Twitter Thread by Umbereen S. Nehal, MD, MPH

Umbereen S. Nehal, MD, MPH
@usnehal

It “took a village” to “raise”/create Andrew Wakefield - it is common for everyone to back away once accountability happens but Andrew Wakefield did not do this all by himself.

What about medical culture and who is not policed on professionalism that allowed him to get so far?

> Has a single physician caused more damage to the public health than British gastroenterologist Andrew Wakefield? https://t.co/W3k21Ais6F
>
> — Harry Thomas (@DrHarryThomas) June 10, 2020

When I look at Wakefield, I see the same kind of lack of ethics evident in #Medbikini study

but Wakefield was far further down the spectrum

because he was doing invasive GI procedures on children for his study, funded by a lawyer

First: consent matters
Informed consent matters

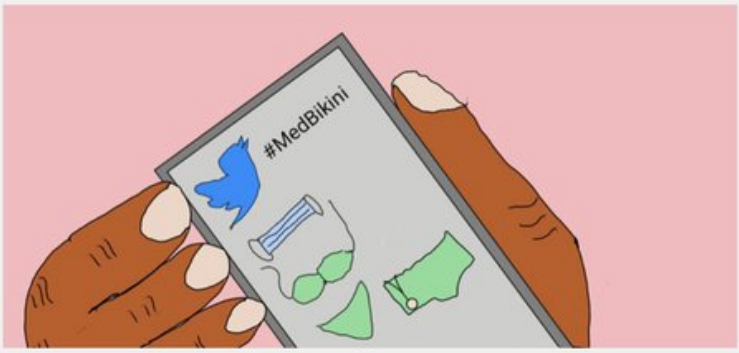
8:05

Not Secure — bioethics.net

bioethics.net
Where the World Finds Bioethics

as being "potentially unprofessional".

"There are several limitations of our study" is the only statement in this paper that I can agree with. How did Boston University's School of Medicine Institutional Review Board (IRB) approve this "study"? They went so far as to waive informed consent, permitting this group of investigators to obtain a database of vascular surgeons-in-training with which they searched (using fake social media accounts) for each trainee's public posts on social media. Arguably, seeking informed consent would have modified the outcome of this study. But that is irrelevant when, arguably, this study should never have gone forward in the first place.



What incentives exist in healthcare & academia that shaped his mindset & behaviors?

What was Wakefield rewarded for throughout his career?
Where did he NOT get questioned?

Look as this patent he had filed to compete vs MMR
Gibberish
+
His ■incentive

https://t.co/NRqXvBCGvB

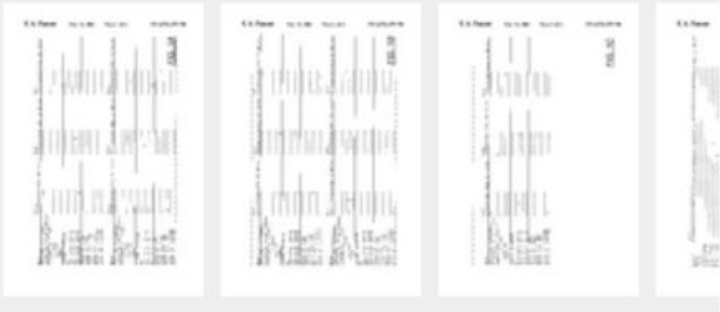
2:33 5G E
patents.google.com

Global Dossier, Discuss

Abstract

The invention provides a method for the diagnosis of regressive behavioral disease (RBD) from a body derived sample, which method comprises performing an assay for persistent measles infection in said sample. The invention also concerns a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of an MMR virus mediated disease comprising a transfer factor (TF) formed by the dialysis of virus-specific lymphocytes to a molecular weight filter cut-off of 12,500 disposed in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent therefore.

Images (4)



Classifications

G01N33/6893 Chemical analysis of biological material, e.g. blood, urine; Testing involving biospecific ligand binding methods; Immunological testing involving proteins, peptides or amino acids related to diseases not provided for elsewhere

View 3 more classifications

Please note in his patent application Wakefield used those 12 samples that he cited in his @TheLancet study. He was not the only author. There were reviewers. There were editors. He was not alone in a cave. He was bullying his staff too

This was NOT “one man”
And lots of silence

2:43 5G E
ncbi.nlm.nih.gov

Andrew Wakefield is accused of paying children for blood samples

Owen Dyer

Additional article information

Andrew Wakefield, whose warnings about a possible link between the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine and autism sparked a public health scare, was accused this week by the General Medical Council of paying children £5 (€7.40; $10) each to give blood samples at his son's birthday party.

The accusation was made in the GMC's case involving three doctors who collaborated on a 1998 *Lancet* paper on developmental disorders in children. Dr Wakefield, John Walker-Smith, and Simon Murch are accused of ignoring limitations placed on them by the research ethics committee of the Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust and subjecting children to procedures that were not clinically indicated, including lumbar punctures, barium meals, general anaesthesia, and colonoscopy.

Dr Wakefield is also accused of misleading the *Lancet* in failing to disclose his involvement in an application for a patent for a new type of MMR vaccine and his receiving funding from the Legal Aid Board to investigate patients involved in litigation over alleged reactions to the vaccine.

The disclosure that legal aid funding had paid for some of the clinical investigations

“Joking” about kids crying & vomiting? Sounds like a massive jerk.

Erased/changed data

I have a hard time believing no one found him problematic before

Were people afraid to report?

When held accountable, he catastrophized, claiming he was being “persecuted”

Sound familiar?

grave methodological flaws and serious ethical violations in the way Wakefield was conducting his research.

According to the documents and evidence uncovered by Deer:

- Most of the children participating in Wakefield's study – purportedly selected at random for his "objective study" – were engaged (through their parents) in an attempted lawsuit against the manufacturers of the MMR vaccine.
- Wakefield himself had received funding for this research from a personal injury lawyer, Richard Barr, who represented these children.
- Wakefield and Barr, far from conducting a disinterested evaluation of a possible hypothesis, were actually trying to gather evidence for their lawsuit.
- The children were subjected to intrusive, dangerous tests, including painful lumbar punctures and colonoscopies, without proper informed consent.
- Wakefield had recruited children at his son's birthday party – some as young as four years old, and some of whom he later jokingly recounted had vomited or cried – and paid them five pounds each for samples of their blood.[10]

In 2005, the General Medical Council of Great Britain charged Wakefield and two of his colleagues with ethical and professional misconduct.[11] Wakefield refused to back down, taking his case to the public, and garnering wide support with his claims that he was being persecuted for speaking out in defense of children. The claims and counterclaims are still dragging on to this day. But in February of 2009, The *Sunday Times* of London reported that evidence presented to the General Medical Council had revealed that Wakefield had "changed and misreported results in his research, creating the appearance of a possible link with autism."[12] The investigation revealed that no measles virus whatsoever had been detected in any of the subject children,

Is Wakefield the only scientist or doctor funded by shady sources? Unfortunately no

Increasingly science serves the wealthy

The incredible irony is that he claims to be “exposing” the very thing that he himself is - HE was driven by money instead of sound science or ethics

2:54 5G E
AA npr.org
npr WNYC DONATE

The **Two-Way**

AMERICA

50 Years Ago, Sugar Industry Quietly Paid Scientists To Point Blame At Fat

September 13, 2016 · 9:59 AM ET



CAMILA DOMONOSKE



WNYC RADIO
On Air Now
OPEN

My ■ on the pattern of anti-vaxxers targeting traumatized or marginalized groups - like refugees with valid distrust of authority/government - and/or those having a narrative of being “done wrong “by the system.

Wakefield claims his being held accountable = “persecution”
=hook https://t.co/l7XRK7jGoV

> These #vaccine battles get fought in hospitals and #healthcare. This is not going to be easy. #communication #strategy and skill will be critical. Anti-vaxx fearmonger to already traumatized groups or those who distrust authority. @JAMA_current https://t.co/DevJciad63
>
> — Umbereen S. Nehal, MD, MPH (@usnehal) December 30, 2020

people who are manipulative & have no concern about harm/consequences they cause others

can be very good at storytelling

engage others’ emotions
tap into emotions of trauma

while themselves focus on wealth, fame, power

=manipulate emotions
use a “hook”
https://t.co/AFkQK0U5nz

Am unapologetic on protecting medical students’ & trainees’ ability to report
+
psychological safety

Check Wakefield types early
Who abuses power?
Students know

This hit piece written on me

Notice “hook” of unrelated shocking event to trigger emotions

https://t.co/jmiiBZ2OgI

Anyone who follows me knows I tweet incessantly on every topic

“vet” & “verify” = my mantra
my credibility as an expert witness depends on being factual

Regardless of individuals in question, professionalism must entail

-consistent standards
-verified facts

-verified identity

3:23 5G E
AA nces.ed.gov
MENU IES NCES National Center for Education Statistics



The Forum Guide to Data Ethics

NCES 2010-801 March 2010

Foreword
Part I. Introduction to Data Ethics
Part II. The Forum Code of Data Ethics
→ The Integrity Canons
- 1. Demonstrate honesty, integrity, and professionalism at all times
- 2. Appreciate that, while data may represent attributes of real people, they do not describe the whole person
- 3. Be aware of applicable statutes, regulations, practices, and ethical standards governing data collection and reporting
- 4. Report information accurately and without bias
- 5. Be accountable, and hold others accountable, for ethical use of data

→ The Data Quality Canons
→ The Security Canons
List of Figures
Appendix A: Related Resources
Appendix B: Sample Whistleblower Protection Policy
Appendix C: Memoranda of Understanding and Other Data Use Agreements
Appendix D: Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
PDF & Related Info
Contact

1. Demonstrate honesty, integrity, and professionalism at all times

A parent had requested that the school not disclose his child's directory information to the public. Upon receiving a series of advertisements from a local photographer—with his child's middle name misspelled in exactly the same way as in school mailings—the parent asked a school board member whether the district shared contact information with commercial organizations. The board member asserted that the district would never do such a thing, but agreed that the identical misspelling was suspicious and decided to notify the superintendent. The superintendent's investigation revealed that the wife of the district's database manager was a photographer who specialized in children's photos. The database manager's employment was terminated after he admitted that he had shared the data without following proper procedures for the release of student information.

While this example focused on a database manager, honesty, integrity, and professionalism are critical requirements for any person whose job duties or volunteer responsibilities include handling education data. We expect no less than absolute honesty, integrity, and professionalism at all times from everyone trusted to work in our schools.

The people who handle data in our education system are expected to do many things—and do them all well. Most of these individuals are trained educators who provide instruction to students or supervise instruction at the school, district, or state level. Other data handlers have non-instructional leadership or administrative support roles. Still others provide highly skilled technical or data expertise that contributes to the effective and efficient operation of the education enterprise. Regardless of an individual's job title, working in an education environment demands unwavering adherence to codes of appropriate conduct, operating expectations, and professional standards.

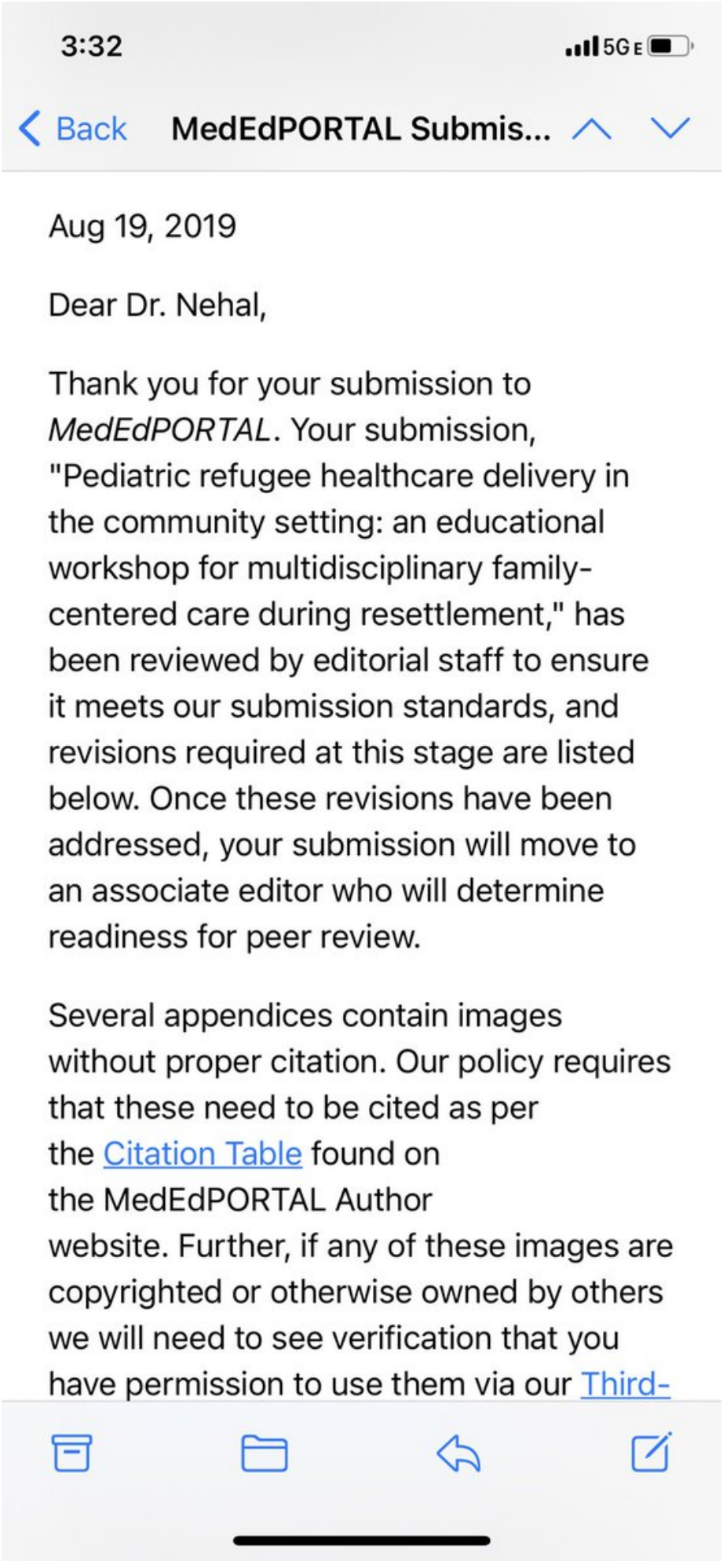
A "data handler" is defined in this document as anyone involved in the education enterprise—employee, appointee, volunteer, or vendor—who has access to education data or who contributes to the collection, management, use, or reporting of education data. Data handlers who are honest can be trusted to maintain objectivity and uphold an organization's data procedures and protocols even when it requires extra effort, is not convenient, or otherwise runs counter to their own personal interests.

Integrity and Professionalism



Personally, as a pediatrician, working in vulnerable & marginalized populations like refugees, the reviewers & editors that I face are EXTREMELY stringent on ethical standards

I don’t understand why we have repeated examples of others bypassing this level of scrutiny/standards


3:32
5G E
Back
MedEdPORTAL Submis...
Aug 19, 2019
Dear Dr. Nehal,
Thank you for your submission to *MedEdPORTAL*. Your submission, "Pediatric refugee healthcare delivery in the community setting: an educational workshop for multidisciplinary family-centered care during resettlement," has been reviewed by editorial staff to ensure it meets our submission standards, and revisions required at this stage are listed below. Once these revisions have been addressed, your submission will move to an associate editor who will determine readiness for peer review.
Several appendices contain images without proper citation. Our policy requires that these need to be cited as per the Citation Table found on the MedEdPORTAL Author website. Further, if any of these images are copyrighted or otherwise owned by others we will need to see verification that you have permission to use them via our Third-

I happen to have a name that is likely unique in the world as well as throughout human history given the unusual spelling of multiple names.

I am not at risk of this kind of mistaken identity but many people I know who are Muslim are, even babies.

“Verify” for identity matters. https://t.co/gZTw0LXwHY

> Keep in mind how imprecise the \u201cno fly\u201d list has been. Even babies ended up on the list. Being able to fly to attend a funeral or wedding is a lot bigger deal than being able to tweet, that too when you have official media people working for you. Endangering lives = consequences https://t.co/xhxbaKE8jY
>
> — Umbereen S. Nehal, MD, MPH (@usnehal) January 10, 2021

Can you honestly tell me that this Black male doctor

has ANY chance of ever committing the level of ethical violation & harm to our profession as Wakefield?

He was handcuffed for #publichealth best practices & volunteering

Our bias = wrong policing

https://t.co/HVr0xY2GsQ

There is SOOO much written on the problems with #Professionalism

= exactly WHY we end up with people like Wakefield
who get through gate after gate

while others, doing the RIGHT thing

are held back on petty issues or pushed out
FOR doing exactly what they were asked

12:29

ssir.org

Standards

Professionalism has become coded language for white favoritism in workplace practices that more often than not privilege the values of white and Western employees and leave behind people of color.

SHARE COMMENT PRINT
ORDER REPRINTS

By Aysa Gray | Jun. 4, 2019



(Illustration by Aurélia Durand)

Subscribe | Sign In

The standards of professionalism, according to American grassroots organizer-scholars Tema Okun and Keith Jones, are heavily defined by white supremacy culture—or the systemic, institutionalized centering of whiteness. In the workplace, white supremacy culture explicitly and implicitly privileges whiteness and discriminates against non-Western and non-white professionalism standards related to dress code, speech, work style, and timeliness.

We are taught to identify white supremacy with violent segregationist groups such as the Ku Klux Klan and their modern-day equivalents. Okun and Jones, however, introduce a different approach to thinking about white supremacy. In their definition, the term describes a series of characteristics that institutionalize whiteness and Westernness as both normal and superior to other ethnic, racial, and regional identities and customs. While people often don't view this theorization of white supremacy as violent, it can lead to systemic discrimination and physical violence.



Breaking Through Barriers to Racial Equity

[redacted]EI

The narrative that Wakefield

is an aberration
an individual who uniquely did unusual harm to our profession

is a false narrative

that fails to attribute accountability appropriately

Wakefield is a predictable result of our system

Who is rewarded for acting without #ethics?

Every system is perfectly designed to get the results it gets.

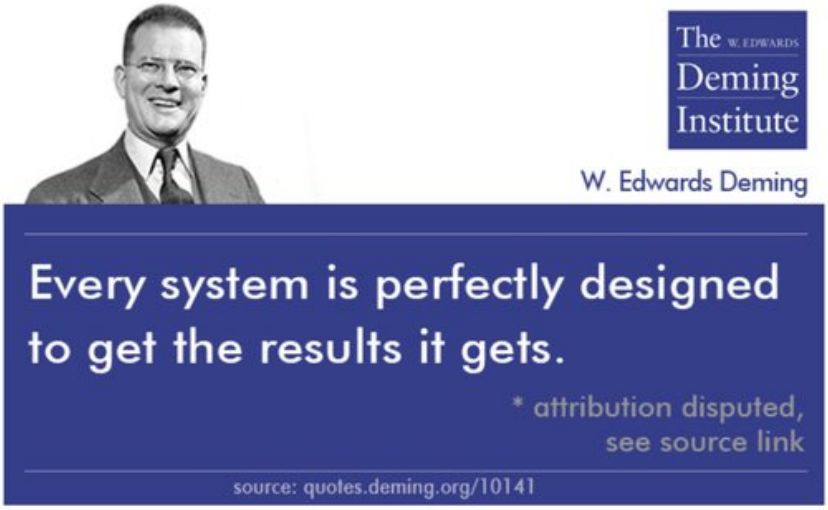
Comment

The source of this quote is in question: It is certainly very consis with Deming's ideas on management. There seems to be a gooc chance Paul Batalden altered a quote from Arthur Jones: “All organizations are perfectly designed to get the results they get!”

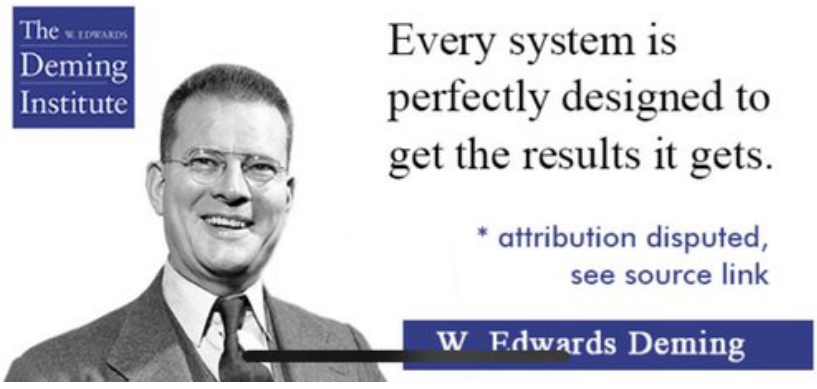
An early source exploring the origin suggested 1 of 2 people Dr. Deming worked with, Dr. Paul Batalden or Donald Berwick originated the quote. Given that the newer article from IHI lists P Batalden as a co-author and he remembers slightly altering Arth Jones' quote it seems likely Arter was the original source.

Please suggest source details if you know: book, page, year, online article address (u correction (different author...), etc.. Thanks.

Categories: blame, design, process thinking, responsibility, results, systems thinking



Share this image on



@threadreaderapp please unroll