



Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta GA 30333

April 27, 2020

Allison Lucas
Siri & Glimstad
200 Park Ave
17th Floor
New York, NY 10166
Via email: foia@sirillp.com

Dear Ms. Lucas:

This letter is regarding to your Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (CDC/ATSDR) Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request of February 24, 2020, assigned #20-00715-FOIA, for an email, with agenda and attachments, between Amanda Cohn and Frank DeStefano and regarding a phone conference entitled "Vaccine Hesitancy and Issues Related to Anti-Vaccination Law Suits" that occurred on May 25, 2018.

We located six pages of responsive records (six pages released in full or part). After a careful review of these pages, some information was withheld from release pursuant to 5 U.S.C. §552 Exemption (b)(6).

EXEMPTION 6

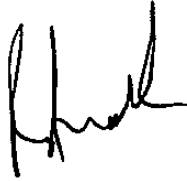
Exemption 6 protects information in personnel and medical files and similar files when disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. The information that has been withheld under Exemption 6 consists of personal information and conference number with password. We have determined that the individual(s) to whom this information pertains has a substantial privacy interest in withholding it.

No fees are assessed in this case as the amount did not exceed your allotted two free hours.

You may contact our FOIA Public Liaison at 770-488-6277 for any further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

If you are not satisfied with the response to this request, you may administratively appeal by writing to the Deputy Agency Chief FOIA Officer, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue, Suite 729H, Washington, D.C. 20201. You may also transmit your appeal via email to FOIARequest@psc.hhs.gov. Please mark both your appeal letter and envelope “FOIA Appeal.” Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted by July 26, 2020.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Andoh', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Roger Andoh
CDC/ATSDR FOIA Officer
Office of the Chief Operating Officer
(770) 488-6399
Fax: (404) 235-1852

Enclosures

20-00715-FOIA

From: Frantz, Jennifer
Sent: 23 Apr 2018 20:27:36 +0000
To: Frantz, Jennifer;Cohn, Amanda (CDC/OID/NCIRD);Bonnie Maldonado;Carrie Byington;Christine Nyquist;Caryntake2 Davidson;David Kimberlin;stanley.plotkin@vaxconsult.com;Theoklis Zaoutis;Elizabeth Barnett;Flor Munoz;Henry Bernstein;James Campbell;Mark Sawyer;Michael Brady;noltd (noltd@ohsu.edu);O'leary, Sean;Lynfield, Ruth (CDC.state.mn.us);Sarah Long;Tina Tan
Cc: Bernstein, Henry;Long,Sarah;Barnett, Elizabeth
Subject: Vaccine Hesitancy and Issues Related to the Antivaccine Movement
Attachments: COID Vaccine Subcommittee Agenda 5-25-18.docx, COID.docx, anti-vaccination questions.docx

Dear All,

Please see the attached agenda and handouts from Dr. Plotkin for Friday's conference call.

COID Vaccine Subcommittee conference call - Vaccine Hesitancy and Issues Related to Anti-Vaccination Law Suits

Friday, May 25, 2018 – 1 Hour

11:00AM (PT), 12:00 PM (MT), 1:00 PM (CT), 2:00 PM (ET)

Conference Call Dial In Line (b)(6)
Access Code: (b)(6)

Thank you,
Jen

Jennifer M. Frantz, MPH
Senior Manager, Infectious Diseases Policy and Programs
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Itasca, IL 60143
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COID – Vaccine Subcommittee

Friday, May 25, 2018

Time and Call-in	Participants:
<p>COID Vaccine Subcommittee conference call- Anti-Vaccination Law Suits</p> <p>1 hour</p> <p>11:00AM (PT), 12:00 PM (MT), 1:00 PM (CT), 2:00 PM (ET)</p> <p>Conference Call Dial In Line: 1-866-740-1260</p> <p>Access Code: 4347939</p>	<p>COID:</p> <p>Carrie L. Byington, MD, FAAP, Chairperson Bonnie Maldonado, MD, FAAP, Vice Chair (<i>incoming Chair</i>) David W. Kimberlin, MD, FAAP, Red Book Editor Theo Zaoutis, MD, MSCE, FAAP, COID Member, incoming Vice Chair Amanda Cohn, MD, FAAP, Executive Secretary, CDC ACIP, CDC Liaison to COID</p> <p>COID Members and Red Book Associate Editors who are ACIP Workgroup Liaisons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Anthrax - James Campbell, MD, FAAP2. Combination Vaccines – James Campbell, MD, FAAP3. Childhood Immunization Schedule – H. Cody Meissner, MD, FAAP4. Evidence – Based Recommendations – Sean O’Leary, MD, MPH, FAAP5. Flavivirus - Elizabeth D. Barnett MD, Cody Meissner, MD, FAAP6. General Recommendations – Mark Sawyer, MD, FAAP7. Hepatitis - Elizabeth D. Barnett, MD, FAAP8. Human Papillomavirus Vaccines - Ann- Christine Nyquist, MD, MSPH, FAAP9. Influenza Vaccines – Flor M. Munoz, MD, MSc, FAAP, Hank Bernstein, DO, MHCM, FAAP10. Meningococcal Vaccines - Ruth Lynfield, MD, FAAP, Michael T. Brady, MD, FAAP11. Mumps – Dawn Nolt, MD, MPH, FAAP12. Pneumococcal Vaccines - Mark H. Sawyer, MD, FAAP13. Pertussis Vaccines (not active) – Tina Tan, MD, FAAP, Sarah S. Long, MD, FAAP14. RSV Vaccines - Flor Munoz, MD, FAAP <p>Special Guest: Stanley Plotkin, MD</p>

Agenda Items

Topic	Presenter	Time allotted
<input type="checkbox"/> Welcome & Roll Call	Carrie/Bonnie	10 minutes
<input type="checkbox"/> Anti-Vaccination Law Suits	Stanley Plotkin, MD	30 minutes
<input type="checkbox"/> Next Steps	Group discussion	20 minutes

Attachments

May 21, 2018

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COID FROM STANLEY PLOTKIN

In January 2018 I was asked to provide expert testimony in a law suit involving divorced parents who disagreed about vaccinating their 3 year old daughter. The father could not afford to pay an expert in favor of vaccination and I agreed to do it pro bono although I had no prior experience in that regard. Although the case was in Michigan, the deposition was held in Pennsylvania, where I live.

I appeared at a hotel conference room on January 11 and found that a lawyer for the father was not present but there were two lawyers for the mother. I was later told that an anti-vaccination organization was paying for them. One of the lawyers was from a law firm in New York City, which I later learned, specializes in anti-vaccination suits. They make money from the Vaccine Comepensation System. Also, the lawyer has opposed a regulation in New York that would have allowed children with a sexually transmitted disease to receive HPV vaccine without parental permission. One can't get worse than that!

I was sworn in by a court reporter and then the lawyer from New York proceeded to question me for 10 consecutive hours. He covered an enormous number of subjects, which are listed in an accompanying document. Of course, I was exhausted after the deposition, but in addition within days I received a summons to provide all the documents about vaccines in my possession, going back to the 1950s.

(b)(6)

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More important, I realized that the anti-vaccination people are much better organized and financially supported than we are, and that the pro-vaccination camp must be better organized. Among the steps I have taken to fight back are the following:

1. A library has been established at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia containing key references disproving the usual anti-vaccination accusations. These would be available on request by pro-vaccination lawyers and witnesses.

2. Contact has been made with FDA and the four major vaccine manufacturers to add to vaccine package inserts missing information on safety and efficacy, to add to the misleading list of a thousand coincidental diseases listed in current inserts. A committee of biological manufacturers has been formed to promote changes in the inserts.

3. Lobbying the Gates Foundation to support pro-vaccine organizations and meetings on vaccine safety.

4. Lobbying AAP, IDSA and PIDS to support training of witnesses in future trials. There are organizations that do such training, so that an expert such as myself does not go unprepared into an adversary situation. It might even be possible to nominate certain members as designated experts in vaccinology for the particular organization.

I believe the above steps will help defend vaccines against attack by unscrupulous but clever anti-vaccination lawyers. In conclusion, I want to say that the threat of anti-vaccinationism is real and that their access to the legal system is a clear and present danger, which we ignore at our peril, and more important, at the peril of our patients.

Stanley Plotkin

SUBJECTS ON WHICH I WAS QUESTIONED BY ANTI-VACCINATION LAWYER DURING DEPOSITION

Overseas trips

Money received from vaccine companies

Financial support for Voices for Vaccines, a lay pro-vaccine group

Is pertussis vaccine effective

Have I done any consulting for government, despite having consulted for industry

Can vaccine viruses affect human DNA?

What royalties have I received for rotavirus vaccine invention?

Do vaccines have non-specific effects, such as increased mortality after DTP shown by Peter Aaby?

Package inserts seem to say subjects only followed for 4-5 days. Insert for hepatitis B vaccine mentions multiple sclerosis as a reaction.

Salk IPV reactions only followed for 2 days according to package insert.

How was MMR safety documented? Where are safety data? Was there an unvaccinated group followed at same time?

Gardasil safety study used the alum adjuvant as a control, not placebo, so how can you exclude reactions? 2-3% of control group had reactions said to be autoimmune, so did Gardasil

DTP is given repeatedly, are there safety data over age span?

The IOM published book reports say that many reactions may have been caused by vaccines, can't rule it out

Second IOM report says there are inadequate safety data on vaccines.

Plotkin submitted comments to IOM while receiving money from companies.

What proof is there that DTaP doesn't cause autism?

Is there a study comparing vaccinated and unvaccinated children for health later in life?

Polio and other diseases are now rare in the US

A study from Jackson Stat Univ in Mississippi says that vaccinate children have more non-vaccine diseases.

Alum can travel to the brain and cause autism.

IL-6 is induced by vaccination and can cause autism.

Aluminum causes fascitis according to French group

Package inserts mention encephalopathy as possible reaction to influenza and pertussis vaccines.

Some vaccines produced in monkey cells, monkey DNA and protein in vaccine.

Calf serum traces are in vaccines.

Gelatin is in vaccines.

Human diploid cell proteins are in vaccines made in MRC-5

Traces of human albumin are in vaccines.

Polyanethanol are in vaccines.

Can adjuvants increase responses to non-vaccine antigens in vaccines?

What about my work in the Belgian Congo in the 1950s with oral polio vaccine? Did I vaccinate anyone without permission?

What's the evidence that receiving multiple vaccines at the same time is safe?

According to Harvard study, only 1% of vaccine reactions are reported.