technology as this relies solely on the host to make the antigen rather than providing a set amount of antigen in a traditional vaccine. Once there began to be talk of vaccine mandates, I became even more concerned as I felt that mandates were unethical and that they would have a number of negative effects both during and after the pandemic medically and socially. Given all of this I felt compelled to finally express all of this in as constructive a way as possible to try to help the agency avoid this and consider other options.

—Did they ever respond to you? If so, what did they say?

I received a response from Dr Cliff Lane thanking me for my email.

—Why did you decide to go public in late 2021? Do you think the public would have been better served if you went public earlier?

I had expressed many reservations about the vaccines in press interviews that I did far prior to late 2021. I was always honest about that. The reporters I spoke to never seemed to publish any of the information I provided regarding that. Once the mandates became a reality, I felt strongly that I needed to try to do something more as I began to see many of the things, I was worried about happening. The vaccine was not working well due to the rise of variants, there were safety issues arising, and as my family and I had chosen not to be vaccinated we were dealing with threats of having our medical licenses taken away, loss of employment, etc. We had friends who felt coerced into accepting vaccination as was happening all over the country. Therefore, to again try to be constructive I contacted the NIH ethics office to appeal to them to consider this. I felt this was my best option at the time. They did schedule the meeting to discuss it, but there were many months in between when I raised this issue and when that took place. In the meantime, a Wall Street Journal reporter had picked up on some of my previous comments and began asking me questions about the vaccines and the mandates. I was honest with my scientific and medical opinions as I always am when I do interviews.

—Were you surprised you were allowed to present your case against mandates during the NIH roundtable?

I was somewhat surprised given the environment, but I have always had the utmost respect for the NIH ethics department. I have worked with them many times in the past and have even published papers with them. The people in that office have always been very smart, open minded, and able to look at difficult issues and consider them carefully and thoroughly.

—What reception did you get from colleagues and superiors after the roundtable?

Many colleagues offered words of support or thanks for my presentation. I did not receive any negative comments from any colleagues or superiors.

—Did you ever feel you were in danger of being fired for your opposition to the mandates?

There were times when I was worried about losing my job, although I knew there were many protections for government employees like myself. I was concerned more about my medical license and not being able to continue to perform my job properly.

—Did the NIH/NIAID ever approve your exemption request?

No

—Did you ever do the AFTERVAX study? If so, when are results expected? If not, why not?

The AFTERVAX study has just completed enrollment and is now in the analysis stage. It will likely be 6 months to a year before we have results completed and ready for publication.

—Looking back, would you have done anything differently with regards to the COVID-19 vaccines and/or the vaccine mandates?

Of course, in hindsight I would have been more aggressive in my approach in trying to help the agency avoid some of the mistakes I feel were made. I feel I should have been less worried about my situation, and I should have sent emails and had discussions with my leaders sooner expressing my expert opinions.

—What are you working on nowadays?

Primarily my work continues to focus on understanding the pathogenesis and correlates of protection of RNA respiratory viruses like influenza and SARS-COV2. These are extremely difficult issues due to our lack of understanding of mucosal immunity, viral evolution, and host response. Therefore, I continue to perform translational studies in humans to better understand how we can produce drugs, vaccines, or strategies that can properly address these viruses by preventing infection, limiting spread of disease, and reducing the disease caused by these viruses.

--

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**From:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Date:** Monday, January 15, 2024 at 6:19 PM  
**To:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

Hi Dr. Memoli. Please let me know how you would answer these and then I'll use those responses to request clearance.

Thanks

On Jan 15, 2024, at 1:25 PM, Zack Stieber <(b)(6)> wrote:

Hi Ken and Dr. Memoli,

As promised, here are the questions.

—What compelled you to write to Dr. Fauci and other agency leaders?

—Did they ever respond to you? If so, what did they say?

—Why did you decide to go public in late 2021? Do you think the public would have been better served if you went public earlier?

—Were you surprised you were allowed to present your case against mandates during the NIH roundtable?

—What reception did you get from colleagues and superiors after the roundtable?

—Did you ever feel you were in danger of being fired for your opposition to the mandates?

—Did the NIH/NIAID ever approve your exemption request?

—Did you ever do the AFTERVAX study? If so, when are results expected? If not, why not?

—Looking back, would you have done anything differently with regards to the COVID-19 vaccines and/or the vaccine mandates?

—What are you working on nowadays?

Thank you,  
Zack

On Thu, Jan 11, 2024 at 4:25 PM Zack Stieber <(b)(6)> wrote:  
Thanks Ken, I will put together the questions and send them over.

Thank you,  
Zack

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**Sent:** Thursday, January 11, 2024 11:49 AM  
**To:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>

**Cc:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

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**To:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Bcc:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
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Q7. Did the NIH/NIAID ever approve your exemption request?

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NIH is asking for clarification on responses to Qs 6 and 7, per below in red:

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A. There were times when I was worried about losing my job, although I knew there were many protections for government employees like myself. I was concerned more about my medical license and not being able to continue to perform my job properly. (This doesn't really answer the question; was he ever approached in a way that made him think he would lose his job? If not, then he should say this.)

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—What compelled you to write to Dr. Fauci and other agency leaders?

From the beginning I did not believe that the vaccine strategy being promoted was optimal due to my years of experience in the RNA respiratory viral field and expertise in this area both in the lab and clinically. I knew it was suboptimal for an RNA respiratory virus due to the nature of these viruses as they can change rapidly making single antigen vaccines limited in usefulness. I also had concerns about the mRNA technology as this relies solely on the host to make the antigen rather than providing a set amount of antigen in a traditional vaccine. Once there began to be talk of vaccine mandates, I became even more concerned as I felt that mandates were unethical and that they would have a number of negative effects both during and after the pandemic medically and socially. Given all of this I felt compelled to finally express all of this in as constructive a way as possible to try to help the agency avoid this and consider other options.

—Did they ever respond to you? If so, what did they say?

I received a response from Dr Cliff Lane thanking me for my email.

—Why did you decide to go public in late 2021? Do you think the public would have been better served if you went public earlier?

I had expressed many reservations about the vaccines in press interviews that I did far prior to late 2021. I was always honest about that. The reporters I spoke to never seemed to publish any of the information I provided regarding that. Once the mandates became a reality, I felt strongly that I needed to try to do something more as I began to see many of the things, I was worried about happening. The vaccine was not working well due to the rise of variants, there were safety issues arising, and as my family and I had chosen not to be vaccinated we were dealing with threats of having our medical licenses taken away, loss of employment, etc. We had friends who felt coerced into accepting vaccination as was happening all over the country. Therefore, to again try to be constructive I contacted the NIH ethics office to appeal to them to consider this. I felt this was my best option at the time. They did schedule the meeting to discuss it, but there were many months in between when I raised this issue and when that took place. In the meantime, a Wall Street Journal reporter had picked up on some of my previous comments and began asking me questions about the vaccines and the mandates. I was honest with my scientific and medical opinions as I always am when I do interviews.

—Were you surprised you were allowed to present your case against mandates during the NIH roundtable?

I was somewhat surprised given the environment, but I have always had the utmost respect for the NIH ethics department. I have worked with them many times in the past and have even published papers with them. The people in that office have always been very smart, open minded, and able to look at difficult issues and consider them carefully and thoroughly.

—What reception did you get from colleagues and superiors after the roundtable?

Many colleagues offered words of support or thanks for my presentation. I did not receive any negative comments from any colleagues or superiors.

—Did you ever feel you were in danger of being fired for your opposition to the mandates?

There were times when I was worried about losing my job, although I knew there were many protections for government employees like myself. I was concerned more about my medical license and not being able to continue to perform my job properly.

—Did the NIH/NIAID ever approve your exemption request?

No

—Did you ever do the AFTERVAX study? If so, when are results expected? If not, why not?

The AFTERVAX study has just completed enrollment and is now in the analysis stage. It will likely be 6 months to a year before we have results completed and ready for publication.

—Looking back, would you have done anything differently with regards to the COVID-19 vaccines and/or the vaccine mandates?

Of course, in hindsight I would have been more aggressive in my approach in trying to help the agency avoid some of the mistakes I feel were made. I feel I should have been less worried about my situation, and I should have sent emails and had discussions with my leaders sooner expressing my expert opinions.

—What are you working on nowadays?

Primarily my work continues to focus on understanding the pathogenesis and correlates of protection of RNA respiratory viruses like influenza and SARS-COV2. These are extremely difficult issues due to our lack of understanding of mucosal immunity, viral evolution, and host response. Therefore, I continue to perform translational studies in humans to better understand how we can produce drugs, vaccines, or strategies that can properly address these viruses by preventing infection, limiting spread of disease, and reducing the disease caused by these viruses.

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**Date:** Monday, January 15, 2024 at 6:19 PM  
**To:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
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**Sent:** Wed, 17 Jan 2024 21:41:14 +0000  
**To:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Cc:** Cohen, Jeffrey (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Holland, Steven (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Subject:** RE: (Dr. Memoli, FYI) FW: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

OK. Thanks for the follow up Ken.

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**Sent:** Wednesday, January 17, 2024 8:25 AM  
**To:** Shaffer, Meredith (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Cc:** Cohen, Jeffrey (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>; Holland, Steven (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>  
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**Sent:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 6:12 PM  
**To:** Holland, Steven (NIH/NIAID) [E] <Redacted by agreement>; Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] <Redacted by agreement>; Shaffer, Meredith (NIH/NIAID) [E] <Redacted by agreement>  
**Subject:** RE: (Dr. Memoli, FYI) FW: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

I concur with Steve. I never talked to Matt about concerns with his points of view on vaccination in this regard. <(b)(6)>

(b)(6)

Thus, I don't understand why he would think his job or clinical practice was in jeopardy. I agree with Steve and think its best not to further comment about this.

Jeff Cohen

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<(b)(6)>

**Cc:** Cohen, Jeffrey (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>

**Subject:** Re: (Dr. Memoli, FYI) FW: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

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Director, Division of Intramural Research  
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases  
National Institutes of Health  
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Bethesda, MD 20892-1960

(b)(6) voice

(b)(6) fax

[Smh@nih.gov](mailto:Smh@nih.gov) email

Assistant lab: Eva Portillo

(b)(6) email

(b)(6) voice

Assistant to SD: Beth Schmidt

(b)(6)

(b)(6) voice

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**From:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>

**Date:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 2:20 PM

**To:** Holland, Steven (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)> Shaffer, Meredith  
(NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>

**Cc:** Cohen, Jeffrey (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>

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Q6. Did you ever feel you were in danger of being fired for your opposition to the mandates?

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Q7. Did the NIH/NIAID ever approve your exemption request?

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**Sent:** Thursday, January 11, 2024 11:49 AM  
**To:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
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(b)(6)

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**Sent:** Wed, 17 Jan 2024 21:39:18 +0000  
**To:** Shaffer, Meredith (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Cc:** Cohen, Jeffrey (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Holland, Steven (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
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**From:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Sent:** Wed, 17 Jan 2024 15:53:07 +0000  
**To:** Donbeck, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Subject:** FW: (Dr. Memoli, FYI) FW: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview  
**Attachments:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

Wanted to loop you in on this; will let you know if I hear more from DIR.

---

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**Sent:** Wednesday, January 17, 2024 8:25 AM  
**To:** Shaffer, Meredith (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
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**From:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Sent:** Wed, 17 Jan 2024 14:18:06 +0000  
**To:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

Hi Ken,

Here are some clarifications below. Not for the reporter, but NIH/HHS should know that never approving the exemption is a sore point for people like me. They let us twist in the wind worried about our jobs for a year, and then never even gave us a final approval which leaves us hanging if there is another mandate in the future. I feel this was done on purpose to try to coerce us into getting the vaccine and I consider it highly unethical and disappointing. I would like to see the NIH director or even better the HHS secretary formally make an apology and an announcement that such a mandate was a mistake and that this should never happen again in a society that follows proper bioethics. I know I will be waiting until hell freezes over for the apology, but I feel people like me and those who took the vaccine due to coercion feel owed an apology, I know many employees like this who have contacted me.

Q6. Did you ever feel you were in danger of being fired for your opposition to the mandates?

A. There were times when I was worried about losing my job especially when we first started receiving emails about mandate deadlines from NIH/HHS, but I knew there were many protections in place for government employees like myself. I was concerned more about my medical license and not being able to continue to perform my job properly. Washington, DC directly threatened to take away my medical license which would have threatened my job (I need a medical license) so I applied for a Virginia license and protected myself that way. None of my superiors at NIH or anyone I physically worked with ever threatened me directly or allowed it to affect my work.

Q7. Did the NIH/NIAID ever approve your exemption request?

A. No, after enough time went by the mandate was rescinded and so I was told it was unnecessary.

--

Matthew J. Memoli, M.D., M.S.  
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National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases  
National Institutes of Health  
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**From:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)

**Date:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 12:15 PM

**To:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

NIH is asking for clarification on responses to Qs 6 and 7, per below in red:

Q6. Did you ever feel you were in danger of being fired for your opposition to the mandates?

A. There were times when I was worried about losing my job, although I knew there were many protections for government employees like myself. I was concerned more about my medical license and not being able to continue to perform my job properly. (This doesn't really answer the question; was he ever approached in a way that made him think he would lose his job? If not, then he should say this.)

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**Sent:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 9:33 AM

**To:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

Hi Matt ... received and just sent for clearance. Will apprise asap. Thanks

---

**From:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 6:48 AM  
**To:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

Hi Ken,

Below are my answers. I understand that NIAID and/or HHS doesn't want to address these things, but I believe that to be a major mistake. Until we do address these issues we will not regain trust with much of the public.

Matt

—What compelled you to write to Dr. Fauci and other agency leaders?

From the beginning I did not believe that the vaccine strategy being promoted was optimal due to my years of experience in the RNA respiratory viral field and expertise in this area both in the lab and clinically. I knew it was suboptimal for an RNA respiratory virus due to the nature of these viruses as they can change rapidly making single antigen vaccines limited in usefulness. I also had concerns about the mRNA technology as this relies solely on the host to make the antigen rather than providing a set amount of antigen in a traditional vaccine. Once there began to be talk of vaccine mandates, I became even more concerned as I felt that mandates were unethical and that they would have a number of negative effects both during and after the pandemic medically and socially. Given all of this I felt compelled to finally express all of this in as constructive a way as possible to try to help the agency avoid this and consider other options.

—Did they ever respond to you? If so, what did they say?

I received a response from Dr Cliff Lane thanking me for my email.

—Why did you decide to go public in late 2021? Do you think the public would have been better served if you went public earlier?

I had expressed many reservations about the vaccines in press interviews that I did far prior to late 2021. I was always honest about that. The reporters I spoke to never seemed to publish any of the information I provided regarding that. Once the mandates became a reality, I felt strongly that I needed to try to do something more as I began to see many of the things, I was worried about happening. The vaccine was not working well due to the rise of variants, there were safety issues arising, and as my family and I had chosen not to be vaccinated we were dealing with threats of having our medical licenses taken away, loss of employment, etc. We had friends who felt coerced into accepting vaccination as was happening all over the country. Therefore, to again try to be constructive I contacted the NIH ethics office to appeal to them to consider this. I felt this was my best option at the time. They did schedule the meeting to discuss it, but there were many months in between when I raised this issue and when that

took place. In the meantime, a Wall Street Journal reporter had picked up on some of my previous comments and began asking me questions about the vaccines and the mandates. I was honest with my scientific and medical opinions as I always am when I do interviews.

—Were you surprised you were allowed to present your case against mandates during the NIH roundtable?

I was somewhat surprised given the environment, but I have always had the utmost respect for the NIH ethics department. I have worked with them many times in the past and have even published papers with them. The people in that office have always been very smart, open minded, and able to look at difficult issues and consider them carefully and thoroughly.

—What reception did you get from colleagues and superiors after the roundtable?

Many colleagues offered words of support or thanks for my presentation. I did not receive any negative comments from any colleagues or superiors.

—Did you ever feel you were in danger of being fired for your opposition to the mandates?

There were times when I was worried about losing my job, although I knew there were many protections for government employees like myself. I was concerned more about my medical license and not being able to continue to perform my job properly.

—Did the NIH/NIAID ever approve your exemption request?

No

—Did you ever do the AFTERVAX study? If so, when are results expected? If not, why not?

The AFTERVAX study has just completed enrollment and is now in the analysis stage. It will likely be 6 months to a year before we have results completed and ready for publication.

—Looking back, would you have done anything differently with regards to the COVID-19 vaccines and/or the vaccine mandates?

Of course, in hindsight I would have been more aggressive in my approach in trying to help the agency avoid some of the mistakes I feel were made. I feel I should have been less worried about my situation, and I should have sent emails and had discussions with my leaders sooner expressing my expert opinions.

—What are you working on nowadays?

Primarily my work continues to focus on understanding the pathogenesis and correlates of protection of RNA respiratory viruses like influenza and SARS-COV2. These are extremely difficult issues due to our lack of understanding of mucosal immunity, viral evolution, and host response. Therefore, I continue to perform translational studies in humans to better understand how we can produce drugs, vaccines, or strategies that can properly address these viruses by preventing infection, limiting spread of disease, and reducing the disease caused by these viruses.

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**From:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Date:** Monday, January 15, 2024 at 6:19 PM  
**To:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

Hi Dr. Memoli. Please let me know how you would answer these and then I'll use those responses to request clearance.

Thanks

On Jan 15, 2024, at 1:25 PM, Zack Stieber (b)(6) wrote:

Hi Ken and Dr. Memoli,

As promised, here are the questions.

—What compelled you to write to Dr. Fauci and other agency leaders?

—Did they ever respond to you? If so, what did they say?

—Why did you decide to go public in late 2021? Do you think the public would have been better served if you went public earlier?

—Were you surprised you were allowed to present your case against mandates during the NIH roundtable?

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—Did you ever do the AFTERVAX study? If so, when are results expected? If not, why not?

—Looking back, would you have done anything differently with regards to the COVID-19 vaccines and/or the vaccine mandates?

—What are you working on nowadays?

Thank you,  
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**Sent:** Thursday, January 11, 2024 11:49 AM  
**To:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Cc:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

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NIAID Communications Office

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Alternatively, we can send questions over and you can answer the questions over email.

Thank you,  
Zack Stieber  
The Epoch Times

(b)(6)

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**Sent:** Wed, 17 Jan 2024 15:52:30 +0000  
**To:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Subject:** FW: (Dr. Memoli, FYI) FW: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview  
**Attachments:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

**From:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Sent:** Wed, 17 Jan 2024 14:18:06 +0000  
**To:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

Hi Ken,

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A. There were times when I was worried about losing my job especially when we first started receiving emails about mandate deadlines from NIH/HHS, but I knew there were many protections in place for government employees like myself. I was concerned more about my medical license and not being able to continue to perform my job properly. Washington, DC directly threatened to take away my medical license which would have threatened my job (I need a medical license) so I applied for a Virginia license and protected myself that way. None of my superiors at NIH or anyone I physically worked with ever threatened me directly or allowed it to affect my work.

Q7. Did the NIH/NIAID ever approve your exemption request?

A. No, after enough time went by the mandate was rescinded and so I was told it was unnecessary.

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Matthew J. Memoli, M.D., M.S.  
Director, LID Clinical Studies Unit  
Laboratory of Infectious Diseases  
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases  
National Institutes of Health  
MSC 3203 33 North Dr  
Bethesda, MD 20892-3203  
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**From:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 12:15 PM  
**To:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

NIH is asking for clarification on responses to Qs 6 and 7, per below in red:

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Q7. Did the NIH/NIAID ever approve your exemption request?

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**Sent:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 9:33 AM  
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**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

Hi Matt ... received and just sent for clearance. Will apprise asap. Thanks

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**From:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 6:48 AM  
**To:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

Hi Ken,

Below are my answers. I understand that NIAID and/or HHS doesn't want to address these things, but I believe that to be a major mistake. Until we do address these issues we will not regain trust with much of the public.

Matt

—What compelled you to write to Dr. Fauci and other agency leaders?

From the beginning I did not believe that the vaccine strategy being promoted was optimal due to my years of experience in the RNA respiratory viral field and expertise in this area both in the lab and clinically. I knew it was suboptimal for an RNA respiratory virus due to the nature of these viruses as they can change rapidly making single antigen vaccines limited in usefulness. I also had concerns about the mRNA technology as this relies solely on the host to make the antigen rather than providing a set amount of antigen in a traditional vaccine. Once there began to be talk of vaccine mandates, I became even more concerned as I felt that mandates were unethical and that they would have a number of negative effects both during and after the pandemic medically and socially. Given all of this I felt compelled to finally express all of this in as constructive a way as possible to try to help the agency avoid this and consider other options.

—Did they ever respond to you? If so, what did they say?

I received a response from Dr Cliff Lane thanking me for my email.

—Why did you decide to go public in late 2021? Do you think the public would have been better served if you went public earlier?

I had expressed many reservations about the vaccines in press interviews that I did far prior to late 2021. I was always honest about that. The reporters I spoke to never seemed to publish any of the information I provided regarding that. Once the mandates became a reality, I felt strongly that I needed to try to do something more as I began to see many of the things, I was worried about happening. The vaccine was not working well due to the rise of variants, there were safety issues arising, and as my family and I had chosen not to be vaccinated we were dealing with threats of having our medical licenses taken away, loss of employment, etc. We had friends who felt coerced into accepting vaccination as was happening all over the country. Therefore, to again try to be constructive I contacted the NIH ethics office to appeal to them to consider this. I felt this was my best option at the time. They did schedule the meeting to discuss it, but there were many months in between when I raised this issue and when that

took place. In the meantime, a Wall Street Journal reporter had picked up on some of my previous comments and began asking me questions about the vaccines and the mandates. I was honest with my scientific and medical opinions as I always am when I do interviews.

—Were you surprised you were allowed to present your case against mandates during the NIH roundtable?

I was somewhat surprised given the environment, but I have always had the utmost respect for the NIH ethics department. I have worked with them many times in the past and have even published papers with them. The people in that office have always been very smart, open minded, and able to look at difficult issues and consider them carefully and thoroughly.

—What reception did you get from colleagues and superiors after the roundtable?

Many colleagues offered words of support or thanks for my presentation. I did not receive any negative comments from any colleagues or superiors.

—Did you ever feel you were in danger of being fired for your opposition to the mandates?

There were times when I was worried about losing my job, although I knew there were many protections for government employees like myself. I was concerned more about my medical license and not being able to continue to perform my job properly.

—Did the NIH/NIAID ever approve your exemption request?

No

—Did you ever do the AFTERVAX study? If so, when are results expected? If not, why not?

The AFTERVAX study has just completed enrollment and is now in the analysis stage. It will likely be 6 months to a year before we have results completed and ready for publication.

—Looking back, would you have done anything differently with regards to the COVID-19 vaccines and/or the vaccine mandates?

Of course, in hindsight I would have been more aggressive in my approach in trying to help the agency avoid some of the mistakes I feel were made. I feel I should have been less worried about my situation, and I should have sent emails and had discussions with my leaders sooner expressing my expert opinions.

—What are you working on nowadays?

Primarily my work continues to focus on understanding the pathogenesis and correlates of protection of RNA respiratory viruses like influenza and SARS-COV2. These are extremely difficult issues due to our lack of understanding of mucosal immunity, viral evolution, and host response. Therefore, I continue to perform translational studies in humans to better understand how we can produce drugs, vaccines, or strategies that can properly address these viruses by preventing infection, limiting spread of disease, and reducing the disease caused by these viruses.

--

Matthew J. Memoli, M.D., M.S.  
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National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases  
National Institutes of Health  
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**From:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Date:** Monday, January 15, 2024 at 6:19 PM  
**To:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

Hi Dr. Memoli. Please let me know how you would answer these and then I'll use those responses to request clearance.

Thanks

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As promised, here are the questions.

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—Did they ever respond to you? If so, what did they say?

—Why did you decide to go public in late 2021? Do you think the public would have been better served if you went public earlier?

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—Did you ever feel you were in danger of being fired for your opposition to the mandates?

—Did the NIH/NIAID ever approve your exemption request?

—Did you ever do the AFTERVAX study? If so, when are results expected? If not, why not?

—Looking back, would you have done anything differently with regards to the COVID-19 vaccines and/or the vaccine mandates?

—What are you working on nowadays?

Thank you,  
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Hi Zack; please send your questions to Dr. Memoli and me.

Thanks

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**From:** Zack Stieber <(b)(6)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 11, 2024 11:49 AM  
**To:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

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Thank you,  
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NIAID Communications Office

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**From:** Zack Stieber (b)(6)

**Date:** Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 11:25 AM

**To:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

Hi Dr. Memoli,

Good morning, hope you're having a good week.

We obtained some of your emails through a FOIA request and would like to set up an interview with you on them.

We can send over some of the questions we plan to ask ahead of time.

Do you have any availability next week?

Alternatively, we can send questions over and you can answer the questions over email.

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Zack Stieber

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**From:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Sent:** Wed, 17 Jan 2024 15:25:26 +0000  
**To:** Shaffer, Meredith (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Cc:** Cohen, Jeffrey (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Holland, Steven (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Subject:** RE: (Dr. Memoli, FYI) FW: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview  
**Attachments:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

Meredith, thanks for talking with me just now. I've attached his clarifications to the 2 Qs along with his opening comments. As was explained to me, "Building 1 wants him to make it clear that no one at NIH said he would be fired for his views. In other words, he may have FELT like his job was in jeopardy because he had a very different view, but that no one ever actually told him or threatened that he could lose his job."

Once I get a final determination from HHS I'll let you know whether this is expected to move forward.

---

**From:** Cohen, Jeffrey (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 6:12 PM  
**To:** Holland, Steven (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6); Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6); Shaffer, Meredith (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: (Dr. Memoli, FYI) FW: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

I concur with Steve. (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Thus, I don't understand why he would think his job or clinical practice was in jeopardy. I agree with Steve and think its best not to further comment about this.

Jeff Cohen

---

**From:** Holland, Steven (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 7:55 PM  
**To:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6); Shaffer, Meredith (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Cohen, Jeffrey (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: (Dr. Memoli, FYI) FW: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

I doubt that asking for clarifying comments will do much to either clarify or mollify. We treated Matt well during the entire episode and I never heard anyone ever discuss his license or his job. He even got to give a Grand Rounds on his stand, which I think made it abundantly clear why his reasoning was so flawed and flaky. My own suggestion is to leave it alone

--

Director, Division of Intramural Research  
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases  
National Institutes of Health  
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Bethesda, MD 20892-1960

(b)(6) voice

301-480-4507 fax

(b)(6) email

Assistant lab: Eva Portillo

(b)(6) email

(b)(6) voice

Assistant to SD: Beth Schmidt

(b)(6)

(b)(6) voice

---

**From:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 2:20 PM  
**To:** Holland, Steven (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6) Shaffer, Meredith (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Cohen, Jeffrey (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Subject:** (Dr. Memoli, FYI) FW: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

Wanted to make you aware of the media inquiry below that we are working on (reporter Qs and Matt's proposed responses attached). Can provide background by phone if you'd like.

NIH has asked Matt to clarify responses to Qs 6 and 7; once I receive those clarifications I am planning to send to HHS for review and decision.

Q6. Did you ever feel you were in danger of being fired for your opposition to the mandates?

A. There were times when I was worried about losing my job, although I knew there were many protections for government employees like myself. I was concerned more about my medical license and not being able to continue to perform my job properly. (This doesn't really answer the question; was he ever approached in a way that made him think he would lose his job? If not, then he should say this.)

Q7. Did the NIH/NIAID ever approve your exemption request?

A. No (This should be clarified that the mandate was dropped and so an exemption was not required).

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—Did you ever do the AFTERVAX study? If so, when are results expected? If not, why not?

The AFTERVAX study has just completed enrollment and is now in the analysis stage. It will likely be 6 months to a year before we have results completed and ready for publication.

—Looking back, would you have done anything differently with regards to the COVID-19 vaccines and/or the vaccine mandates?

Of course, in hindsight I would have been more aggressive in my approach in trying to help the agency avoid some of the mistakes I feel were made. I feel I should have been less worried about my situation, and I should have sent emails and had discussions with my leaders sooner expressing my expert opinions.

—What are you working on nowadays?

Primarily my work continues to focus on understanding the pathogenesis and correlates of protection of RNA respiratory viruses like influenza and SARS-COV2. These are extremely difficult issues due to our lack of understanding of mucosal immunity, viral evolution, and host response. Therefore, I continue to perform translational studies in humans to better understand how we can produce drugs, vaccines, or strategies that can properly address these viruses by preventing infection, limiting spread of disease, and reducing the disease caused by these viruses.

--

Matthew J. Memoli, M.D., M.S.  
Director, LID Clinical Studies Unit  
Laboratory of Infectious Diseases  
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases  
National Institutes of Health  
MSC 3203 33 North Dr  
Bethesda, MD 20892-3203  
UNITED STATES

Email: (b)(6)  
Phone: (b)(6)

=====  
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---

**From:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Date:** Monday, January 15, 2024 at 6:19 PM  
**To:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

Hi Dr. Memoli. Please let me know how you would answer these and then I'll use those responses to request clearance.

Thanks

On Jan 15, 2024, at 1:25 PM, Zack Stieber <(b)(6)> wrote:

Hi Ken and Dr. Memoli,

As promised, here are the questions.

—What compelled you to write to Dr. Fauci and other agency leaders?

—Did they ever respond to you? If so, what did they say?

—Why did you decide to go public in late 2021? Do you think the public would have been better served if you went public earlier?

—Were you surprised you were allowed to present your case against mandates during the NIH roundtable?

—What reception did you get from colleagues and superiors after the roundtable?

—Did you ever feel you were in danger of being fired for your opposition to the mandates?

—Did the NIH/NIAID ever approve your exemption request?

—Did you ever do the AFTERVAX study? If so, when are results expected? If not, why not?

—Looking back, would you have done anything differently with regards to the COVID-19 vaccines and/or the vaccine mandates?

—What are you working on nowadays?

Thank you,  
Zack

On Thu, Jan 11, 2024 at 4:25 PM Zack Stieber <(b)(6)> wrote:  
Thanks Ken, I will put together the questions and send them over.

Thank you,  
Zack

On Thu, Jan 11, 2024 at 2:01 PM Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)> wrote:  
Hi Zack; please send your questions to Dr. Memoli and me.

Thanks

---

**From:** Zack Stieber <(b)(6)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 11, 2024 11:49 AM  
**To:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Cc:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

Hi Ken, thanks for the email. Dr. Memoli said he was happy to answer our questions. What can we do to make the interview work?

Thank you,  
Zack

On Thu, Jan 11, 2024 at 1:31 PM Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)> wrote:  
Hi Zack; Dr. Memoli shared your email. Sorry, but this interview won't work out.

NIAID Communications Office

---

**From:** Zack Stieber (b)(6)

**Date:** Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 11:25 AM

**To:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

Hi Dr. Memoli,

Good morning, hope you're having a good week.

We obtained some of your emails through a FOIA request and would like to set up an interview with you on them.

We can send over some of the questions we plan to ask ahead of time.

Do you have any availability next week?

Alternatively, we can send questions over and you can answer the questions over email.

Thank you,  
Zack Stieber  
The Epoch Times

(b)(6)

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**From:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Sent:** Wed, 17 Jan 2024 19:12:23 +0000  
**Subject:** FW: NIH/NIAID Freedom of Information Act requests 61216 and 61217 (Stieber/Epoch Times)

---

**From:** Newman, Raushanah (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 1:42 PM  
**To:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** Re: NIH/NIAID Freedom of Information Act requests 61216 and 61217 (Stieber/Epoch Times)

Dear Dr. Memoli,

I hope all is well!

I received the following additional clarification from the FOIA office: “Dr. Memoli has previously reviewed and cleared these for release on August 23, 2022. All of the attachments for 61216 (146 pages including the parent emails) were a part of the records he reviewed at the same time for cases 57329 and 57411. Since it has been over a year, we wanted to give Dr. Memoli the opportunity to re-review the records and provide input if he would like. If he is still ok with the release and would like to waive the review, that’s fine too. Please let us know whether Dr. Memoli would like a copy of the records to review.”

How would you like to proceed?

Sincere regards,

Raushanah

---

**From:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 2:50 PM  
**To:** Newman, Raushanah (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Cc:** NIAID DIR FOIA Facilitation Team <(b)(6)> Shaffer, Meredith (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** Re: NIH/NIAID Freedom of Information Act requests 61216 and 61217 (Stieber/Epoch Times)

Hello,

I am fine with CIT searches.

Matt

--

Matthew J. Memoli, M.D., M.S.  
Director, LID Clinical Studies Unit  
Laboratory of Infectious Diseases  
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases  
National Institutes of Health  
MSC 3203 33 North Dr  
Bethesda, MD 20892-3203  
UNITED STATES  
Email: (b)(6)  
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**Date:** Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 2:49 PM  
**To:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Cc:** NIAID DIR FOIA Facilitation Team (b)(6), Shaffer, Meredith (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Subject:** FW: NIH/NIAID Freedom of Information Act requests 61216 and 61217 (Stieber/Epoch Times)

Dear Dr. Memolu,

I hope all is well.

We have received an additional FOIA request(s).; see below. Are you able to provide this information?

Sincere regards,

Raushanah Newman  
Program Analyst  
Division of Intramural Research  
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, NIH  
10 Center Drive, Rm 11N248  
Bethesda, MD 20892  
Office (b)(6)



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---

**From:** Betz, Jordan (NIH/NHLBI) [C] <(b)(6)>  
**Date:** Monday, January 8, 2024 at 10:23 AM  
**To:** NIAID DIR FOIA Facilitation Team <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** RE: NIH/NIAID Freedom of Information Act requests 61216 and 61217 (Stieber/Epoch Times)

Hi DIR FOIA Team,

I wanted to follow up on this – have you been able to discuss with Dr.x? If he's OK with a CIT search like in 57329 and 57411, I'd like to get that started on both of these cases as soon as possible.

Thanks,  
Jordan

---

**From:** Betz, Jordan (NIH/NHLBI) [C]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 3, 2024 1:15 PM  
**To:** NIAID DIR FOIA Facilitation Team <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** NIH/NIAID Freedom of Information Act requests 61216 and 61217 (Stieber/Epoch Times)

Hi DIR FOIA Team,

We got two new FOIA requests from Zachary Stieber of The Epoch Times related to Dr. Memoli. NIH FOIA released the records from a previous request (57329, request attached) toward the end of December and Mr. Stieber has decided that he now wants the attachments he previously agreed to exclude. He has also requested another year's worth of Dr. Memoli's emails related to the vaccine mandate. I don't have access to the original CIT search performed in 57329, so a new search will have to be performed. Would Dr. Memoli prefer to search his own emails or would he consent to having CIT run the searches?

Thanks,  
Jordan

Jordan Betz, PhD  
Policy Analyst  
Contractor with Axle Informatics

Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Branch  
National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI), NIH  
(b)(6) Office  
301-496-9737 FOIA line

**From:** Newman, Raushanah (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Sent:** Wed, 17 Jan 2024 18:42:41 +0000  
**To:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Subject:** Re: NIH/NIAID Freedom of Information Act requests 61216 and 61217 (Stieber/Epoch Times)

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How would you like to proceed?

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**From:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 2:50 PM  
**To:** Newman, Raushanah (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)  
**Cc:** NIAID DIR FOIA Facilitation Team <NIAIDDIRFOIAFacilitationTeam@mail.nih.gov>, Shaffer, Meredith (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)  
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Hello,

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Matthew J. Memoli, M.D., M.S.  
Director, LID Clinical Studies Unit  
Laboratory of Infectious Diseases  
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases  
National Institutes of Health  
MSC 3203 33 North Dr

Bethesda, MD 20892-3203

UNITED STATES

Email: [REDACTED] (b) (6)

Phone: [REDACTED] (b) (6)

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---

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Raushanah Newman  
Program Analyst  
Division of Intramural Research  
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, NIH  
10 Center Drive, Rm 11N248  
Bethesda, MD 20892  
Office: [REDACTED] (b) (6)



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Jordan Betz, PhD  
Policy Analyst  
Contractor with Axle Informatics  
Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Branch  
National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI), NIH  
(b)(6) Office  
301-496-9737 FOIA line

**From:** ASPA StEP on behalf of "noreply@salesforce.com" <noreply@salesforce.com>  
**Sent:** Wed, 17 Jan 2024 16:59:24 +0000 (GMT)  
**To:** Lemar, Naweed (OS/ASPA); NIAID COG CORE; Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]; Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]; Polimeni, Lydia (NIH/OD) [E]; Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Akinso, Woleola (NIH/OD) [E]; Jones, Kamara (HHS/ASPA); NIAID Media Inquiries; (b) (6)  
(b) (6) Formoso, Paula (HHS/ASPA); Burns, Samira (HHS/ASPA); Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E]; (b) (6) Seel, Rebecca (OS/ASPA); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]; (b) (6) Ritter, Emily (NIH/OD) [E]  
**Subject:** On Hold StEP Media Inquiry: NIH/NIAID - Dr. Memoli stance \_ COVID vaccination mandate - ref:5003d00000AQVpgAAH

A media inquiry has been placed on Hold by ASPA. You will receive another email notification from StEP when the media inquiry has been released from hold. Click on the link at the bottom of this email to see feedback from reviewers (if provided).

-----  
**ASPA StEP Number:** 00015740

**Press Officer / Contact Name:** Ken Pekoc

**Inquiry Type:** Media Inquiry

**Subject:** Dr. Memoli stance \_ COVID vaccination mandate

**Topics:** COVID vaccine

**Deadline:** Wed Jan 17 12:19:00 EST 2024

**HHS Spokespersons:** Dr. Matt Memoli, NIAID

**Reporters and Producers:**

Contact	Role	Media Outlet
Zack Stieber	Reporter	Epoch Media Group Times

**Media Outlet:** Epoch Media Group Times

**Type of Media:**

Online;Print

**Inquiry:**

Thurs. Jan. 11, 2024 email from Zack Stieber to Dr. Memoli:

Hi Dr. Memoli,

Good morning, hope you're having a good week.

We obtained some of your emails through a FOIA request and would like to set up an interview with you on them.

We can send over some of the questions we plan to ask ahead of time.

Do you have any availability next week?

Alternatively, we can send questions over and you can answer the questions over email.

(More in Additional Information)

**Proposed Response/Driving Event:**

Hi Ken,

Below are my answers. I understand that NIAID and/or HHS doesn't want to address these things, but I believe that to be a major mistake. Until we do address these issues we will not regain trust with much of the public.

Matt

Q1. What compelled you to write to Dr. Fauci and other agency leaders?

A. From the beginning I did not believe that the vaccine strategy being promoted was optimal due to my years of experience in the RNA respiratory viral field and expertise in this area both in the lab and clinically. I knew it was suboptimal for an RNA respiratory virus due to the nature of these viruses as they can change rapidly making single antigen vaccines limited in usefulness. I also had concerns about the mRNA technology as this relies solely on the host to make the antigen rather than providing a set amount of antigen in a traditional vaccine. Once there began to be talk of vaccine mandates, I became even more concerned as I felt that mandates were unethical and that they would have a number of negative effects both during and after the pandemic medically and socially. Given all of this I felt compelled to finally express all of this in as constructive a way as possible to try to help the agency avoid this and consider other options.

Q2. Did they ever respond to you? If so, what did they say?

A. I received a response from Dr Cliff Lane thanking me for my email.

Q3. Why did you decide to go public in late 2021? Do you think the public would have been better served if you went public earlier?

A. I had expressed many reservations about the vaccines in press interviews that I did far prior to late 2021. I was always honest about that. The reporters I spoke to never seemed to publish any of the information I provided regarding that. Once the mandates became a reality, I felt strongly that I needed to try to do something more as I began to see many of the things, I was worried about happening. The vaccine was not working well due to the rise of variants, there were safety issues arising, and as my family and I had chosen not to be vaccinated we were dealing with threats of having our medical licenses taken away, loss of employment, etc. We had friends who felt coerced into accepting vaccination as was happening all over the country. Therefore, to again try to be constructive I contacted the NIH ethics office to appeal to them to consider this. I felt this was my best option at the time. They did schedule the meeting to discuss it, but there were many months in between when I raised this issue and when that took place. In the meantime, a Wall Street Journal reporter had picked up on some of my previous comments and began asking me questions about the vaccines and the mandates. I was honest with my scientific and medical opinions as I always am when I do interviews.

Q4. Were you surprised you were allowed to present your case against mandates during the NIH roundtable?

A. I was somewhat surprised given the environment, but I have always had the utmost respect for the NIH ethics department. I have worked with them many times in the past and have even

published papers with them. The people in that office have always been very smart, open minded, and able to look at difficult issues and consider them carefully and thoroughly.

Q5. What reception did you get from colleagues and superiors after the roundtable?

A. Many colleagues offered words of support or thanks for my presentation. I did not receive any negative comments from any colleagues or superiors.

Q6. Did you ever feel you were in danger of being fired for your opposition to the mandates?

A. There were times when I was worried about losing my job especially when we first started receiving emails about mandate deadlines from NIH/HHS, but I knew there were many protections in place for government employees like myself. I was concerned more about my medical license and not being able to continue to perform my job properly. Washington, DC directly threatened to take away my medical license which would have threatened my job (I need a medical license) so I applied for a Virginia license and protected myself that way. None of my superiors at NIH or anyone I physically worked with ever threatened me directly or allowed it to affect my work.

Q7. Did the NIH/NIAID ever approve your exemption request?

A. No, after enough time went by the mandate was rescinded and so I was told it was unnecessary.

Q8. Did you ever do the AFTERVAX study? If so, when are results expected? If not, why not?

A. The AFTERVAX study has just completed enrollment and is now in the analysis stage. It will likely be 6 months to a year before we have results completed and ready for publication.

Q9. Looking back, would you have done anything differently with regards to the COVID-19 vaccines and/or the vaccine mandates?

A. Of course, in hindsight I would have been more aggressive in my approach in trying to help the agency avoid some of the mistakes I feel were made. I feel I should have been less worried about my situation, and I should have sent emails and had discussions with my leaders sooner expressing my expert opinions.

Q10. What are you working on nowadays?

A. Primarily my work continues to focus on understanding the pathogenesis and correlates of protection of RNA respiratory viruses like influenza and SARS-COV2. These are extremely difficult issues due to our lack of understanding of mucosal immunity, viral evolution, and host response. Therefore, I continue to perform translational studies in humans to better understand how we can produce drugs, vaccines, or strategies that can properly address these viruses by preventing infection, limiting spread of disease, and reducing the disease caused by these viruses.

**Additional Information:**

Interview initially declined; but sending for consideration after receiving this reply from reporter and discussing with Dr. Memoli and NIAID comms staff:

- Hi Ken, thanks for the email. Dr. Memoli said he was happy to answer our questions. What can we do to make the interview work?

-----  
For ASPA: Click [here](#) to review this inquiry in StEP.

For the Agency: Click [here](#) to review this inquiry in StEP.

Note - This email is sent from StEP (Strategic Engagement Platform) via [StEPemails@hhs.gov](mailto:StEPemails@hhs.gov). If you have questions about this inquiry, please contact the StEP Help Desk ([StEPHelpdesk@hhs.gov](mailto:StEPHelpdesk@hhs.gov).)

**From:** Jones, Alyssa (HHS/ASPA)  
**Sent:** Wed, 17 Jan 2024 16:59:05 +0000  
**To:** Strategic Engagement Platform (HHS/ASPA); Lemar, Naweed (OS/ASPA); NIAID COGCORE; Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]; Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]; Polimeni, Lydia (NIH/OD) [E]; Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Akinso, Woleola (NIH/OD) [E]; Jones, Kamara (HHS/ASPA); NIAID Media Inquiries; Feldman, Anne (HHS/ASPA); Bates, Carla (HHS/ASPA); Formoso, Paula (HHS/ASPA); Burns, Samira (HHS/ASPA); Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E]; Miller, Renata (HHS/ASPA); Wilson, McKenzie (HHS/ASPA); Seel, Rebecca (OS/ASPA); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]; Ritter, Emily (NIH/OD) [E]  
**Subject:** RE: Media Inquiry: NIH/NIAID - Dr. Memoli stance \_ COVID vaccination mandate, Epoch Media Group Times - ref:5003d00000AQVpgAAH

Hold

---

**From:** noreply@salesforce.com <noreply@salesforce.com> **On Behalf Of** ASPA StEP  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 17, 2024 11:47 AM  
**To:** Lemar, Naweed (OS/ASPA) <(b)(6)>; (b)(6) Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)> Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)> Polimeni, Lydia (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)> Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)> Akinso, Woleola (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)> Jones, Kamara (HHS/ASPA) <(b)(6)>; Feldman, Anne (HHS/ASPA) <(b)(6)> Bates, Carla (HHS/ASPA) <(b)(6)> Formoso, Paula (HHS/ASPA) <(b)(6)> Burns, Samira (HHS/ASPA) <(b)(6)>; Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)> Miller, Renata (HHS/ASPA) <(b)(6)> Wilson, McKenzie (HHS/ASPA) <(b)(6)> Seel, Rebecca (OS/ASPA) <(b)(6)>; Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)> Jones, Alyssa (HHS/ASPA) <(b)(6)> Ritter, Emily (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** Media Inquiry: NIH/NIAID - Dr. Memoli stance \_ COVID vaccination mandate, Epoch Media Group Times - ref:5003d00000AQVpgAAH

A new or updated media inquiry has been submitted to ASPA for review.

- To Approve as is: reply all to this email and type, "Approved" on the first line.
- To Approve with edits: reply all to this email and type Approved on the first line and include "with edits" on the second line.
- To place On Hold: reply all to this email and type, "Hold" on the first line. Click on the link at the bottom of this email to open the inquiry in StEP.
- To Reject: reply all to this email and type, "Reject" on the first line.

---

**ASPA StEP Number:** 00015740

**Press Officer / Contact Name:** Ken Pekoc

**Inquiry Type:** Media Inquiry

**Subject:** Dr. Memoli stance \_ COVID vaccination mandate

**Topics:** COVID vaccine

**Deadline:** Wed Jan 17 12:19:00 EST 2024

**HHS Spokespersons:** Dr. Matt Memoli, NIAID

**Reporters and Producers:**

Contact	Role	Media Outlet
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**Media Outlet:** Epoch Media Group Times

**Type of Media:**

Online;Print

**Inquiry:**

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**From:** ASPA StEP on behalf of "noreply@salesforce.com" (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wed, 17 Jan 2024 16:46:37 +0000 (GMT)  
**To:** Lemar, Naweed (OS/ASPA); NIAID COGCORE; Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]; Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]; Polimeni, Lydia (NIH/OD) [E]; Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Akinso, Woleola (NIH/OD) [E]; Jones, Kamara (HHS/ASPA); NIAID Media Inquiries (b)(6)  
(b)(6) Formoso, Paula (HHS/ASPA); Burns, Samira (HHS/ASPA); Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E];  
(b)(6) (b)(6) Seel, Rebecca (OS/ASPA); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E]; (b)(6) Ritter, Emily (NIH/OD) [E]  
**Subject:** Media Inquiry: NIH/NIAID - Dr. Memoli stance \_ COVID vaccination mandate, Epoch Media Group Times - ref:5003d00000AQVpgAAH

A new or updated media inquiry has been submitted to ASPA for review.

- To Approve as is: reply all to this email and type, "Approved" on the first line.
- To Approve with edits: reply all to this email and type Approved on the first line and include “with edits” on the second line.
- To place On Hold: reply all to this email and type, "Hold" on the first line. Click on the link at the bottom of this email to open the inquiry in StEP.
- To Reject: reply all to this email and type, "Reject" on the first line.

-----  
**ASPA StEP Number:** 00015740

**Press Officer / Contact Name:** Ken Pekoc

**Inquiry Type:** Media Inquiry

**Subject:** Dr. Memoli stance \_ COVID vaccination mandate

**Topics:** COVID vaccine

**Deadline:** Wed Jan 17 12:19:00 EST 2024

**HHS Spokespersons:** Dr. Matt Memoli, NIAID

**Reporters and Producers:**

Contact	Role	Media Outlet
Zack Stieber	Reporter	Epoch Media Group Times

**Media Outlet:** Epoch Media Group Times

**Type of Media:**

Online;Print

**Inquiry:**

Thurs. Jan. 11, 2024 email from Zack Stieber to Dr. Memoli:

Hi Dr. Memoli,

Good morning, hope you're having a good week.

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We can send over some of the questions we plan to ask ahead of time.

Do you have any availability next week?

Alternatively, we can send questions over and you can answer the questions over email.

(More in Additional Information)

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**From:** Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]  
**Sent:** Wed, 17 Jan 2024 16:45:46 +0000  
**To:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Ritter, Emily (NIH/OD) [E]; Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]  
**Cc:** Donbeck, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Subject:** RE: (updated +) RE: StEP Media Inquiry NIAID - Dr. Memoli stance \_ COVID vaccination mandate, Epoch Media Group Times - ref:5003d00000AQVpgAAH

These look good, Ken. Thanks for looping back.

---

**From:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 17, 2024 10:04 AM  
**To:** Ritter, Emily (NIH/OD) [E] (b)(6); Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b)(6); Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Donbeck, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Subject:** (updated +) RE: StEP Media Inquiry NIAID - Dr. Memoli stance \_ COVID vaccination mandate, Epoch Media Group Times - ref:5003d00000AQVpgAAH

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**Sent:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 10:15 AM  
**To:** Ritter, Emily (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)> NIAID Media Inquiries <(b)(6)> NIAID COGCORE <(b)(6)>; Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>; Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)> Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>; Polimeni, Lydia (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)> Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>; Akinso, Woleola (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** RE: StEP Media Inquiry NIAID - Dr. Memoli stance \_ COVID vaccination mandate, Epoch Media Group Times - ref:5003d00000AQVpAAH

Noted and will seek clarification on Qs 6 and 7. Thanks

---

**From:** Ritter, Emily (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 10:05 AM  
**To:** <(b)(6)>; NIAID Media Inquiries <(b)(6)> NIAID COGCORE <(b)(6)> Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>; Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>; Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)> Polimeni, Lydia (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)> Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)> Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>; Akinso, Woleola (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>  
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**From:** <(b)(6)> On Behalf Of ASPA StEP  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 11:33 AM  
**To:** NIAID Media Inquiries <(b)(6)> IAID COGCORE <(b)(6)> Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)> Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)> Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)> Polimeni, Lydia (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>; Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)> Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)> Ritter, Emily (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)> Akinso, Woleola (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>  
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-----  
**ASPA StEP Number:** 00015740

**Reporters and Producers:**

Contact	Role	Media Outlet
Zack Stieber	Reporter	Epoch Media Group Times

**Media Outlet:** Epoch Media Group Times

**Subject:** Dr. Memoli stance \_ COVID vaccination mandate

**Deadline:** Tue Jan 16 12:19:23 EST 2024

**HHS Spokespersons:** Dr. Matt Memoli, NIAID

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**Inquiry Type:** Media Inquiry

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**Type of Media:**

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(b)(6) Polimeni, Lydia (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)> Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)> Akinso, Woleola (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>

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**From:** (b)(6) On Behalf Of ASPA StEP

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 11:33 AM

**To:** NIAID Media Inquiries <(b)(6)> NIAID COGCORE <(b)(6)> Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)> Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)> Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>; Polimeni, Lydia (NIH/OD) [E] (b)(6) Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)> Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>; Ritter, Emily (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)> Akinso, Woleola (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>

**Subject:** StEP Media Inquiry NIAID - Dr. Memoli stance \_ COVID vaccination mandate, Epoch Media Group Times - ref:5003d00000AQVpgAAH

A new or updated media inquiry has been submitted for your review. Click on the link at the bottom of this email to open the inquiry in StEP. Reply all to this email if you have questions or feedback on this inquiry. Once you have completed your review in the system, select "Submit to ASPA" to send the inquiry for ASPA review. If ASPA review is not required, change the status of the inquiry to "Ready to Publish" to close out your review.

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**ASPA StEP Number:** 00015740

**Reporters and Producers:**

Contact	Role	Media Outlet
Zack Stieber	Reporter	Epoch Media Group Times

**Media Outlet:** Epoch Media Group Times

**Subject:** Dr. Memoli stance \_ COVID vaccination mandate

**Deadline:** Tue Jan 16 12:19:23 EST 2024

**HHS Spokespersons:** Dr. Matt Memoli, NIAID

**Inquiry:**

Thurs. Jan. 11, 2024 email from Zack Stieber to Dr. Memoli:

Hi Dr. Memoli,

Good morning, hope you're having a good week.

We obtained some of your emails through a FOIA request and would like to set up an interview with you on them.

We can send over some of the questions we plan to ask ahead of time.

Do you have any availability next week?

Alternatively, we can send questions over and you can answer the questions over email.

(More in Additional Information)

**Proposed Response/Driving Event:**

Hi Ken,

Below are my answers. I understand that NIAID and/or HHS doesn't want to address these things, but I believe that to be a major mistake. Until we do address these issues we will not regain trust with much of the public.

Matt

Q1. What compelled you to write to Dr. Fauci and other agency leaders?

A. From the beginning I did not believe that the vaccine strategy being promoted was optimal due to my years of experience in the RNA respiratory viral field and expertise in this area both in the lab and clinically. I knew it was suboptimal for an RNA respiratory virus due to the nature of these viruses as they can change rapidly making single antigen vaccines limited in usefulness. I also had concerns about the mRNA technology as this relies solely on the host to make the antigen rather than providing a set amount of antigen in a traditional vaccine. Once there began to be talk of vaccine mandates, I became even more concerned as I felt that mandates were unethical and that they would have a number of negative effects both during and after the pandemic medically and socially. Given all of this I felt compelled to finally express all of this in as constructive a way as possible to try to help the agency avoid this and consider other options.

Q2. Did they ever respond to you? If so, what did they say?

A. I received a response from Dr Cliff Lane thanking me for my email.

Q3. Why did you decide to go public in late 2021? Do you think the public would have been better served if you went public earlier?

A. I had expressed many reservations about the vaccines in press interviews that I did far prior to late 2021. I was always honest about that. The reporters I spoke to never seemed to publish any of the information I provided regarding that. Once the mandates became a reality, I felt strongly that I needed to try to do something more as I began to see many of the things, I was worried about happening. The vaccine was not working well due to the rise of variants, there

were safety issues arising, and as my family and I had chosen not to be vaccinated we were dealing with threats of having our medical licenses taken away, loss of employment, etc. We had friends who felt coerced into accepting vaccination as was happening all over the country. Therefore, to again try to be constructive I contacted the NIH ethics office to appeal to them to consider this. I felt this was my best option at the time. They did schedule the meeting to discuss it, but there were many months in between when I raised this issue and when that took place. In the meantime, a Wall Street Journal reporter had picked up on some of my previous comments and began asking me questions about the vaccines and the mandates. I was honest with my scientific and medical opinions as I always am when I do interviews.

Q4. Were you surprised you were allowed to present your case against mandates during the NIH roundtable?

A. I was somewhat surprised given the environment, but I have always had the utmost respect for the NIH ethics department. I have worked with them many times in the past and have even published papers with them. The people in that office have always been very smart, open minded, and able to look at difficult issues and consider them carefully and thoroughly.

Q5. What reception did you get from colleagues and superiors after the roundtable?

A. Many colleagues offered words of support or thanks for my presentation. I did not receive any negative comments from any colleagues or superiors.

Q6. Did you ever feel you were in danger of being fired for your opposition to the mandates?

A. There were times when I was worried about losing my job, although I knew there were many protections for government employees like myself. I was concerned more about my medical license and not being able to continue to perform my job properly. (This doesn't really answer the question; was he ever approached in a way that made him think he would lose his job? If not, then he should say this.)

Q7. Did the NIH/NIAID ever approve your exemption request?

A. No (This should be clarified that the mandate was dropped and so an exemption was not required).

Q8. Did you ever do the AFTERVAX study? If so, when are results expected? If not, why not?

A. The AFTERVAX study has just completed enrollment and is now in the analysis stage. It will likely be 6 months to a year before we have results completed and ready for publication.

Q9. Looking back, would you have done anything differently with regards to the COVID-19 vaccines and/or the vaccine mandates?

A. Of course, in hindsight I would have been more aggressive in my approach in trying to help the agency avoid some of the mistakes I feel were made. I feel I should have been less worried about my situation, and I should have sent emails and had discussions with my leaders sooner expressing my expert opinions.

Q10. What are you working on nowadays?

A. Primarily my work continues to focus on understanding the pathogenesis and correlates of protection of RNA respiratory viruses like influenza and SARS-COV2. These are extremely difficult issues due to our lack of understanding of mucosal immunity, viral evolution, and host response. Therefore, I continue to perform translational studies in humans to better understand how we can produce drugs, vaccines, or strategies that can properly address these viruses by preventing infection, limiting spread of disease, and reducing the disease caused by these viruses.

**Additional Information:**

Interview initially declined; but sending for consideration after receiving this reply from reporter and discussing with Dr. Memoli and NIAID comms staff:

- Hi Ken, thanks for the email. Dr. Memoli said he was happy to answer our questions. What can we do to make the interview work?

**Press Officer / Contact Name:** Ken Pekoc

**Inquiry Type:** Media Inquiry

**Topics:** COVID vaccine

**Type of Media:**

Online;Print

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Click [here](#) to review this inquiry in StEP.

Note - This email is sent from StEP (Strategic Engagement Platform) via [StEPemails@hhs.gov](mailto:StEPemails@hhs.gov).  
If you have questions about this inquiry, please contact the StEP Help Desk  
([StEPHelpdesk@hhs.gov](mailto:StEPHelpdesk@hhs.gov).)

**Sent:** Wed, 17 Jan 2024 14:58:56 +0000  
**To:** Ritter, Emily (NIH/OD) [E]; Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E]; Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]  
**Cc:** Donbeck, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Bcc:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Subject:** RE: StEP Media Inquiry NIAID - Dr. Memoli stance \_ COVID vaccination mandate, Epoch Media Group Times - ref:5003d00000AQVpgAAH

Have edited and saved Qs 6-7 in the Step inquiry. Also wanted to include his full reply here:

Here are some clarifications below. Not for the reporter, but NIH/HHS should know that never approving the exemption is a sore point for people like me. They let us twist in the wind worried about our jobs for a year, and then never even gave us a final approval which leaves us hanging if there is another mandate in the future. I feel this was done on purpose to try to coerce us into getting the vaccine and I consider it highly unethical and disappointing. I would like to see the NIH director or even better the HHS secretary formally make an apology and an announcement that such a mandate was a mistake and that this should never happen again in a society that follows proper bioethics. I know I will be waiting until hell freezes over for the apology, but I feel people like me and those who took the vaccine due to coercion feel owed an apology, I know many employees like this who have contacted me.

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Q7. Did the NIH/NIAID ever approve your exemption request?

A. No, after enough time went by the mandate was rescinded and so I was told it was unnecessary.

---

**From:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 10:15 AM  
**To:** Ritter, Emily (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); (b) (6) NIAID Media Inquiries <mediainquiries@niaid.nih.gov>; NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>; Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E]

(b) (6); Polimeni, Lydia (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6) Akinso, Woleola (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: StEP Media Inquiry NIAID - Dr. Memoli stance \_ COVID vaccination mandate, Epoch Media Group Times - ref:5003d00000AQVpgAAH

Noted and will seek clarification on Qs 6 and 7. Thanks

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**From:** Ritter, Emily (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 10:05 AM  
**To:** (b) (6); NIAID Media Inquiries <mediainquiries@niaid.nih.gov>; NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>; Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6) Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6) Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6) Polimeni, Lydia (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6) Akinso, Woleola (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: StEP Media Inquiry NIAID - Dr. Memoli stance \_ COVID vaccination mandate, Epoch Media Group Times - ref:5003d00000AQVpgAAH

Hi NIAID folks – NIH OCPL has the following comments before moving forward to HHS, asking Dr. Memoli to clarify their responses.

Please let us know if you have any comments or concerns, and please update us when you have updated the StEP inquiry.

Thanks,  
Emily

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**From:** noreply@salesforce.com <noreply@salesforce.com> **On Behalf Of** ASPA StEP  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 11:33 AM  
**To:** NIAID Media Inquiries <mediainquiries@niaid.nih.gov>; NIAID COGCORE <COGCORE@mail.nih.gov>; Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6) Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] <(b) (6)>; Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] <(b) (6)> Polimeni, Lydia (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6); Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6); Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6) Ritter, Emily (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6) Akinso, Woleola (NIH/OD) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** StEP Media Inquiry NIAID - Dr. Memoli stance \_ COVID vaccination mandate, Epoch Media Group Times - ref:5003d00000AQVpgAAH

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**ASPA StEP Number:** 00015740

**Reporters and Producers:**

Contact	Role	Media Outlet
Zack Stieber	Reporter	Epoch Media Group Times

**Media Outlet:** Epoch Media Group Times

**Subject:** Dr. Memoli stance \_ COVID vaccination mandate

**Deadline:** Tue Jan 16 12:19:23 EST 2024

**HHS Spokespersons:** Dr. Matt Memoli, NIAID

**Inquiry:**

Thurs. Jan. 11, 2024 email from Zack Stieber to Dr. Memoli:

Hi Dr. Memoli,

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(More in Additional Information)

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Matt

Q1. What compelled you to write to Dr. Fauci and other agency leaders?

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Q7. Did the NIH/NIAID ever approve your exemption request?

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Q10. What are you working on nowadays?

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**Additional Information:**

Interview initially declined; but sending for consideration after receiving this reply from reporter and discussing with Dr. Memoli and NIAID comms staff:

- Hi Ken, thanks for the email. Dr. Memoli said he was happy to answer our questions. What can we do to make the interview work?

**Press Officer / Contact Name:** Ken Pekoc

**Inquiry Type:** Media Inquiry

**Topics:** COVID vaccine

**Type of Media:**

Online;Print

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([StEPHelpdesk@hhs.gov](mailto:StEPHelpdesk@hhs.gov).)

**From:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Sent:** Wed, 17 Jan 2024 14:49:33 +0000  
**To:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

My apology, I won't edit any of the response ... this confused me initially: "Not for the reporter ..."

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**From:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 17, 2024 7:40 AM  
**To:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

Yes I added that to my answer. If you mean edit out the rest, it should be clear I was worried about losing my job. You can edit it down, but I spent months worrying and thinking about where I was going to go. That is the honest truth. When I gave the ethics grand rounds I thought that might be the last time I gave a talk at NIH and that my scientific career might be over after that. Now in hindsight that may have been a bit hyperbolic, but that is how I felt at the time.

Matt

--

Matthew J. Memoli, M.D., M.S.  
Director, LID Clinical Studies Unit  
Laboratory of Infectious Diseases  
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases  
National Institutes of Health  
MSC 3203 33 North Dr  
Bethesda, MD 20892-3203  
UNITED STATES  
Email: (b) (6)  
Phone: (b) (6)

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**From:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 9:25 AM

**To:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] [REDACTED] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

Hi Matt ... I appreciate your thoughts and will share your comments per usual.

Strictly looking at what NIH wanted clarified in Q6, would it be ok to share the last line with the reporter (if NIH and HHS authorize):

None of my superiors at NIH or anyone I physically worked with ever threatened me directly or allowed it to affect my work.

---

**From:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] [REDACTED] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 17, 2024 7:18 AM  
**To:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] [REDACTED] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

Hi Ken,

Here are some clarifications below. Not for the reporter, but NIH/HHS should know that never approving the exemption is a sore point for people like me. They let us twist in the wind worried about our jobs for a year, and then never even gave us a final approval which leaves us hanging if there is another mandate in the future. I feel this was done on purpose to try to coerce us into getting the vaccine and I consider it highly unethical and disappointing. I would like to see the NIH director or even better the HHS secretary formally make an apology and an announcement that such a mandate was a mistake and that this should never happen again in a society that follows proper bioethics. I know I will be waiting until hell freezes over for the apology, but I feel people like me and those who took the vaccine due to coercion feel owed an apology, I know many employees like this who have contacted me.

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A. There were times when I was worried about losing my job especially when we first started receiving emails about mandate deadlines from NIH/HHS, but I knew there were many protections in place for government employees like myself. I was concerned more about my medical license and not being able to continue to perform my job properly. Washington, DC directly threatened to take away my medical license which would have threatened my job (I need a medical license) so I applied for a Virginia license and protected myself that way. None of my superiors at NIH or anyone I physically worked with ever threatened me directly or allowed it to affect my work.

Q7. Did the NIH/NIAID ever approve your exemption request?

A. No, after enough time went by the mandate was rescinded and so I was told it was unnecessary.

--

Matthew J. Memoli, M.D., M.S.  
Director, LID Clinical Studies Unit  
Laboratory of Infectious Diseases  
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases  
National Institutes of Health  
MSC 3203 33 North Dr  
Bethesda, MD 20892-3203  
UNITED STATES  
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**From:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 12:15 PM  
**To:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

NIH is asking for clarification on responses to Qs 6 and 7, per below in red:

Q6. Did you ever feel you were in danger of being fired for your opposition to the mandates?

A. There were times when I was worried about losing my job, although I knew there were many protections for government employees like myself. I was concerned more about my medical license and not being able to continue to perform my job properly. (This doesn't really answer the question; was he ever approached in a way that made him think he would lose his job? If not, then he should say this.)

Q7. Did the NIH/NIAID ever approve your exemption request?

A. No (This should be clarified that the mandate was dropped and so an exemption was not required).

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**From:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 9:33 AM  
**To:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

Hi Matt ... received and just sent for clearance. Will apprise asap. Thanks

---

**From:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 6:48 AM  
**To:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

Hi Ken,

Below are my answers. I understand that NIAID and/or HHS doesn't want to address these things, but I believe that to be a major mistake. Until we do address these issues we will not regain trust with much of the public.

Matt

—What compelled you to write to Dr. Fauci and other agency leaders?

From the beginning I did not believe that the vaccine strategy being promoted was optimal due to my years of experience in the RNA respiratory viral field and expertise in this area both in the lab and clinically. I knew it was suboptimal for an RNA respiratory virus due to the nature of these viruses as they can change rapidly making single antigen vaccines limited in usefulness. I also had concerns about the mRNA technology as this relies solely on the host to make the antigen rather than providing a set amount of antigen in a traditional vaccine. Once there began to be talk of vaccine mandates, I became even more concerned as I felt that mandates were unethical and that they would have a number of negative effects both during and after the pandemic medically and socially. Given all of this I felt compelled to finally express all of this in as constructive a way as possible to try to help the agency avoid this and consider other options.

—Did they ever respond to you? If so, what did they say?

I received a response from Dr Cliff Lane thanking me for my email.

—Why did you decide to go public in late 2021? Do you think the public would have been better served if you went public earlier?

I had expressed many reservations about the vaccines in press interviews that I did far prior to late 2021. I was always honest about that. The reporters I spoke to never seemed to publish any of the information I provided regarding that. Once the mandates became a reality, I felt strongly that I needed to try to do something more as I began to see many of the things, I was worried about happening. The vaccine was not working well due to the rise of variants, there were safety issues arising, and as my family and I had chosen not to be vaccinated we were dealing with threats of having our medical licenses taken away, loss of employment, etc. We had friends who felt coerced into accepting vaccination as was happening all over the country. Therefore, to again try to be constructive I contacted the NIH ethics office to appeal to them to consider this. I felt this was my best option at the time. They did schedule the meeting to discuss it, but there were many months in between when I raised this issue and when that took place. In the meantime, a Wall Street Journal reporter had picked up on some of my previous comments and began asking me questions about the vaccines and the mandates. I was honest with my scientific and medical opinions as I always am when I do interviews.

—Were you surprised you were allowed to present your case against mandates during the NIH roundtable?

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—What reception did you get from colleagues and superiors after the roundtable?

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—Did you ever feel you were in danger of being fired for your opposition to the mandates?

There were times when I was worried about losing my job, although I knew there were many protections for government employees like myself. I was concerned more about my medical license and not being able to continue to perform my job properly.

—Did the NIH/NIAID ever approve your exemption request?

No

—Did you ever do the AFTERVAX study? If so, when are results expected? If not, why not?

The AFTERVAX study has just completed enrollment and is now in the analysis stage. It will likely be 6 months to a year before we have results completed and ready for publication.

—Looking back, would you have done anything differently with regards to the COVID-19 vaccines and/or the vaccine mandates?

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**Date:** Monday, January 15, 2024 at 6:19 PM  
**To:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] [REDACTED] (b) (6)  
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We can send over some of the questions we plan to ask ahead of time.

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Alternatively, we can send questions over and you can answer the questions over email.

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The Epoch Times  
917-509-1875

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**Sent:** Wed, 17 Jan 2024 14:40:11 +0000  
**To:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

Yes I added that to my answer. If you mean edit out the rest, it should be clear I was worried about losing my job. You can edit it down, but I spent months worrying and thinking about where I was going to go. That is the honest truth. When I gave the ethics grand rounds I thought that might be the last time I gave a talk at NIH and that my scientific career might be over after that. Now in hindsight that may have been a bit hyperbolic, but that is how I felt at the time.

Matt

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A. There were times when I was worried about losing my job, although I knew there were many protections for government employees like myself. I was concerned more about my medical license and not being able to continue to perform my job properly. (This doesn't really answer the question; was he ever approached in a way that made him think he would lose his job? If not, then he should say this.)

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Hi Matt ... received and just sent for clearance. Will apprise asap. Thanks

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—What compelled you to write to Dr. Fauci and other agency leaders?

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—Did they ever respond to you? If so, what did they say?

I received a response from Dr Cliff Lane thanking me for my email.

—Why did you decide to go public in late 2021? Do you think the public would have been better served if you went public earlier?

I had expressed many reservations about the vaccines in press interviews that I did far prior to late 2021. I was always honest about that. The reporters I spoke to never seemed to publish any of the information I provided regarding that. Once the mandates became a reality, I felt strongly that I needed to try to do something more as I began to see many of the things, I was worried about happening. The vaccine was not working well due to the rise of variants, there were safety issues arising, and as my family and I had chosen not to be vaccinated we were dealing with threats of having our medical licenses taken away, loss of employment,

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There were times when I was worried about losing my job, although I knew there were many protections for government employees like myself. I was concerned more about my medical license and not being able to continue to perform my job properly.

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**From:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Date:** Monday, January 15, 2024 at 6:19 PM  
**To:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

Hi Dr. Memoli. Please let me know how you would answer these and then I'll use those responses to request clearance.

Thanks

On Jan 15, 2024, at 1:25 PM, Zack Stieber <(b)(6)> wrote:

Hi Ken and Dr. Memoli,

As promised, here are the questions.

—What compelled you to write to Dr. Fauci and other agency leaders?

—Did they ever respond to you? If so, what did they say?

—Why did you decide to go public in late 2021? Do you think the public would have been better served if you went public earlier?

—Were you surprised you were allowed to present your case against mandates during the NIH roundtable?

—What reception did you get from colleagues and superiors after the roundtable?

—Did you ever feel you were in danger of being fired for your opposition to the mandates?

—Did the NIH/NIAID ever approve your exemption request?

—Did you ever do the AFTERVAX study? If so, when are results expected? If not, why not?

—Looking back, would you have done anything differently with regards to the COVID-19 vaccines and/or the vaccine mandates?

—What are you working on nowadays?

Thank you,  
Zack

On Thu, Jan 11, 2024 at 4:25 PM Zack Stieber <(b)(6)> wrote:  
Thanks Ken, I will put together the questions and send them over.

Thank you,  
Zack

On Thu, Jan 11, 2024 at 2:01 PM Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)> wrote:  
Hi Zack; please send your questions to Dr. Memoli and me.

Thanks

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**From:** Zack Stieber <(b)(6)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 11, 2024 11:49 AM  
**To:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Cc:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

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Thank you,  
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NIAID Communications Office

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We can send over some of the questions we plan to ask ahead of time.

Do you have any availability next week?

Alternatively, we can send questions over and you can answer the questions over email.

Thank you,  
Zack Stieber  
The Epoch Times  
(b)(6)

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**From:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Sent:** Wed, 17 Jan 2024 14:18:06 +0000  
**To:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

Hi Ken,

Here are some clarifications below. Not for the reporter, but NIH/HHS should know that never approving the exemption is a sore point for people like me. They let us twist in the wind worried about our jobs for a year, and then never even gave us a final approval which leaves us hanging if there is another mandate in the future. I feel this was done on purpose to try to coerce us into getting the vaccine and I consider it highly unethical and disappointing. I would like to see the NIH director or even better the HHS secretary formally make an apology and an announcement that such a mandate was a mistake and that this should never happen again in a society that follows proper bioethics. I know I will be waiting until hell freezes over for the apology, but I feel people like me and those who took the vaccine due to coercion feel owed an apology, I know many employees like this who have contacted me.

Q6. Did you ever feel you were in danger of being fired for your opposition to the mandates?

A. There were times when I was worried about losing my job especially when we first started receiving emails about mandate deadlines from NIH/HHS, but I knew there were many protections in place for government employees like myself. I was concerned more about my medical license and not being able to continue to perform my job properly. Washington, DC directly threatened to take away my medical license which would have threatened my job (I need a medical license) so I applied for a Virginia license and protected myself that way. None of my superiors at NIH or anyone I physically worked with ever threatened me directly or allowed it to affect my work.

Q7. Did the NIH/NIAID ever approve your exemption request?

A. No, after enough time went by the mandate was rescinded and so I was told it was unnecessary.

--

Matthew J. Memoli, M.D., M.S.  
Director, LID Clinical Studies Unit  
Laboratory of Infectious Diseases  
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases  
National Institutes of Health  
MSC 3203 33 North Dr  
Bethesda, MD 20892-3203  
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**From:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>

**Date:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 12:15 PM

**To:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>

**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

NIH is asking for clarification on responses to Qs 6 and 7, per below in red:

Q6. Did you ever feel you were in danger of being fired for your opposition to the mandates?

A. There were times when I was worried about losing my job, although I knew there were many protections for government employees like myself. I was concerned more about my medical license and not being able to continue to perform my job properly. (This doesn't really answer the question; was he ever approached in a way that made him think he would lose his job? If not, then he should say this.)

Q7. Did the NIH/NIAID ever approve your exemption request?

A. No (This should be clarified that the mandate was dropped and so an exemption was not required).

---

**From:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E]

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 9:33 AM

**To:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>

**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

Hi Matt ... received and just sent for clearance. Will apprise asap. Thanks

---

**From:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 6:48 AM  
**To:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

Hi Ken,

Below are my answers. I understand that NIAID and/or HHS doesn't want to address these things, but I believe that to be a major mistake. Until we do address these issues we will not regain trust with much of the public.

Matt

—What compelled you to write to Dr. Fauci and other agency leaders?

From the beginning I did not believe that the vaccine strategy being promoted was optimal due to my years of experience in the RNA respiratory viral field and expertise in this area both in the lab and clinically. I knew it was suboptimal for an RNA respiratory virus due to the nature of these viruses as they can change rapidly making single antigen vaccines limited in usefulness. I also had concerns about the mRNA technology as this relies solely on the host to make the antigen rather than providing a set amount of antigen in a traditional vaccine. Once there began to be talk of vaccine mandates, I became even more concerned as I felt that mandates were unethical and that they would have a number of negative effects both during and after the pandemic medically and socially. Given all of this I felt compelled to finally express all of this in as constructive a way as possible to try to help the agency avoid this and consider other options.

—Did they ever respond to you? If so, what did they say?

I received a response from Dr Cliff Lane thanking me for my email.

—Why did you decide to go public in late 2021? Do you think the public would have been better served if you went public earlier?

I had expressed many reservations about the vaccines in press interviews that I did far prior to late 2021. I was always honest about that. The reporters I spoke to never seemed to publish any of the information I provided regarding that. Once the mandates became a reality, I felt strongly that I needed to try to do something more as I began to see many of the things, I was worried about happening. The vaccine was not working well due to the rise of variants, there were safety issues arising, and as my family and I had chosen not to be vaccinated we were dealing with threats of having our medical licenses taken away, loss of employment, etc. We had friends who felt coerced into accepting vaccination as was happening all over the country. Therefore, to again try to be constructive I contacted the NIH ethics office to appeal to them to consider this. I felt this was my best option at the time. They did schedule the meeting to discuss it, but there were many months in between when I raised this issue and when that

took place. In the meantime, a Wall Street Journal reporter had picked up on some of my previous comments and began asking me questions about the vaccines and the mandates. I was honest with my scientific and medical opinions as I always am when I do interviews.

—Were you surprised you were allowed to present your case against mandates during the NIH roundtable?

I was somewhat surprised given the environment, but I have always had the utmost respect for the NIH ethics department. I have worked with them many times in the past and have even published papers with them. The people in that office have always been very smart, open minded, and able to look at difficult issues and consider them carefully and thoroughly.

—What reception did you get from colleagues and superiors after the roundtable?

Many colleagues offered words of support or thanks for my presentation. I did not receive any negative comments from any colleagues or superiors.

—Did you ever feel you were in danger of being fired for your opposition to the mandates?

There were times when I was worried about losing my job, although I knew there were many protections for government employees like myself. I was concerned more about my medical license and not being able to continue to perform my job properly.

—Did the NIH/NIAID ever approve your exemption request?

No

—Did you ever do the AFTERVAX study? If so, when are results expected? If not, why not?

The AFTERVAX study has just completed enrollment and is now in the analysis stage. It will likely be 6 months to a year before we have results completed and ready for publication.

—Looking back, would you have done anything differently with regards to the COVID-19 vaccines and/or the vaccine mandates?

Of course, in hindsight I would have been more aggressive in my approach in trying to help the agency avoid some of the mistakes I feel were made. I feel I should have been less worried about my situation, and I should have sent emails and had discussions with my leaders sooner expressing my expert opinions.

—What are you working on nowadays?

Primarily my work continues to focus on understanding the pathogenesis and correlates of protection of RNA respiratory viruses like influenza and SARS-COV2. These are extremely difficult issues due to our lack of understanding of mucosal immunity, viral evolution, and host response. Therefore, I continue to perform translational studies in humans to better understand how we can produce drugs, vaccines, or strategies that can properly address these viruses by preventing infection, limiting spread of disease, and reducing the disease caused by these viruses.

--

Matthew J. Memoli, M.D., M.S.  
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Laboratory of Infectious Diseases  
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases  
National Institutes of Health  
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=====  
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**Date:** Monday, January 15, 2024 at 6:19 PM  
**To:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
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Zack

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Thanks

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**Sent:** Thursday, January 11, 2024 11:49 AM  
**To:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Cc:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

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We can send over some of the questions we plan to ask ahead of time.

Do you have any availability next week?

Alternatively, we can send questions over and you can answer the questions over email.

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The Epoch Times

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**From:** Donbeck, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Sent:** Wed, 17 Jan 2024 14:15:29 +0000  
**To:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Subject:** RE: (Dr. Memoli, FYI) FW: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

I think it's worth you calling Meredith to explain that Bldg. 1 wants him to make it clear that no one at NIH said he would be fired for his views. In other words, he may have FELT like his job was in jeopardy because he had a very different view, but that no one ever actually told him or threatened that he could lose his job.

---

**From:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 17, 2024 9:07 AM  
**To:** Donbeck, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Subject:** FW: (Dr. Memoli, FYI) FW: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

I suspect they didn't read the full trail, or maybe I'm misinterpreting their responses. Do you think I should call one of them (Meredith?) and explain?

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**From:** Cohen, Jeffrey (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 6:12 PM  
**To:** Holland, Steven (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6); Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6); Shaffer, Meredith (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: (Dr. Memoli, FYI) FW: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

I concur with Steve. (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Thus, I don't understand why he would think his job or clinical practice was in jeopardy. I agree with Steve and think its best not to further comment about this.  
Jeff Cohen

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**From:** Holland, Steven (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 7:55 PM  
**To:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6); Shaffer, Meredith (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Cohen, Jeffrey (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: (Dr. Memoli, FYI) FW: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

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Director, Division of Intramural Research  
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

National Institutes of Health  
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Bethesda, MD 20892-1960

(b)(6) voice  
(b)(6) fax  
(b)(6) mail

Assistant lab: Eva Portillo

(b)(6) email  
(b)(6) voice

Assistant to SD: Beth Schmidt

(b)(6)  
(b)(6) voice

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**To:** Holland, Steven (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)> Shaffer, Meredith (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>  
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Q6. Did you ever feel you were in danger of being fired for your opposition to the mandates?

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Q7. Did the NIH/NIAID ever approve your exemption request?

A. No (This should be clarified that the mandate was dropped and so an exemption was not required).

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**Sent:** Wed, 17 Jan 2024 14:06:50 +0000  
**To:** Donbeck, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Subject:** FW: (Dr. Memoli, FYI) FW: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

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The Epoch Times

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**Cc:** Cohen, Jeffrey (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: (Dr. Memoli, FYI) FW: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

I doubt that asking for clarifying comments will do much to either clarify or mollify. We treated Matt well during the entire episode and I never heard anyone ever discuss his license or his job. He even got to give a Grand Rounds on his stand, which I think made it abundantly clear why his reasoning was so flawed and flaky. My own suggestion is to leave it alone

--

Director, Division of Intramural Research  
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases  
National Institutes of Health  
Bldg. 10/11N248 MSC 1960  
Bethesda, MD 20892-1960

(b)(6) voice

(b)(6) fax

(b)(6) email

Assistant lab: Eva Portillo

(b)(6) mail

(b)(6) voice

Assistant to SD: Beth Schmidt

[Bschmidt@niaid.nih.gov](mailto:Bschmidt@niaid.nih.gov)

(b)(6) voice

---

**From:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 2:20 PM  
**To:** Holland, Steven (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>, Shaffer, Meredith

(NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>

**Cc:** Cohen, Jeffrey (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>

**Subject:** (Dr. Memoli, FYI) FW: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

Wanted to make you aware of the media inquiry below that we are working on (reporter Qs and Matt's proposed responses attached). Can provide background by phone if you'd like.

NIH has asked Matt to clarify responses to Qs 6 and 7; once I receive those clarifications I am planning to send to HHS for review and decision.

Q6. Did you ever feel you were in danger of being fired for your opposition to the mandates?

A. There were times when I was worried about losing my job, although I knew there were many protections for government employees like myself. I was concerned more about my medical license and not being able to continue to perform my job properly. (This doesn't really answer the question; was he ever approached in a way that made him think he would lose his job? If not, then he should say this.)

Q7. Did the NIH/NIAID ever approve your exemption request?

A. No (This should be clarified that the mandate was dropped and so an exemption was not required).

---

**From:** Zack Stieber <(b)(6)>

**Sent:** Thursday, January 11, 2024 11:49 AM

**To:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>

**Cc:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>

**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

Hi Ken, thanks for the email. Dr. Memoli said he was happy to answer our questions. What can we do to make the interview work?

Thank you,  
Zack

On Thu, Jan 11, 2024 at 1:31 PM Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)> wrote:  
Hi Zack; Dr. Memoli shared your email. Sorry, but this interview won't work out.  
NIAID Communications Office

---

**From:** Zack Stieber <(b)(6)>

**Date:** Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 11:25 AM

**To:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

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Do you have any availability next week?

Alternatively, we can send questions over and you can answer the questions over email.

Thank you,

Zack Stieber

The Epoch Times

(b)(6)

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**From:** Holland, Steven (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Sent:** Wed, 17 Jan 2024 00:54:58 +0000  
**To:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Shaffer, Meredith (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Cc:** Cohen, Jeffrey (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Subject:** Re: (Dr. Memoli, FYI) FW: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

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**Date:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 2:20 PM  
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**To:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>  
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The Epoch Times

(b)(6)

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**From:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Sent:** Tue, 16 Jan 2024 19:20:53 +0000  
**To:** Holland, Steven (NIH/NIAID) [E]; Shaffer, Meredith (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Cc:** Cohen, Jeffrey (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Subject:** (Dr. Memoli, FYI) FW: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview  
**Attachments:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

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**Cc:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>  
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(b)(6)

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**From:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Sent:** Tue, 16 Jan 2024 13:48:01 +0000  
**To:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

Hi Ken,

Below are my answers. I understand that NIAID and/or HHS doesn't want to address these things, but I believe that to be a major mistake. Until we do address these issues we will not regain trust with much of the public.

Matt

—What compelled you to write to Dr. Fauci and other agency leaders?

From the beginning I did not believe that the vaccine strategy being promoted was optimal due to my years of experience in the RNA respiratory viral field and expertise in this area both in the lab and clinically. I knew it was suboptimal for an RNA respiratory virus due to the nature of these viruses as they can change rapidly making single antigen vaccines limited in usefulness. I also had concerns about the mRNA technology as this relies solely on the host to make the antigen rather than providing a set amount of antigen in a traditional vaccine. Once there began to be talk of vaccine mandates, I became even more concerned as I felt that mandates were unethical and that they would have a number of negative effects both during and after the pandemic medically and socially. Given all of this I felt compelled to finally express all of this in as constructive a way as possible to try to help the agency avoid this and consider other options.

—Did they ever respond to you? If so, what did they say?

I received a response from Dr Cliff Lane thanking me for my email.

—Why did you decide to go public in late 2021? Do you think the public would have been better served if you went public earlier?

I had expressed many reservations about the vaccines in press interviews that I did far prior to late 2021. I was always honest about that. The reporters I spoke to never seemed to publish any of the information I provided regarding that. Once the mandates became a reality, I felt strongly that I needed to try to do something more as I began to see many of the things, I was worried about happening. The vaccine was not working well due to the rise of variants, there were safety issues arising, and as my family and I had chosen not to be vaccinated we were dealing with threats of having our medical licenses taken away, loss of employment, etc. We had friends who felt coerced into accepting vaccination as was happening all over the country. Therefore, to again try to be constructive I contacted the NIH ethics office to appeal to them to consider this. I felt this was my best option at the time. They did schedule the meeting to discuss it, but there were many months in between when I raised this issue and when that took place. In the meantime, a Wall Street Journal reporter had picked up on some of my previous

comments and began asking me questions about the vaccines and the mandates. I was honest with my scientific and medical opinions as I always am when I do interviews.

—Were you surprised you were allowed to present your case against mandates during the NIH roundtable?

I was somewhat surprised given the environment, but I have always had the utmost respect for the NIH ethics department. I have worked with them many times in the past and have even published papers with them. The people in that office have always been very smart, open minded, and able to look at difficult issues and consider them carefully and thoroughly.

—What reception did you get from colleagues and superiors after the roundtable?

Many colleagues offered words of support or thanks for my presentation. I did not receive any negative comments from any colleagues or superiors.

—Did you ever feel you were in danger of being fired for your opposition to the mandates?

There were times when I was worried about losing my job, although I knew there were many protections for government employees like myself. I was concerned more about my medical license and not being able to continue to perform my job properly.

—Did the NIH/NIAID ever approve your exemption request?

No

—Did you ever do the AFTERVAX study? If so, when are results expected? If not, why not?

The AFTERVAX study has just completed enrollment and is now in the analysis stage. It will likely be 6 months to a year before we have results completed and ready for publication.

—Looking back, would you have done anything differently with regards to the COVID-19 vaccines and/or the vaccine mandates?

Of course, in hindsight I would have been more aggressive in my approach in trying to help the agency avoid some of the mistakes I feel were made. I feel I should have been less worried about my situation, and I should have sent emails and had discussions with my leaders sooner expressing my expert opinions.

—What are you working on nowadays?

Primarily my work continues to focus on understanding the pathogenesis and correlates of protection of RNA respiratory viruses like influenza and SARS-COV2. These are extremely difficult issues due to our lack of understanding of mucosal immunity, viral evolution, and host response. Therefore, I continue to perform translational studies in humans to better understand how we can produce drugs, vaccines, or strategies that can properly address these viruses by preventing infection, limiting spread of disease, and reducing the disease caused by these viruses.

--

Matthew J. Memoli, M.D., M.S.  
Director, LID Clinical Studies Unit  
Laboratory of Infectious Diseases  
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases  
National Institutes of Health  
MSC 3203 33 North Dr  
Bethesda, MD 20892-3203  
UNITED STATES  
Email: (b)(6)  
Phone: (b)(6)

---

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**From:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Date:** Monday, January 15, 2024 at 6:19 PM  
**To:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

Hi Dr. Memoli. Please let me know how you would answer these and then I'll use those responses to request clearance.

Thanks

On Jan 15, 2024, at 1:25 PM, Zack Stieber (b)(6) wrote:

Hi Ken and Dr. Memoli,

As promised, here are the questions.

—What compelled you to write to Dr. Fauci and other agency leaders?

—Did they ever respond to you? If so, what did they say?

—Why did you decide to go public in late 2021? Do you think the public would have been better served if you went public earlier?

—Were you surprised you were allowed to present your case against mandates during the NIH roundtable?

—What reception did you get from colleagues and superiors after the roundtable?

—Did you ever feel you were in danger of being fired for your opposition to the mandates?

—Did the NIH/NIAID ever approve your exemption request?

—Did you ever do the AFTERVAX study? If so, when are results expected? If not, why not?

—Looking back, would you have done anything differently with regards to the COVID-19 vaccines and/or the vaccine mandates?

—What are you working on nowadays?

Thank you,  
Zack

On Thu, Jan 11, 2024 at 4:25 PM Zack Stieber <(b)(6)> wrote:  
Thanks Ken, I will put together the questions and send them over.

Thank you,  
Zack

On Thu, Jan 11, 2024 at 2:01 PM Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)> wrote:  
Hi Zack; please send your questions to Dr. Memoli and me.

Thanks

---

**From:** Zack Stieber <(b)(6)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 11, 2024 11:49 AM  
**To:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Cc:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

Hi Ken, thanks for the email. Dr. Memoli said he was happy to answer our questions. What can we do to make the interview work?

Thank you,  
Zack

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NIAID Communications Office

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**From:** Zack Stieber <(b)(6)>

**Date:** Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 11:25 AM

**To:** Memoli, Matthew (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Request for Comment/Interview

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Zack Stieber  
The Epoch Times

(b)(6)

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**From:** Donbeck, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Sent:** Tue, 16 Jan 2024 17:28:54 +0000  
**To:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Subject:** RE: StEP Media Inquiry NIAID - Dr. Memoli stance \_ COVID vaccination mandate, Epoch Media Group Times - ref:5003d0000AQVpgAAH

Ok.

---

**From:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 12:24 PM  
**To:** Donbeck, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** RE: StEP Media Inquiry NIAID - Dr. Memoli stance \_ COVID vaccination mandate, Epoch Media Group Times - ref:5003d0000AQVpgAAH

Ok, but already sent the clarification request to Matt.

---

**From:** Donbeck, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 10:18 AM  
**To:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** RE: StEP Media Inquiry NIAID - Dr. Memoli stance \_ COVID vaccination mandate, Epoch Media Group Times - ref:5003d0000AQVpgAAH

Hold up for just a second. I'm going to be talking to Renate and Amanda offline.

---

**From:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 12:15 PM  
**To:** Ritter, Emily (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)> NIAID Media Inquiries <(b)(6)> NIAID COGCORE <(b)(6)>; Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>; Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>; Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>; Polimeni, Lydia (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>; Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>; Akinso, Woleola (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** RE: StEP Media Inquiry NIAID - Dr. Memoli stance \_ COVID vaccination mandate, Epoch Media Group Times - ref:5003d0000AQVpgAAH

Noted and will seek clarification on Qs 6 and 7. Thanks

---

**From:** Ritter, Emily (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 10:05 AM  
**To:** <(b)(6)> NIAID Media Inquiries <(b)(6)>; NIAID COGCORE <(b)(6)>; Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>; Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>; Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>; Polimeni, Lydia (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>; Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>; Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>; Akinso, Woleola (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** RE: StEP Media Inquiry NIAID - Dr. Memoli stance \_ COVID vaccination mandate, Epoch Media Group Times - ref:5003d0000AQVpgAAH

Hi NIAID folks – NIH OCPL has the following comments before moving forward to HHS, asking Dr. Memoli to clarify their responses.

Please let us know if you have any comments or concerns, and please update us when you have updated the StEP inquiry.

Thanks,  
Emily

---

**From:** (b)(6) **On Behalf Of** ASPA StEP  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 11:33 AM  
**To:** NIAID Media Inquiries <(b)(6)>; NIAID COGCORE <(b)(6)>  
Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>; Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] (b)(6)  
Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] (b)(6); Polimeni, Lydia (NIH/OD) [E]  
(b)(6); Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>; Wojtowicz, Emma  
(NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>; Ritter, Emily (NIH/OD) [E] (b)(6); Akinso,  
Woleola (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** StEP Media Inquiry NIAID - Dr. Memoli stance \_ COVID vaccination mandate, Epoch Media  
Group Times - ref:5003d0000AQVpgAAH

A new or updated media inquiry has been submitted for your review. Click on the link at the bottom of this email to open the inquiry in StEP. Reply all to this email if you have questions or feedback on this inquiry. Once you have completed your review in the system, select "Submit to ASPA" to send the inquiry for ASPA review. If ASPA review is not required, change the status of the inquiry to "Ready to Publish" to close out your review.

-----  
**ASPA StEP Number:** 00015740

**Reporters and Producers:**

Contact	Role	Media Outlet
Zack Stieber	Reporter	Epoch Media Group Times

**Media Outlet:** Epoch Media Group Times

**Subject:** Dr. Memoli stance \_ COVID vaccination mandate

**Deadline:** Tue Jan 16 12:19:23 EST 2024

**HHS Spokespersons:** Dr. Matt Memoli, NIAID

**Inquiry:**

Thurs. Jan. 11, 2024 email from Zack Stieber to Dr. Memoli:

Hi Dr. Memoli,

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We can send over some of the questions we plan to ask ahead of time.

Do you have any availability next week?

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(More in Additional Information)

**Proposed Response/Driving Event:**

Hi Ken,

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Matt

Q1. What compelled you to write to Dr. Fauci and other agency leaders?

A. From the beginning I did not believe that the vaccine strategy being promoted was optimal due to my years of experience in the RNA respiratory viral field and expertise in this area both in the lab and clinically. I knew it was suboptimal for an RNA respiratory virus due to the nature of these viruses as they can change rapidly making single antigen vaccines limited in usefulness. I also had concerns about the mRNA technology as this relies solely on the host to make the antigen rather than providing a set amount of antigen in a traditional vaccine. Once there began to be talk of vaccine mandates, I became even more concerned as I felt that mandates were unethical and that they

would have a number of negative effects both during and after the pandemic medically and socially. Given all of this I felt compelled to finally express all of this in as constructive a way as possible to try to help the agency avoid this and consider other options.

Q2. Did they ever respond to you? If so, what did they say?

A. I received a response from Dr Cliff Lane thanking me for my email.

Q3. Why did you decide to go public in late 2021? Do you think the public would have been better served if you went public earlier?

A. I had expressed many reservations about the vaccines in press interviews that I did far prior to late 2021. I was always honest about that. The reporters I spoke to never seemed to publish any of the information I provided regarding that. Once the mandates became a reality, I felt strongly that I needed to try to do something more as I began to see many of the things, I was worried about happening. The vaccine was not working well due to the rise of variants, there were safety issues arising, and as my family and I had chosen not to be vaccinated we were dealing with threats of having our medical licenses taken away, loss of employment, etc. We had friends who felt coerced into accepting vaccination as was happening all over the country. Therefore, to again try to be constructive I contacted the NIH ethics office to appeal to them to consider this. I felt this was my best option at the time. They did schedule the meeting to discuss it, but there were many months in between when I raised this issue and when that took place. In the meantime, a Wall Street Journal reporter had picked up on some of my previous comments and began asking me questions about the vaccines and the mandates. I was honest with my scientific and medical opinions as I always am when I do interviews.

Q4. Were you surprised you were allowed to present your case against mandates during the NIH roundtable?

A. I was somewhat surprised given the environment, but I have always had the utmost respect for the NIH ethics department. I have worked with them many times in the past and have even published papers with them. The people in that office have always been very smart, open minded, and able to look at difficult issues and consider them carefully and thoroughly.

Q5. What reception did you get from colleagues and superiors after the roundtable?

A. Many colleagues offered words of support or thanks for my presentation. I did not receive any negative comments from any colleagues or superiors.

Q6. Did you ever feel you were in danger of being fired for your opposition to the mandates?

A. There were times when I was worried about losing my job, although I knew there were many protections for government employees like myself. I was concerned more about my medical license and not being able to continue to perform my job properly. (This doesn't really answer the question; was he ever approached in a way that made him think he would lose his job? If not, then he should say this.)

Q7. Did the NIH/NIAID ever approve your exemption request?

A. No (This should be clarified that the mandate was dropped and so an exemption was not required).

Q8. Did you ever do the AFTERVAX study? If so, when are results expected? If not, why not?

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**Additional Information:**

Interview initially declined; but sending for consideration after receiving this reply from reporter and discussing with Dr. Memoli and NIAID comms staff:

- Hi Ken, thanks for the email. Dr. Memoli said he was happy to answer our questions. What can we do to make the interview work?

**Press Officer / Contact Name:** Ken Pekoc

**Inquiry Type:** Media Inquiry

**Topics:** COVID vaccine

**Type of Media:**

Online;Print

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(b)(6)

**From:** Donbeck, Kathy (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Sent:** Tue, 16 Jan 2024 17:17:39 +0000  
**To:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E]  
**Subject:** RE: StEP Media Inquiry NIAID - Dr. Memoli stance \_ COVID vaccination mandate, Epoch Media Group Times - ref:5003d0000AQVpgAAH

Hold up for just a second. I'm going to be talking to Renate and Amanda offline.

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**From:** Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 12:15 PM  
**To:** Ritter, Emily (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>; NIAID Media Inquiries <(b)(6)>; NIAID COGCORE <(b)(6)>; Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>; Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>; Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>; Polimeni, Lydia (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>; Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>; Akinso, Woleola (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** RE: StEP Media Inquiry NIAID - Dr. Memoli stance \_ COVID vaccination mandate, Epoch Media Group Times - ref:5003d0000AQVpgAAH

Noted and will seek clarification on Qs 6 and 7. Thanks

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**From:** Ritter, Emily (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 10:05 AM  
**To:** <(b)(6)>; NIAID Media Inquiries <(b)(6)>; NIAID COGCORE <(b)(6)>; Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>; Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>; Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>; Polimeni, Lydia (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>; Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>; Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>; Akinso, Woleola (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** RE: StEP Media Inquiry NIAID - Dr. Memoli stance \_ COVID vaccination mandate, Epoch Media Group Times - ref:5003d0000AQVpgAAH

Hi NIAID folks – NIH OCPL has the following comments before moving forward to HHS, asking Dr. Memoli to clarify their responses.

Please let us know if you have any comments or concerns, and please update us when you have updated the StEP inquiry.

Thanks,  
Emily

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**From:** <(b)(6)> On Behalf Of ASPA StEP  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 11:33 AM  
**To:** NIAID Media Inquiries <(b)(6)>; NIAID COGCORE <(b)(6)>; Fritz, Craig (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>; Fine, Amanda (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>; Myles, Renate (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>; Polimeni, Lydia (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>; Pekoc, Ken (NIH/NIAID) [E] <(b)(6)>; Wojtowicz, Emma (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>; Ritter, Emily (NIH/OD) [E] <(b)(6)>; Akinso,

Woleola (NIH/OD) [E] (b)(6)

**Subject:** StEP Media Inquiry NIAID - Dr. Memoli stance \_ COVID vaccination mandate, Epoch Media Group Times - ref:5003d00000AQVpgAAH

A new or updated media inquiry has been submitted for your review. Click on the link at the bottom of this email to open the inquiry in StEP. Reply all to this email if you have questions or feedback on this inquiry. Once you have completed your review in the system, select "Submit to ASPA" to send the inquiry for ASPA review. If ASPA review is not required, change the status of the inquiry to "Ready to Publish" to close out your review.

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**ASPA StEP Number:** 00015740

**Reporters and Producers:**

Contact	Role	Media Outlet
Zack Stieber	Reporter	Epoch Media Group Times

**Media Outlet:** Epoch Media Group Times

**Subject:** Dr. Memoli stance \_ COVID vaccination mandate

**Deadline:** Tue Jan 16 12:19:23 EST 2024

**HHS Spokespersons:** Dr. Matt Memoli, NIAID

**Inquiry:**

Thurs. Jan. 11, 2024 email from Zack Stieber to Dr. Memoli:

Hi Dr. Memoli,

Good morning, hope you're having a good week.

We obtained some of your emails through a FOIA request and would like to set up an interview with you on them.

We can send over some of the questions we plan to ask ahead of time.

Do you have any availability next week?

Alternatively, we can send questions over and you can answer the questions over email.

(More in Additional Information)

**Proposed Response/Driving Event:**

Hi Ken,

Below are my answers. I understand that NIAID and/or HHS doesn't want to address these things, but I believe that to be a major mistake. Until we do address these issues we will not regain trust with much of the public.

Matt

Q1. What compelled you to write to Dr. Fauci and other agency leaders?

A. From the beginning I did not believe that the vaccine strategy being promoted was optimal due to my years of experience in the RNA respiratory viral field and expertise in this area both in the lab and clinically. I knew it was suboptimal for an RNA respiratory virus due to the nature of these viruses as they can change rapidly making single antigen vaccines limited in usefulness. I also had concerns about the mRNA technology as this relies solely on the host to make the antigen rather than providing a set amount of antigen in a traditional vaccine. Once there began to be talk of vaccine mandates, I became even more concerned as I felt that mandates were unethical and that they would have a number of negative effects both during and after the pandemic medically and socially. Given all of this I felt compelled to finally express all of this in as constructive a way as possible to try to help the agency avoid this and consider other options.

Q2. Did they ever respond to you? If so, what did they say?

A. I received a response from Dr Cliff Lane thanking me for my email.

Q3. Why did you decide to go public in late 2021? Do you think the public would have been better served if you went public earlier?

A. I had expressed many reservations about the vaccines in press interviews that I did far prior to late 2021. I was always honest about that. The reporters I spoke to never seemed to publish any of the information I provided regarding that. Once the mandates became a reality, I felt strongly that I needed to try to do something more as I began to see many of the things, I was worried about happening. The vaccine was not working well due to the rise of variants, there were safety issues arising, and as my family and I had chosen not to be vaccinated we were dealing with threats of having our medical licenses taken away, loss of employment, etc. We had friends who felt coerced into accepting vaccination as was happening all over the country. Therefore, to again try to be constructive I contacted the NIH ethics office to appeal to them to consider this. I felt this was my best option at the time. They did schedule the meeting to discuss it, but there were many months in between when I raised this issue and when that took place. In the meantime, a Wall Street Journal reporter had picked up on some of my previous comments and began asking me questions about the vaccines and the mandates. I was honest with my scientific and medical opinions as I always am when I do interviews.

Q4. Were you surprised you were allowed to present your case against mandates during the NIH roundtable?

A. I was somewhat surprised given the environment, but I have always had the utmost respect for the NIH ethics department. I have worked with them many times in the past and have even published papers with them. The people in that office have always been very smart, open minded, and able to look at difficult issues and consider them carefully and thoroughly.

Q5. What reception did you get from colleagues and superiors after the roundtable?

A. Many colleagues offered words of support or thanks for my presentation. I did not receive any negative comments from any colleagues or superiors.

Q6. Did you ever feel you were in danger of being fired for your opposition to the mandates?

A. There were times when I was worried about losing my job, although I knew there were many protections for government employees like myself. I was concerned more about my medical license and not being able to continue to perform my job properly. (This doesn't really answer the question; was he ever approached in a way that made him think he would lose his job? If not, then he should say this.)

Q7. Did the NIH/NIAID ever approve your exemption request?

A. No (This should be clarified that the mandate was dropped and so an exemption was not required).

Q8. Did you ever do the AFTERVAX study? If so, when are results expected? If not, why not?

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