

# Vaccines do not cause autism

<https://briandeer.com/doctor-who-fooled-world.htm>

<https://briandeer.com/mmr/lancet-summary.htm>

Andrew Wakefield: the fraud investigation

<https://briandeer.com/solved/bmj-secrets-series.htm>

BMJ series on the Wakefield fraud

**Exposed: Secrets of the MMR scare**

In the wake of his investigation for *The Sunday Times* of London, Brian Deer was invited by BMJ, the *British Medical Journal*, to set out his *Sunday Times* findings in more detail for its mostly medically-qualified readership

Online introduction to the series: 5 January 2011

[Piltdown medicine – the missing link between MMR and autism](#)

BMJ editorial: 5 January 2011

[Wakefield's article linking MMR vaccine with autism was fraudulent](#)

Story 1: 5 January 2011

[How the case against the MMR vaccine was fixed](#)

Story 2: 11 January 2011

[How the vaccine crisis was meant to make money](#)

Chronology: 11 January 2011

[BMJ: Timeline](#)

Story 3: 19 January 2011

[The Lancet's two days to bury bad news](#)

Editor's comment: 19 January 2011

[Institutional and editorial misconduct in the MMR scare](#)

Response to emails: 7 February 2011

[The BMJ editor replies to Wakefield supporters](#)

Picture: 15 February 2011

[Brian Deer at the Canadian Journalism Foundation](#)

Story 4: 9 November 2011

[Pathology reports solve "new bowel disease" riddle](#)

**Editorial: 9 November 2011**

[Institutional research misconduct](#)

**Other material**

**Wakefield fails in vexatious Texas lawsuit: 2012-14**

[Disgraced ex-doctor loses fourth attempt to gag media](#)

**Wakefield crank campaigner: Dr David L Lewis**

[Brian Deer has “considerable expertise in medical practice”](#)

**Earlier comments on General Medical Council: 2 February 2010**

[Reflections on investigating Wakefield](#)

**Earlier report on bowel pathology: 15 April 2010**

[Special report – “Autistic enterocolitis”](#)

[READ HOW DEER’S WAKEFIELD  
INVESTIGATION WAS CHECKED](#)

**RELATED:**

[Andrew Wakefield investigated](#)

[Vexatious Wakefield lawsuits fail](#)

[Brian Deer’s 2004 Dispatches film](#)

[Selected MMR-Wakefield resources](#)

[https://www.reddit.com/r/RFK\\_Jr\\_is\\_a\\_Stooge/comments/153rf20/reasonable\\_family\\_members\\_are\\_becoming\\_rfk\\_jr/spaniel\\_rage](https://www.reddit.com/r/RFK_Jr_is_a_Stooge/comments/153rf20/reasonable_family_members_are_becoming_rfk_jr/spaniel_rage)

I would also add this: **the "explosion" in autism diagnoses is mostly due to considerable alterations to the *definition* of what autism is.** The diagnostic umbrella was considerably expanded in 1987 and then again in 1994 to include the milder end of what is now understood to be a "spectrum":

<https://www.spectrumnews.org/news/evolution-autism-diagnosis-explained/#:~:text=The%20DSM%20III%20was%20revised,for%20onset%20before%2030%20months.>

Rigorous studies have demonstrated that **it is the change in definition that is responsible for the majority of the increases in diagnosis.**

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/fullarticle/1919642>

I wear two hats here: I'm a medical doctor who has long had an interest in debunking antivax pseudoscience and conspiracy theories, and I'm also father to a 2 year old on the autistic spectrum. RFK's rhetoric is not just dangerously wrong but it's also grossly dehumanising and stigmatising of neurodivergent children, the majority of which are of average or above average intelligence, as "damaged".

<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpsy.2022.856084/full>

This lecture by a neuropsychiatrist was an absolute game changer in my understanding of what "autism spectrum" actually is and why it seems that there are actually evolutionary pressures *selecting for* the genes associated with autism:

<https://youtu.be/0o1PXeFEcL0>

It is worth noting that **the "peer reviewed literature" that RFK uses in his arguments are for the most part produced by a tiny handful of academics whose entire output is vaccine sceptic pseudoscience published in fringe publications.** Not all peer reviewed research is created equal. An example is Shaw and Tomljenovic from the Dept of Ophthalmology at UBC who singlehandedly produce much of the output on aluminium in vaccines. The rest of the immunology and public health establishment has pointed out many times that their research is shoddy and methodologically flawed:

<https://www.skepticalraptor.com/skepticalraptorblog.php/ubc-responded-retraction-anti-vaccine-paper/>

The most prominent one from RFK's thiomerosal days is **Mark Geier**, a Maryland physician and medical geneticist. **Fully a *quarter* of the articles listed on RFK's site are written by him and his son (who has no health science qualifications).** Of note, **his medical license was revoked for conducting unsupervised experiments on autistic children using *puberty blockers* to cure autism:**

<https://theness.com/neurologicablog/index.php/mark-geiers-license-suspended/>

<https://sciencebasedmedicine.org/chemical-castration-for-autism-after-three-years-the-mainstream-media-finally-notices/>

He made *millions* acting as an "expert witness" in vaccine injury trial and in licensing his cruel and unproven "Lupron protocol" trial to clinics in half a dozen states.

**These are RFK'S "experts" and they are narcissistic grifters just like him.**

<https://www.respectfulinsolence.com/2023/04/03/autism-prevalence-increases-to-1-in-38-and-antivaxxers-freak-out-again/>

Many years ago, long before the COVID-19 pandemic upended everything and turbocharged the antivaccine movement beyond anything any of us had ever seen or predicted, the central conspiracy theory of the antivaccine movement (as I like to call it) was that vaccines caused autism, and the CDC and FDA were covering up the evidence. In retrospect, that version of the central conspiracy theory seems almost quaint compared to the current version centered around COVID-19 vaccines (particularly mRNA vaccines), in which antivaxxers claim that these vaccines are killing, sterilizing, and inducing “turbo cancers” in millions, but the CDC and FDA (plus, Anthony Fauci) covered up the evidence that was apparently so obvious that experts missed all the signals that people with no training in medicine, epidemiology, or vaccinology could find. ....

Increasing numbers of diagnoses  $\neq$  increasing number of people with a given condition or disease

I’d like to conclude once again by emphasizing that the increasing prevalence of a condition really means an increase in the number of people given a diagnosis associated with that condition, not necessarily a “true” increase in the prevalence of the condition. If you look for a disease or medical condition more intensively, you will always find more of it—often a lot more. Always. If this principle works for something that is diagnosed by an objective test, namely a biopsy, how much more so is it likely to be for a condition that has no unequivocal biochemical or tissue test to nail down the diagnosis, like ASDs, particularly for a spectrum of disorders whose diagnostic criteria has changed considerably over the last 30 years to be more inclusive?

None of this rules out an increase in the “true” prevalence of autism over the last few decades, but the increasing consensus is that the evidence does rule out the sort of massive increase that antivaxxers claim and then blame on vaccines. What is most likely happening is that we’re getting better and better at finding and diagnosing autism, including milder cases, to the point where the apparent prevalence of autism (i.e, the number of diagnoses) is starting to converge on the “true” biological prevalence of autism as it is defined today and that we might just be starting to see the sorts of differences in that “true” prevalence attributable to race, gender, and ethnicity that we see for many medical conditions and diseases, no vaccines needed as a “root cause” to explain.

**Vaccines don't cause autism (duh)**

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=NB8zLpXIWVY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NB8zLpXIWVY)

Debunk the Funk with Dr. Wilson

31.2K subscribers

Premiered Jun 8, 2023

Donate to the Autistic Self Advocacy Network: <https://autisticadvocacy.org>

Dr. Anders Hviid's relevant papers:

- 1) <https://autismsciencefoundation.org/w...>
- 2) <https://www.acpjournals.org/doi/full/...>
- 3) <https://www.nejm.org/doi/10.1056/NEJM...>
- 4) <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama...>
- 5) <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/1...>

Other papers showing that vaccines don't cause autism:

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama...>

<https://publications.aap.org/pediatric...>

<https://linkinghub.elsevier.com/retri...>

<https://publications.aap.org/pediatric...>

<https://www.nap.edu/catalog/10997/imm...>