Twitter Thread by Prof. Gavin Yamey MD MPH



Prof. Gavin Yamey MD MPH
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I want to share my thoughts, as someone who has been so alarmed by the so-called "dissident" scientists like Gupta, Heneghan, Kuldorff, Bhattacharya, & Ioannidis who consider themselves brave Galileos unfairly treated by "establishment scientists." I will try not to swear. 1/n

> If this is true raises the question of why certain (fringe & unethical) views got access to No.10 while others were ignored... https://t.co/A75HrSEqo4
>
> — Prof. Devi Sridhar (@devisridhar) December 13, 2020

I want to talk about 3 things:
■■Their fringe views are inhumane, unethical junk science that promotes harm
■■They complain that they've been marginalized but this is simply untrue
■■I am sick of people telling me we have to "listen to both sides." There aren't 2 sides here 2/n

These 'dissident' scientists have consistently downplayed COVID-19, urging policymakers not to take aggressive control measures. They claim it is not a serious threat. Gupta even went on TV saying people under 65 shouldn't worry about it!

RECEIPTS ■■3/n

https://t.co/GyfV528Y9T

They have consistently argued that policymakers should just let the virus rip, in an attempt to reach herd immunity by natural infection. Kuldorff *continues* to argue for this even now that we have many highly effective, safe vaccines.

RECEIPTS■■4/n

https://t.co/QCaWS6xXXv

> Focused Protection: The Middle Ground between Lockdowns and "Let-it-rip". An essay by Jay Bhattacharya (@Stanford), @SunetraGupta (@UniofOxford) and @MartinKulldorff (@Harvard). https://t.co/T8uLxSFwgh
>
> — Martin Kulldorff (@MartinKulldorff) December 11, 2020

We've never controlled a deadly, contagious pandemic before by just letting the virus spread, as this approach kills & disables too many people. In Manaus, Brazil, 66% of the city was infected & an astonishing *1 in 500* people died of COVID-19

5/n

https://t.co/72g0qmGE1N

Gupta, Kuldorff, & Bhattacharya argue that we must let the virus rip while locking away the vulnerable, a grotesque dystopian view. Here's who you'd have to lock away: elderly people; medically vulnerable people; people of color; disabled people. 6/n

https://t.co/NPh1f977T2

Let's not forget: these authors were funded by corporate interests. It's Merchants of Doubt all over again. Corporations want to see "opening up of society" and they fund academics to push a pro-corporate view.

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https://t.co/BrUD4FP6lc

https://t.co/MmlCuiZ5km

Now to the silly notion pushed by these edgy "dissident" scientists that they've faced censorship for being Galileos. OK, this is when I may swear a little bit.

Are you f**king kidding me?

Since the start of the pandemic, every time you turn on your bloody TV there they are 8/n

In fact, they've had the largest megaphone of all: THEIR VIEWS HAVE BEEN ADOPTED IN THE USA BY TRUMP AND IN BRITAIN BY JOHNSON.

Don't give me your bullshit about how they've been marginalized. Their views = Trump policy & Johnson policy.

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https://t.co/NuF34J8edm

These dissidents did all they could to shape Trump's policies; looking at the cases now in the US, they got what they wanted. In Scott Atlas, Trump's coronavirus czar, & in Florida's governor, they found champions

RECEIPTS■■10/n

https://t.co/EmvkR01xdy

https://t.co/wnjWu6aj22

Time & again, these fringe views BECAME Trump's policies or Johnson's policies. So when you say "well, debate is important & it is critical to hear all views," I agree that debate matters but these nihilistic views won the day in US/UK policymaking 11/n

https://t.co/6ksS0QOi1q

There are East Asian & Pacific Rim nations that have controlled the virus, without even a vaccine. They used science-based measures, acted fast, had great leaders. They listened to @who & did test/trace/isolate/support. The US/UK ignored these successes & here we are today. 12/n

Last, I cannot tell you how many times I have been scolded & reprimanded for "not giving the Great Barrington Declaration authors serious consideration." Two Duke professors, for example, told me academics like me must stay open minded & universities must show both sides 13/n

I respectfully disagree. THERE AREN'T 2 SIDES. The public health science on pandemic control is established, & nations that followed the science did better, both from a health AND economic view. Shouldn't we be basing policy on, um, science? We need VACCINE herd immunity FFS. END