

Universal Health Organisation (UHO)

Weekly Newsletter – 14 Jun 2024



The weekly newsletters bring the updates on the science, battered and bruised during the pandemic, legal updates and impact of activism for a just society, across the world. These are small steps to promote Transparency, Empowerment and Accountability – the ethos of the UHO.

Announcement: Membership & endorsements to the UHO invited: <https://uho.org.in/member.php>

Avian Influenza H9N2 reported from India

On 22 May 2024, the International Health Regulations (IHR), National Focal Point (NFP), in India [reported](#) to the WHO a case of human infection with avian influenza (H9N2) virus detected in a child resident of West Bengal. This is the second case reported from India. The first was reported in 2019. The child has recovered completely. Most human cases of this strain of the virus occur due to contact with contaminated poultry or contaminated environment. Human infection is mild with no fatality. Further cases can occur as this is a common influenza strain infecting poultry and birds.

UHO fears that such trivial infections in humans spilling over from the animal kingdom which has little impact on public health can be hyped by various stakeholders with conflicts of interest to trigger public panic and knee jerk reactions. First and foremost stakeholder is the WHO itself which is trying its best to push the WHO Pandemic Treaty. The Treaty if passed will give extraordinary and dictatorial powers to the WHO on the pretext of real or imagined pandemics.

MRNA vaccine technology on the verge of being scaled up

The [combined flu and Covid shot](#) is in the horizon. Moderna has announced encouraging results from its phase 3 trials of this combination. According to the trials, the compared to two individual administrations, a single shot of the combined jab elicited a stronger immune response against both the diseases. This was announced on 10 June 2024. The trials reported only minor side effects.

Such developments are a matter of concern for various reasons. UHO is of the opinion that before scaling up and widespread use of the mRNA technology, the safety concerns surrounding it are resolved. Spike proteins have been [found in different organs](#) of the body following mRNA vaccines against Covid-19. And concerns around mRNA vaccines are now spilling over into [mainstream medical journals](#) and [mainstream newspapers](#).

Peer reviewed paper suggests that the concerns surrounding the mRNA vaccines are real

A peer reviewed paper published in the top medical journal Vaccine, suggests that the concerns regarding the mRNA vaccines are real and not part of a conspiracy theory. A paper (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vaccine.2022.08.036>) by Fraiman et al, published in this journal recently published a re-analysis of the Phase 3 trials of the mRNA vaccines conducted by Pfizer and Moderna. They found the excess risk of serious adverse effects 36% higher with the Pfizer mRNA vaccines while the Moderna mRNA vaccine showed a 6% higher risk of serious adverse effects. Combined, there was a 16.2% risk of serious adverse events with the mRNA vaccines. The authors concluded that these high figures of serious adverse effects call for a formal and thorough reassessment of the risk-benefit analysis of the mRNA vaccines.

UHO is of the opinion that in view of such serious concerns, it is premature to scale up the mRNA

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vaccines platform for combined flu-covid jabs and other vaccines as is being presently contemplated.

NEET-UG admission test for MBBS course mired in controversy. If the first step is suspect what type of doctors will we have in times to come?

Scams surrounding admission to medical colleges has been brewing for a long time. The latest is the ongoing controversy following the declaration of the results of the National Eligibility Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG) for medical undergraduate admission, on 04 June 2024.

A [number of unusual patterns](#) suggest that all is not fair. The bizarre features, which raise a discordant note, are:

- A total of 67 candidates scored 720/720 this year, a “black swan event.” There were only two toppers who scored 720 last year and in the year 2022 there were four.
- Six of the toppers were from a single examination centre, in Haryana, with roll numbers close to each other.
- Credibility of scores - some candidates scored 718 and 719 which does not make sense as such scores are technically impossible. Four marks are given to each right answer while 1 mark is deducted for a wrong answer. So if a student answers only one answer wrong the score will come to 715 and if does not attempt one question the score will be 716.
- When the National Testing Authority (NTA) was questioned about these awkward scores, the explanation given was that “grace marks” were awarded to candidates in some examination centres as there were some delays in starting the exams.
- The NEET-UG results were declared on 04 June 2024, ten days earlier than the scheduled date of 14 June 2024. Some fear this was deliberately done to suppress any protests which would get lost in the din of the election results which were coming out on the same day.

The UHO fears that these irregularities in medical entrance tests may be just the tip of the iceberg and the medical admission mafia may have spread across the country with involvement of many powerful players. This has a number of serious implications as follows:

- People will lose trust in the medical profession. Even without such scams, the trust of the people in the medical profession is at an all time low. Corporatization of the profession converting it into big business from a noble calling has contributed to this erosion of trust to a large extent.
- It is quite possible that a large number of unscrupulous candidates who used unfair means to get admission to medical colleges are now doctors. These half baked unscrupulous doctors make perfect pawns to push pharm interests. Like the Ganges, the noble profession of medicine is heavily polluted today. *Ram teri Ganga Maili!*
- Honest youth and honest parents face a bleak future, leading to despair and disillusionment. Young people who are honest and belong to families with high moral values will lose all hope and despair and choose some other profession – unfortunately these are the people who would have made good doctors who would have upheld the Hippocrates oath.

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The European Union (EU) stockpiles 665,000 doses of the Avian influenza vaccine

With the threat of avian influenza spilling over into humans and triggering an outbreak, the EU has purchased [665,000 pre-pandemic doses](#) of the avian influenza vaccine with an option of scaling it up to 40 million doses over the next four years.

While several cases of avian influenza among poultry have been reported over the past few years across the globe, human cases have been rare and limited to those in close contact with animals. The latest is a report of death of a [59 year old man on 24 April in Mexico](#) from avian influenza. However he had several co-morbidities such as chronic kidney diseases, diabetes and high blood pressure which contributed to his death. All his 29 contacts tested negative.

The UHO thinks that stockpiling vaccines at such huge scale is not warranted. This will drive commercial and profit interests of the pharmaceutical industry. Vested interests may tend to lobby for mass vaccination to the general population who are at negligible risk. More ominous is the WHO Pandemic Treaty and amendments to the International Health Regulations (IHR) waiting in the sidelines to be pushed in at the first whiff of a pandemic, real or imagined. If we do not learn the lessons from recent history we are likely to repeat the blunders of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Monkeypox and Gain of Function (GOF) research

Both monkey-pox and gain-of-function research were shrouded in mystery, the latter being suspected to be ongoing in many developed countries surreptitiously. Now our worst fears seem to have been confirmed.

The House Energy and Commerce Committee in the USA, has released a [report](#) titled, “Interim Staff Report into Risky MPXV Experiment at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.” The report reveals that the “gain-of-function” research with the monkeypox virus has been going on in the USA labs since 2015 with the aid of National Institute of Health (NIH) grant. The committee which prepared the report concluded, “In order to start rebuilding trust in our government health agency guidance, agencies like the NIH must be honest and transparent with Congress and the American people. This report demonstrates a disturbing lack of judgment and accountability from HHS, the NIH, and particularly, NIAID. It is unacceptable and demonstrates the clear need for reform.”

UHO expresses concerns and fears that “gain-of-function” research is perhaps rampant in many developed countries. This type of research attempts to increase the lethality of naturally occurring pathogens and viruses and is extremely hazardous. We feel there should be strict moratorium on such hazardous experiments.

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