

## **Emerging Research Being Ignored**

By Edda West - VRAN Newsletter Summer/Fall, 2004

For too long parents of vaccine damaged children and vaccine awareness groups have been calling for honesty in science and independent research into the biomedical mechanisms of vaccine injury – identification at the cellular level of specific biochemical reactions triggered by vaccines which lead to injuries of the immune/neurological systems. Purported lack of knowledge (read: lack of disclosure) of the complex biochemistry that precipitates neuroimmune injuries in susceptible children is the key factor which permits vaccine authorities to deny the role of vaccines in today's epidemic of neurodevelopmental disorders now affecting 1 in 200 Canadian children, and even higher numbers in the U.S. and Great Britain.

In an age of remarkable scientific advances in DNA research, genetic engineering, mapping of the human genome and nanotechnologies often difficult to translate into everyday language, it is unfathomable that more is not known of the specific biochemical chain of events triggered by the injection of multiple vaccines and the mechanisms which lead to alterations and subsequent injuries to the immune system and brain.

What is evident though, gauging by the behaviour of leading institutions & vaccine policymakers entrusted with assessing vaccine risks and protecting public safety, is a curious mindset of “don't want to know”, as exemplified by the recent sham investigation by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) in the U.S. It's exoneration of thimerosal and MMR vaccine in neurodevelopmental disorders has outraged parents, researchers.

### **IOM & Vaccine Industry Deceit**

Although aware of the emerging biomedical research pointing to a link between thimerosal, MMR vaccine and autism disorders, the IOM committee ignored these studies and delivered a “not guilty” verdict based on epidemiological reviews incapable of picking up the subset of children vulnerable to damage. Adding insult to injury, it discouraged further research into vaccine-associated autism – a move calculated to terminate vaccine injury inquiries and to block funding for ongoing research in this area. The committee's decree will, no doubt, be taken up dutifully by the media and fed to the masses as the last word on vaccine safety. The IOM said it's safe, so it must be so!

Barbara Loe Fisher, parent of a vaccine damaged child and president of the National Vaccine Information Center (NVIC) in the U.S. charged that “This report is a case of political immunology masquerading as real science. With it, the Institute of Medicine takes a step toward weakening its reputation as an independent body capable of making an objective scientific analysis of complex medical risk issues which are influenced by government policy and industry profits.” (1)

She questioned whether the IOM Committee could remain objective when assessing vaccine risk issues which affect entrenched public health policy due to serious conflicts of interest arising from the fact that (1) the Committee

received its direction and funding from government institutions that regulate and promote mass use of vaccines and (2) Committee members had a public health policy background and were either receiving NIH(National Institutes of Health) research grants or were employed by universities receiving NIH, CDC(Centers for Disease Control) and vaccine industry research grants

“For this Committee to reject emerging biological mechanism evidence of a causal relationship between vaccines and brain damage leading to autism in favor of flawed epidemiological studies primarily using old medical records is tragic. For this Committee to basically give the green light to government and industry to eliminate autism from cost benefit analyses of thimerosal risks is beyond belief because it could pave the way for mercury to remain in vaccines here and around the world. Failing to consider the fact that DPT and MMR vaccine induced brain inflammation can lead to brain damage in some children, including autism, is just one example of how simplistic and superficial this analysis of the relationship between vaccines and autism is. When the real science comes out demonstrating that vaccines can cause autism in genetically susceptible children, this Committee’s conclusions will be meaningless,” said Fisher. NVIC also supports removing vaccine risk research and monitoring from the CDC and NIH because of conflicts of interest.(1)

“In my opinion, the IOM report represents an incredibly poor evaluation of the scientific literature and is symptomatic of a committee that has been compromised in its scientific/biomedical credibility to favor the wishes of its employer, the CDC” writes Dr. Boyd Haley, a specialist in mercury toxicity. “The recommendations of this IOM report, if followed, will prevent the resolution of the autism causation issue and will prevent development of an effective treatment protocol for autistic children. However, it will help the CDC and vaccine manufacturers escape any culpability for any damage they may have done by instituting the mandated vaccine program in the USA without any testing of its safety.”(2)

In a media interview Haley says, "This is an unintelligent report and symptomatic of a poorly designed cover-up to protect the vaccine industry.....they're preventing research. This is morally unacceptable to me; a little short of criminal."

"If it is ultimately concluded that in the 1990s we poisoned an entire generation of Americans, that's pretty bad," said Rep. Dave Weldon, a Florida physician pushing for passage of a nationwide ban on thimerosal-containing vaccines. "You're talking about a possible settlement against the government that could dwarf the tobacco settlement." (3)

The IOM, as the most authoritative medical body in the U.S., by quashing the emerging science poised to expose the vaccine/thimerosal/autism link, reveals the systemic rot and deceit operative at the highest levels of the vaccine establishment. By rejecting emerging biomedical evidence, this elite body signals its true mission - to stonewall independent research getting too close to the truth and shield its 'sacred cow' at any cost.

British Lawyer, Clifford Miller points out that the IOM's finding of "No Vaccine Causal Link to Autism", based solely on epidemiology violates legal/scientific

standards as set out in the US Federal Judicial Center Reference Manual on Scientific Evidence, (second edition), “which makes abundantly clear that **epidemiology is not acceptable to prove there is no causal link between an adverse event and a pharmaceutical**.....hence, the oft repeated citing of epidemiology as proof of the opposite, that there is no causal link, is more than a little incongruous and a somewhat bizarre scientific base on which to put any nation's policy on immunisation of children . The logical implication seems to be that epidemiology can never be used to prove that a particular agent did not cause a particular adverse event.”(4)

In recent feisty letters to the British Medical Journal Miller pulls no punches in exposing the flawed ‘standard of proof’ used by the vaccine establishment to perpetuate and defend its policies. “Government and money has abused science to poison and thereby maim its own citizens (the youngest and most helpless ones at that); the full extent of the problem and its individual cost and cost to the nation is unknown because all of these phenomena/maladies have not been surveyed. The scandal of all of this is that, to the question 'how many deaths and injuries in the UK are caused by vaccinations' the answer is 'who's counting?' “(5)

Oblivious and immune to the collateral damage it inflicts on a suffering humanity in its endless ‘war on disease’, the vaccine conglomerate ruthlessly steamrollers onward. One cannot help but wonder if somewhere in the psyche of the beast there is a glimmer of its own culpability, or a tremor now and then that the science it manipulates today, will one day reveal its grotesque error.

And the veil is slowly lifting. Emerging is a significant body of scientific evidence that points to immune and chemical reactions within the central nervous system capable of causing widespread damage as a result of excessive immune stimulation by toxic exposures and too many vaccines.

### **Windows of Susceptibility**

Readers may recall the article I wrote in the Fall 2001 VRAN Newsletter, *Canaries in a Mine Shaft: The Crisis in Children’s Health*, which informed of critical phases in brain development referred to as ‘*windows of susceptibility*’ and that environmental toxins and multiple vaccines are likely at the root of the current epidemic of neurodevelopmental disorders in children.

"Exposures at critical periods of development - notably during embryogenesis, fetal life and infancy - can result in irreversible damage to growing nervous systems and affect emerging behaviour patterns, cause immune dysfunction, and have serious reproductive effects. If a toxic exposure occurs during critical growth stages, the system affected can sustain permanent damage.” These critical periods of development are thought of as ‘*windows of susceptibility*’”(6)

These ‘*windows of susceptibility*’ to neurotoxic effects are broad because “age-related development of the brain and nervous system **extends from fetal stage into adolescence**. Damage to the "wiring" process is thought to underlie such permanent adverse effects as cognitive disability, developmental language disorders, learning disabilities, motor disorders, effects on intelligence and behavioural disorders, attention deficits and sensory abnormalities.” (6)

We learned that cellular structures change so rapidly during embryonic and fetal growth, a toxic exposure at the wrong moment can permanently alter further development and that small doses of neurotoxins during critical periods of brain development can alter those crucial neural pathways – “one mistake early on, and the brain may be forever changed in subtle or serious ways”, warns Dr. Landrigan, Chairman, Preventive Medicine, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine. (6)

Canada’s Institute of Child Health in Ottawa, stresses that the environment must be viewed as the “**ultimate health determinant**”. “The fact that the endocrine and immune systems and the developing brain are susceptible to these ubiquitous pollutants [lead, PCBs and methylmercury, etc.] must be viewed with major concern.” (6)

But curiously, they limit their focus to toxic substances children are exposed to from the external environment, i.e. from food, air, water. They fail to take into account the impact of the most obvious source of chemical/biological stressors the fragile and immature infant nervous system must deal with - multiple (and increasing) injections containing viral & bacterial combinations, chemical adjuvants, preservatives and various foreign protein & DNA particles, administered during critical phases of brain development.

Across the board, these ‘public health’ institutions exhibit a willful blindness while purporting to act for the greater societal good. By excluding a discussion of the biochemical/biomedical impact of multiple vaccines on the developing brain, and immune system, they fail in their duty to critically evaluate the **entire** picture of complex multifactoral toxicities contributing to the collapse of children’s health today.

Yet in spite of an entrenched system committed to “defend & promote vaccines at any cost”, courageous voices are offering new perspectives on the impact of multiple vaccines on the developing brain.

### **Too Many Vaccines Too Close Together**

Professor of Neurosurgery, Russell Blaylock, MD, has written a series of articles based on extensive review of current scientific literature in which he examines in great detail the destructive effects of excessive immune stimulation often triggered by too many vaccines given too close together - a problem that will worsen as more vaccines continue to be added to the already overcrowded schedule.

That the immune system and nervous system are intimately interconnected has been known for some time. What affects one affects the other. “There is growing evidence that overstimulation of systemic immunity can produce deleterious effects on nervous system function, including neurodegeneration”, writes Blaylock, and there is ‘compelling evidence’ that overactivation of the brain’s key immune cells can “result in alterations in brain growth and connectivity during rapid brain growth, the so-called ‘brain growth spurt’.” (10)

He forwards the hypothesis that all neurological and neurobehavioral symptoms associated with autism disorders can be explained by an 'autotoxic' phenomenon, a process that can be triggered by "excessive immune stimulation by vaccinations that are too numerous and spaced too close together" and is magnified by associated factors through a multitude of mechanisms. (10)

"Much of this startling information is buried in highly technical scientific journals beyond the reach and understanding of the average person. Too often, experts in the field are afraid to rock the boat by publicizing the known dangers of vaccines. I am not one of them", says Professor Blaylock. **"What is not known is that even greater dangers exist than are being conveyed to the general public."**(7)

Dr. Blaylock refers to a growing number of scientific studies which demonstrate ***"serious dangers in our present vaccine policy, including altered brain development, seizures and loss of brain cell connections, called synapses. These studies all point to over-vaccination as a real and present danger to our children,*** and in certain instances, to adults." (7) As a neurosurgeon, Dr. Blaylock has intimate knowledge of the neurologic system, and brain chemistry - a background which eminently qualifies him to interpret complex studies in neurology, immunology & chemistry to present an indepth view of the factors that can interfere with brain function, and cause long term damage.

### **Exitotoxins Destroy Brain Cells**

He writes, "Recent evidence indicates that most neurological disorders, both acute and chronic, have a common set of pathological events despite their varying clinical presentations", at the centre of which is a process called *excitotoxicity*, named by Dr. John Olney in 1969.(4) This phenomenon involves the release of a class of toxins known as *excitotoxins*, from chronically overstimulated *microglia*, the main cells which control the central nervous system's immune system. "These powerful chemicals can excite brain cells to death and are thought to play a role in all forms of nerodegenerative diseases, brain trauma, strokes and meningitis." (7)

"Two basic processes seem to be responsible for the chronic stimulation of brain immunity: repeated, closely spaced inoculation without allowing brain recovery, and inoculation with live viruses or contaminant organisms that persist in the brain." (8)

**"When chronically activated, microglial cells pour out these excitotoxins in large amounts, destroying neurons, synapses and dendrites, that is, the connections between brain cells"** says Blaylock (7) The risk of giving multiple vaccines over a short period is that the adjuvants (immune stimulating chemicals in vaccines) will activate the *microglia* which then flood the area with *excitotoxins*, primarily the amino acids glutamate, aspartate and quinolinic acid.(9) "It is now known from experimental studies that seizures are intimately connected to the excitotoxic process. Not only can glutamate and aspartate precipitate seizures, but seizures themselves can stimulate the release of excitatory amino acids from the brain."(9)

“When these same *excitotoxins* are consumed in foods and drinks, even more damage is done” warns Blaylock. “There is ample evidence that these food-based *excitotoxins* easily enter the brain. Most processed foods contain one or more *excitotoxins*, many in disguised forms.”<sup>(7)</sup> MSG(monosodium glutamate), and aspartate or aspartame a sugar substitute (also known as NutraSweet), are common forms of *excitotoxins* used in an enormous range of foods including soft drinks, chewing gum, vitamins.

It is known that many things can activate *microglia*, including pesticides, MSG, viruses, mycoplasma, bacteria, stress, aluminum, mercury and immune adjuvants. <sup>(7)</sup> “Of special concern” says Blaylock, “is the recent discovery that glutamate, by activating the NMDA receptors on the blood-brain barrier can disrupt the barrier, leading to free access of blood-borne toxins to the central nervous system.”<sup>(9)</sup>

*Microglia* control the central nervous system’s immune system and are dispersed throughout the nervous system. “Normally, they lie dormant. When activated, they can migrate throughout the brain, secreting very powerful toxins, free radicals and immune-related chemicals (cytokines)”, writes Dr. Blaylock. These cells are very easy to activate. “We know from many experiments that stimulating the body’s immune system, as with vaccination, also activates the brain’s immune system. Under normal circumstances, these *microglia* are activated for only short periods and then quickly shut themselves off.”<sup>(7)</sup>

“With overactivation, these cells can remain active for very long periods, creating considerable *bystander damage*. This is because they secrete toxic products that diffuse throughout the nervous system, killing neurons, destroying synaptic connections and damaging the coverings of nerve fibers.” Dr. Blaylock points to “growing evidence that prolonged microglial activation is the mechanism of damage in diseases like Parkinson’s, Alzheimer’s and ALS.”<sup>(7)</sup>

### **Bystander Injury**

‘*Bystander injury*’ is a newly identified mechanism of injury. Unlike autoimmune disorders where the immune system attacks parts of the brain and spinal cord by mistake, ‘*bystander injury*’ results when immune cells muster their forces to kill perceived invaders (like vaccine components) by “flooding the area with a storm of free radicals” and in the process kill a lot of normal brain cells. Free radicals are highly reactive particles that destroy everything they encounter, friend or foe.”<sup>(7)</sup> “There is an intimate relationship between excitotoxicity and free radical generation. Free radicals precipitate the release of glutamate in the brain and excitotoxins trigger the productions of large amounts of free radicals”, writes Blaylock. <sup>(9)</sup>

He cautions that, “Numerous experimental studies have shown that when you overstimulate the immune system with immune adjuvants, as would occur when giving numerous vaccines close together, enormous numbers of free radicals are generated. Because the immune activation takes place over a long period of time, these free radicals begin to damage normal cells throughout the body in addition to the cells surrounding the sites of attack. In other words, it’s like producing a chronic illness in a person.” <sup>(7)</sup>

Mercury greatly magnifies *bystander injury* in the brain. The flu vaccine now urged for infants starting at 6 months of age, and to be given yearly thereafter, contains mercury in the form of thimerosal. “In the case of small children and babies, the immune reaction caused directly by the mercury is added to that of the other childhood vaccines, further aggravating bystander damage in their brains. **The danger of bystander damage is much greater in children than in adults, because the child’s brain continues to develop and grow very rapidly until about age two.**”(7)

Blaylock refers to mercury as a “unique poison” as it incapacitates the enzymes used by cells to neutralize free radicals, and when tested along with other metals, was the only one which blocks the removal of excess glutamate from the nervous system. **“By paralyzing the glutamate removal system, mercury triggers chronic excitotoxicity - that is chronic destruction of the nervous system.”** A vicious circle is then set up as mercury tends to accumulate in the microglia, which causes them to be chronically active, which in turn stimulates the release of the two powerful excitotoxins, quinolinic acid and glutamate.(7)

### **Multiple Vaccines Stress the Immune system**

“By grouping vaccines together, especially live viral vaccines, one increases the stress in the immune system as well as increasing microglial activation within the brain.” Young children are often injected with up to 8 or 9 vaccines simultaneously – a heavy bacterial and/or viral antigen load which is intensified by the powerful adjuvants contained in vaccines designed to boost the immune response.(9) Blaylock worries that “giving several inoculations during one office visit could produce a “hyperimmune response, especially in the face of immune component dysfunction. With the number of immunizations growing every year, real concern exists as to the effect on the developing brain”. (10)

The effects of overvaccination can be twofold says Blaylock. “First, it overstimulates a dysfunctional immune system, leading to immune-directed damage to the nervous system. Measles virus is known to induce autoimmune reactions to myelin basic protein. Second, it eventually exhausts the immune system, leading to increased susceptibility to subsequent microbial infections or chronic viral infections”, a scenario more likely in the malnourished child, especially with vitamin A deficiencies. Early nutrition is a critical factor in immune function, not only during the neonatal period, but also throughout life.”(9)

Dr. Blaylock emphasizes the importance of a strong immune system which acts rapidly and terminates immune attacks quickly. Conversely, a weakened immune system initiates a “smoldering attack that is prolonged, leaving surrounding normal cells and tissues soaked in destructive free radicals, but does not kill the invader.” Initially these destructive free radicals accumulate locally, but with prolonged immune stimulation, they “diffuse far out into the surrounding tissues. Vaccinations, if too numerous and spaced too close together, act like a chronic illness, flooding the entire body with free radicals.” The widespread symptoms of diseases like lupus, diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis are caused by free radicals. (7)

## **Viral Mutation**

Even more frightening is a process of viral mutation described by Dr. Blaylock. “When viruses are exposed to high free-radical concentrations, even within a person, the viruses mutate, becoming more virulent (deadly). Giving vaccines with live-attenuated viruses opens up a completely new danger that is not being discussed.” (7) And another vicious circle is initiated. The immune system responds to an assault of live viruses with a flood of free radicals, which stimulate the viruses to mutate. “The danger is not only to the person initially vaccinated but also to those who come in contact with him or her. That is, **the vaccinated person is acting as a generator of deadly mutated viruses.**” (7)

Researchers have found live measles viruses in 20 percent of the brains of autopsied adults and in 45 percent of other organs where the viruses had been hiding for years. The viruses were found to be highly mutated. When live viruses are given “either intentionally, or as a concomitant of vaccines, you expose that person to a very high risk of viral persistence, especially if they have an impaired immune system”, warns Blaylock. As well, measles virus suppresses the immune system and it is known other viruses have a similar effect. (7)

Mutated viruses that persist and hide in the body are much more likely to cause serious diseases like colitis, encephalitis, degenerative brain disorders, which one would not necessarily associate with that particular virus. “In essence, people with chronic illnesses, because they generate a lot of free radicals, act as living viral mutation incubators”, says Blaylock (7)

## **Autism, Toxic Exposures & the “Mis-wired Brain**

Dr. Blaylock writes extensively about autism spectrum disorders (ASD), and has found “compelling evidence of widespread neurological damage and neurochemical disruption such as would occur with an immune/excitotoxic etiology, and accumulative injury by free radical species. Hyperimmune responses, glutamate accumulation, and increase in free radical production have all been documented in autism spectrum disorders” (10)

“The reason for such a wide variety of presentations in PDD, Aspergers, ADHD, and ADD may be related to the timing of the excitotoxic insult. Sensitivity to glutamate varies considerably as the brain is developing and during periods of rapid growth. Chronic elevations of glutamate during critical brain growth periods can result in the development of faulty neural pathway circuitry.”(9) “Exposure to excitotoxins towards the end of pregnancy, for example would produce different lesions in the brain and altered pathways, than would happen in postnatal exposure. In addition, exposure to “additive toxicities, such as pesticide exposure, thimerosal (mercury) content, histamine excess (allergies), infections, and other systemic immune activations, would all be expected to compound the neurotoxicity of the autotoxic process”, writes Dr. Blaylock (10)

Dr. Blaylock affirms that, “Developmental windows for specific areas of the brain can be quite narrow – measured in days”, and because postnatal brain maturation extends over a long period of time, a wide variety of neurobehavioral

effects would be expected, depending on the timing of toxic exposures. "Because the process is autotoxic and not autoimmune, connections to vaccinations may not be immediately recognized." (10) "The consequences of damage to synapses, dendrites, and cell bodies would be different in the developing brain, especially during the period of the brain growth spurt from the last trimester of pregnancy to age two years. It has been shown that excitotoxicity can, not only disrupt neural elements and function, but can alter brain pathway development, resulting in a "mis-wired" brain."(10)

The preceding is only a partial glimpse of Professor Blaylock's extensive analysis of immune processes triggered by toxic exposures and repeated vaccinations spaced close together, leading to a myriad of symptoms seen in autism, gulf war syndrome and other neurodegenerative diseases.

In a personal email communication, Dr. Blaylock acknowledged that the papers he has written offer new approaches to the problem that give vaccine groups "a weapon that vaccine promoters cannot answer. **They have done absolutely no research in this area-NONE. The millions of children in the world are the experimental animals.** Yet, extensive research in the world of neuroscience demonstrates the harmful effects of such a program."(11)

He emphasizes the crucial role of nutritional health. "Numerous studies have shown that nutritional depletion, even of one or two nutrients, dramatically increases vaccine complications." In particular, he recommends Vitamin A(as mixed carotenoids), vitamin E and vitamin D3 as well as 1,000 mg of ascorbate (vitamin C) three times a day and DHA oil capsules. He further cautions avoidance of omega-6 oils such as corn, safflower, sunflower, peanut, soybean and canola oils which are powerful immune suppressants, and to avoid all forms of fluoride which "damages DNA repair enzymes, suppresses immunity, increases free radical production, produces skeletal and dental fluorosis and hypothyroidism, and produces extensive brain cell injury."(7)

Dr. Blaylock proposes a "halt in the use of live virus vaccines and a reduction in the inoculation schedules." And unless "absolutely critical to health", that all vaccines should be delayed until after the second year of life, the time of greatest brain growth.(10) He concludes, "This should serve as a caution to those who would add even more vaccines to a schedule already too crowded, as well as an indication to reassess the current schedule."(8)

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