
Could Covid-19 vaccines facilitate virulent variants?

Elizabeth Hart <elizmhart@gmail.com>
To: Elizabeth Hart <elizmhart@gmail.com>

Mon, Jul 19, 2021 at 3:07 PM

Please see below my correspondence with Professor Andrew Read on the subject: **Could Covid-19 vaccines facilitate the evolution of more virulent variants?**

Elizabeth Hart

Independent person investigating the over-use of vaccine products and conflicts of interest in vaccination policy

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Elizabeth Hart** <elizmhart@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Jul 19, 2021 at 2:48 PM

Subject: Re: Could Covid-19 vaccines facilitate virulent variants?

To: Andrew Read

Cc: Andrew Pollard, Fiona Godlee, Sharon Davies, Peter Doshi, Kamran Abbasi, Theodora Bloom, Allyson Pollock, John Ioannidis, Simon Wain-Hobson, Richard Ebright, Marc Lipsitch, Michael Osterholm, Tom Inglesby, Carl Heneghan, Michael Levitt, Martin Kulldorff, Jayanta Bhattacharya, Sucharit Bhakdi, Gus Dalglish, Karol Sikora, Anders Tegnell, Johan Giesecke, Ian Frazer, Peter Doherty, Peter Collignon, Roy Anderson, Peter Openshaw, Adrian Smith, David Cannadine, Venki Ramakrishnan, Andrew Goddard, Chris Conlon, Dan Summers, John Shine, Rbert Clancy, Sunetra Gupta, Heidi Larson, Graham Medley, Melinda Mills, John Bell, David Kennedy, Neil Ferguson, Patrick Vallance, Chris Whitty, Peter A. McCullough, Nick Hudson, Emma McArthur, John Skerritt

For the attention of:

Professor Andrew Read

PennState College of Agricultural Sciences

- Director, Huck Institutes of the Life Sciences

- Evan Pugh Professor of Biology and Entomology

- Eberly Professor of Biotechnology

Fellow of the Royal Society

Professor Read, further to my question **could Covid-19 vaccines facilitate the evolution of more virulent variants?**, first addressed to you on 27 January 2021.

I also asked this question of the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) in Australia, the regulator of vaccine products, in an email dated 1 February 2021.

After some delay, I've finally received a response from the TGA dated 14 July 2021 (hard copy also attached).

Given your research in the area of 'leaky vaccines' Professor Read, I'm sharing with you the TGA's response, which includes:

All viruses are expected to naturally mutate over time and there is no credible scientific evidence to suggest that vaccination drives the evolution of variants. Indeed, widespread uptake of vaccination is critical to control the circulating virus in the community and therefore minimise the opportunity for the virus to mutate.

COVID-19 vaccines induce broad immunity responses, which are expected to confer some protection against new variants, and therefore widespread vaccination is expected to mitigate the potential risk of new emerging variants. In a scenario of increased virulence, unvaccinated individuals would likely be adversely impacted compared to vaccinated individuals. Therefore, the vaccination of as many people as possible remains a priority for the Australian Government. Additionally, achieving herd immunity will help to protect those who cannot be vaccinated due to medical reasons.

Professor Read, what are your thoughts on the TGA's response to me? What do you think about the statements above in regards to the current global covid-19 vaccine rollout, with reportedly over 3 billion vaccinations being given so far?

I'd appreciate your response Professor Read. Please see our previous correspondence below.

If anyone else copied on this email thread would like to contribute to the discussion, please do.

Kind regards
Elizabeth Hart
Independent person investigating the over-use of vaccine products and conflicts of interest in vaccination policy

On Sun, Jan 31, 2021 at 3:52 AM Read, Andrew Fraser wrote:

Elizabeth,

Sorry for the lack of response. It's very busy for those of us who have infectious disease expertise and who are institutional leaders. I also wasn't quite sure what to say.

My feeling at the moment is this. In both the UK and the US, COVID is causing carnage. Thousands are dying each day. We should be doing everything we can to mitigate that. I can't see any ethical reason to withhold vaccines and let people die based on possible evolutionary trajectories the virus might take (with unknown probabilities). We absolutely need to study the virus evolution going forward, and as soon as we can, address any evolution that's been triggered, especially since there are many options going forward. But right now, the top priority has to be to stop the carnage. As we can see in the UK and the US nothing else has worked. Hopefully the vaccines will.

Andrew

From: Elizabeth Hart <elizmhart@gmail.com>
Date: Saturday, January 30, 2021 at 8:14 AM
To: Andrew Read
Subject: Could Covid-19 vaccines facilitate virulent variants?

Professor Read, it's disappointing you haven't acknowledged or responded to my email raising concerns about the coronavirus vaccine products in relation to your 'leaky vaccines' paper.

FYI, please see below my email to the Presidents of the UK Royal Society and British Academy, requesting their consideration of this matter, which includes my email with questions addressed to you.

As I note in my email below, it's very difficult for members of the public to raise concerns about vaccines, as they are often tagged as 'anti-vaxxers', and marginalised and even censored.

But there must be accountability for the fast-tracked experimental coronavirus vaccine products.

My email below is also accessible via this link: <https://vaccinationispolitical.files.wordpress.com/2021/01/could-covid-19-vaccines-facilitate-virulent-variants.pdf>

Professor Read, I do think you have a professional responsibility to respond on this matter of global importance.

Sincerely

Elizabeth Hart

Independent person investigating the over-use of vaccine products and conflicts of interest in vaccination policy

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Elizabeth Hart <elizmhart@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, Jan 30, 2021 at 5:36 PM
Subject: If Covid-19 vaccines don't prevent transmission, can they facilitate the evolution of more virulent variants?
To: <president@royalsociety.org>, <dcannadi@princeton.edu>, V. Ramakrishnan, <InstituteDirector@turing.ac.uk>
Cc: <press@royalsociety.org>, <press@thebritishacademy.org>

For the attention of:

Sir Adrian Smith, President of the Royal Society

Dr Venki Ramakrishnan, previous President of the Royal Society 2015-2020

Sir David Cannadine, President of the British Academy

Dear Sir Adrian, Dr Ramakrishnan and Sir David, **please see below my email to Professor Andrew Read**, referring to his '[leaky vaccines](#)' paper published in 2015, and asking: **If Covid-19 vaccines don't prevent transmission, can they facilitate the evolution of more virulent variants?**

As noted in my email to Professor Read, I raised this matter in a rapid response submitted on a BMJ article, but my rapid response was not published. (BMJ article: [Covid-19: What new variants are emerging and how are they being investigated? 18 January 2021.](#))

It's very disappointing The BMJ did not publish my rapid response, and that Professor Read has not responded to my email, **as the questions raised are very important to consider in regards to the current rushed rollout of experimental coronavirus vaccine products around the world.**

This is yet another example of the medical/scientific establishment refusing to acknowledge and respond to concerns of the public. People asking questions about vaccine products are often tagged as 'anti-vaxxers', and marginalised and even censored, a situation fostered by the Royal Society and British Academy's recent COVID-19 vaccine deployment report, which infers such people are spreading 'misinformation' and should be subjected to criminal prosecution. It's appalling the scientific establishment threatens people who question the status quo with criminal sanction, this is the very antithesis of open-minded scientific inquiry. ([COVID-19 vaccine deployment: Behaviour, ethics, misinformation and policy strategies](#). The Royal Society and The British Academy, 21 October 2021.)

Sir Adrian, Dr Ramakrishnan and Sir David, the current panicked and ill-considered coronavirus vaccine rollout is an unprecedented global event, with the intention of vaccinating the entire global population of 7.8 billion people with these fast-tracked experimental vaccine products, potentially on an annual or even more frequent basis, apparently at the behest of software billionaire Bill Gates, who suggests COVID-19 vaccines "will become part of the routine newborn immunization schedule". ([GatesNotes: What you need to know about the COVID-19 vaccine](#), 30 April 2020.)

The Royal Society and British Academy are eminent academic organisations, ***albeit with undisclosed conflicts of interest...*** I bring my questions to Professor Read to your attention, **as they are of significant public interest, and request your consideration of this important matter.** It's also notable that [Professor Read is a Fellow of the Royal Society](#), and surely he has a duty to acknowledge and respond to this important scientific issue?

Please see below my email to Professor Read. I'm also circulating this email to other parties for information.

I would appreciate your response.

Sincerely

Elizabeth Hart

Independent person investigating the over-use of vaccine products and conflicts of interest in vaccination policy

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Elizabeth Hart** <elizmhart@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Jan 27, 2021 at 11:32 PM

Subject: If Covid-19 vaccines don't prevent transmission, can they facilitate the evolution of more virulent variants?

To: Andrew Read

Dear Professor Read, I recently submitted a rapid response on an article on The BMJ referring to your paper [Imperfect vaccination can enhance the transmission of highly virulent pathogens](#), published in 2015.

My rapid response is in relation to the current coronavirus situation and asks the question "If Covid-19 vaccines don't prevent transmission, can they facilitate the evolution of more virulent variants?"

Please see below my submitted rapid response, which has not been published, I would appreciate your thoughts on this matter:

Questions are being raised about the new coronavirus variants[1,2,3,4], and their emergence in the UK, South Africa and Brazil, where AstraZeneca vaccine trials are under way.

Could this be related to the possibility that the vaccines may not prevent transmission, and facilitate the evolution of new variants?

For example, Deputy Chief Medical Officer Jonathan Van-Tam says "...we do not yet know the impact of the vaccine on transmission of the virus. So even after you have had both doses of the vaccine you may still give Covid-19 to someone else and the chains of transmission will then continue".[5]

With the possibility the experimental coronavirus vaccines might not prevent transmission of the virus, is it possible these could be 'leaky vaccines', i.e. "anti-disease vaccines that do not prevent transmission" which "can create conditions that promote the emergence of pathogen strains that cause more severe disease in unvaccinated hosts"? This is described in Andrew F. Read et al's study re Marek's disease in poultry, i.e. [Imperfect vaccination can enhance the transmission of highly virulent pathogens](#), published in 2015.[6]

While Read et al note most human vaccines are sterilizing (transmission-blocking) - (e.g. the measles vaccine), Read is "concerned about the next generation of vaccines that are being developed against diseases like HIV and malaria. People don't naturally develop life-long immunity to these conditions after being infected, as they would against, say, mumps or measles. This makes vaccine development a tricky business, and it means that the resulting vaccines will probably leak to some extent." Read says "This isn't an argument against developing those vaccines, but it is an argument for ensuring that we carefully check for transmission."[7]

What does this mean for the experimental coronavirus vaccines that are now being rolled out into the community? Is anyone thinking about the potential problems that might arise if these vaccines do indeed fail to prevent transmission, and what this might mean for the unvaccinated, i.e. if these could be "anti-disease vaccines that do not prevent transmission" which "can create conditions that promote the emergence of pathogen strains that cause more severe disease in unvaccinated hosts"?

References:

1. Covid-19: What new variants are emerging and how are they being investigated? BMJ 2021;372:n158.
2. Andrew D Stevens BMJ Rapid Response: Re: Covid-19: What new variants are emerging and how are they being investigated? 22 January 2021.
3. How the Oxford-AstraZeneca covid-19 vaccine was made. BMJ 2021;372:n86.
4. Rajalakshmi Lakshman BMJ Rapid Response: Re: How the Oxford-AstraZeneca covid-19 vaccine was made. 23 January 2021.
5. The vaccine has given us hope, but we still need to follow the rules. The Telegraph, 23 January 2021.
6. Andrew F. Read et al. Imperfect vaccination can enhance the transmission of highly virulent pathogens. PLoS Biol. 2015 Jul; 13(7): e1002198.

7. Leaky vaccines enhance spread of deadlier chicken viruses. National Geographic. 27 July 2015.

Professor Read, I would appreciate your thoughts on this matter.

In my opinion, there should not have been a vaccination response to this virus. It seems the elderly with comorbidities, and other vulnerable groups, are at risk of this virus, but the majority of the population are not. I think the lockdowns and restrictions and masks are the wrong approach, with devastating consequences for society and the economy. There should have been a targeted approach to the at-risk groups, seeking effective treatments, and promising preventatives such as vitamin D. To embark on a mission to vaccinate the entire world population, potentially every year or even more frequently, seems like madness to me

We are now facing the unprecedented situation of planning to vaccinate the entire global population, with who knows what consequences, is anyone thinking this through?

They plan to vaccinate everyone, including children. How can this possibly be ethical as children are generally not at risk with this disease, and to impose annual coronavirus vaccination upon them is to in effect steal their own natural response to the virus. And to impose a lifetime of coronavirus vaccination upon them, with who knows what consequences.

It seems to me this whole matter has been very ill considered, not considered at all in fact. And the 'case' and death statistics are highly suspicious. Also the way in which 'case' and death counts are recited endlessly, but seldom considered in the context of a country's population and annual mortality.

I wonder how this matter can be addressed, now that it is a juggernaut out of control? And people who raise concerns are tagged as 'anti-vaxxers'. This must be rejected, this is an extremely serious situation which may have huge consequences for the human species, this audacious goal to vaccinate the entire global population with these fast-tracked experimental coronavirus vaccine products.

I hope you will respond.

Kind regards

Elizabeth Hart

Independent person investigating the over-use of vaccine products and conflicts of interest in vaccination policy