

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST
EXPEDITED PROCESSING REQUESTED

VIA ONLINE PORTAL

April 28, 2021

Roger Andoh
Freedom of Information Officer
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road, N.E., Building 57, Room MS D-54
Atlanta, Georgia 30333
Fax: (404) 235-1852
Email: FOIARequests@cdc.gov

Re: Documents supporting mRNA statements (IR#0482)

Dear Mr. Andoh:

This firm represents the Informed Consent Action Network (“ICAN”). On behalf of ICAN, we are requesting records pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552, as amended) (“FOIA”). Please provide the records in your possession via email to foia@sirillp.com:

All documents relied upon by CDC to claim the following statements:

1. **“They [COVID-19 viral vector vaccines] do not affect or interact with our DNA in any way”¹;**
2. **“The genetic material delivered by the viral vector does not integrate into a person’s DNA.”²;**
3. **“They [COVID-19 mRNA vaccines] do not affect or interact with our DNA in any way”³; and**
4. **“mRNA never enters the nucleus of the cell, which is where our DNA (genetic material) is kept.”⁴**

¹ Statement can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/hcp/viral-vector-vaccine-basics.html>.

² Statement can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/hcp/viral-vector-vaccine-basics.html>.

³ Statement can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/mrna.html>.

⁴ Statement can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/mrna.html>.

Request For Expedited Processing

ICAN requests expedited processing for this request. ICAN is “primarily engaged in disseminating information to the general public” and there is an “urgency to inform the public concerning actual or alleged Federal Government activity.” 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E)(v)(II).

ICAN’s mission is to raise public awareness about public health safety and to provide the public with information to give informed consent regarding related health interventions. The SARS-CoV-2, also known as COVID-19, pandemic has affected myriad aspects of every American’s life.

Numerous experimental vaccines against COVID-19 are in development and those processes are highly publicized. Three of these vaccines are being widely distributed and used pursuant to Emergency Use Authorizations granted by the FDA, with one being recently paused due to safety concerns.

There is evidence existing that appears to potentially contradict the statements made by the CDC and addressed in this request. For example, “Studies have shown that replication-incompetent adenoviral vectors randomly integrate into host chromosomes at frequencies of 0.001-1% of infected cells.” <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/12109211/>. Further, another study indicates that segments of SARS-CoV-2 Viral RNA can become integrated into human genomic DNA and that this newly acquired viral sequence is not silent, meaning that these genetically modified regions of genomic DNA are transcriptionally active (DNA is being converted back into RNA). See <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/biorxiv/early/2020/12/13/2020.12.12.422516.full.pdf>.

ICAN certifies that the information in the request is true and correct to the best of ICAN’s knowledge and belief.

Fees and charges for this search are to be waived pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552 (a)(4)(A)(iii) since ICAN is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization and its mission is to raise public awareness about vaccine safety and provide the public with information to give informed consent. As part of its mission, ICAN investigates and disseminates information regarding vaccine safety, including through their website, and through press events and releases. ICAN is seeking the information in this FOIA request to allow it to contribute to the public understanding of the government’s vaccine safety programs, including the government’s efforts to promote vaccine safety. The information requested in this FOIA request will not contribute to any commercial activities.

Please note that the FOIA provides that if only portions of a requested file are exempted from release, the remainder must still be released. We, therefore, request that we be provided with all non-exempt portions which are reasonably segregable. We further request that you describe any deleted or withheld material in detail and specify the statutory basis for the denial as well as your reasons for believing that the alleged statutory justification applies. Please also separately state your reasons for not invoking your discretionary powers to release the requested documents in the public interest. Such statements may help to avoid unnecessary appeal and litigation. ICAN of course reserves all rights to appeal the withholding or deletion of any information.

Access to the requested records should be granted within twenty (20) business days from the date of your receipt of this letter. Failure to respond in a timely manner shall be viewed as a denial of this request and ICAN may immediately file an administrative appeal.

If you would like to discuss our requests or any issues raised in this letter, please feel free to contact me at (212) 532-1091 or via email at foia@sirillp.com during normal business hours. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Elizabeth A. Brehm
Elizabeth A. Brehm, Esq.