FDA Committee Members Reviewing Pfizer Vaccine For Children Have Worked For Pfizer, Have Big Pfizer Connections

This Is A Staggering Conflict of Interest

by PATRICK HOWLEY — October 26, 2021

27

The FDA's Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee is holding a virtual meeting Tuesday October 26 to discuss authorizing a Pfizer-BioNTech Coronavirus vaccine for children between the ages of 5 to 11 years old.

This committee has a lot of sway with the FDA and their findings will be relevant, considering the Biden administration is getting ready to ship vaccines to elementary schools and California has already mandated the vaccine for schoolchildren pending federal authorization.

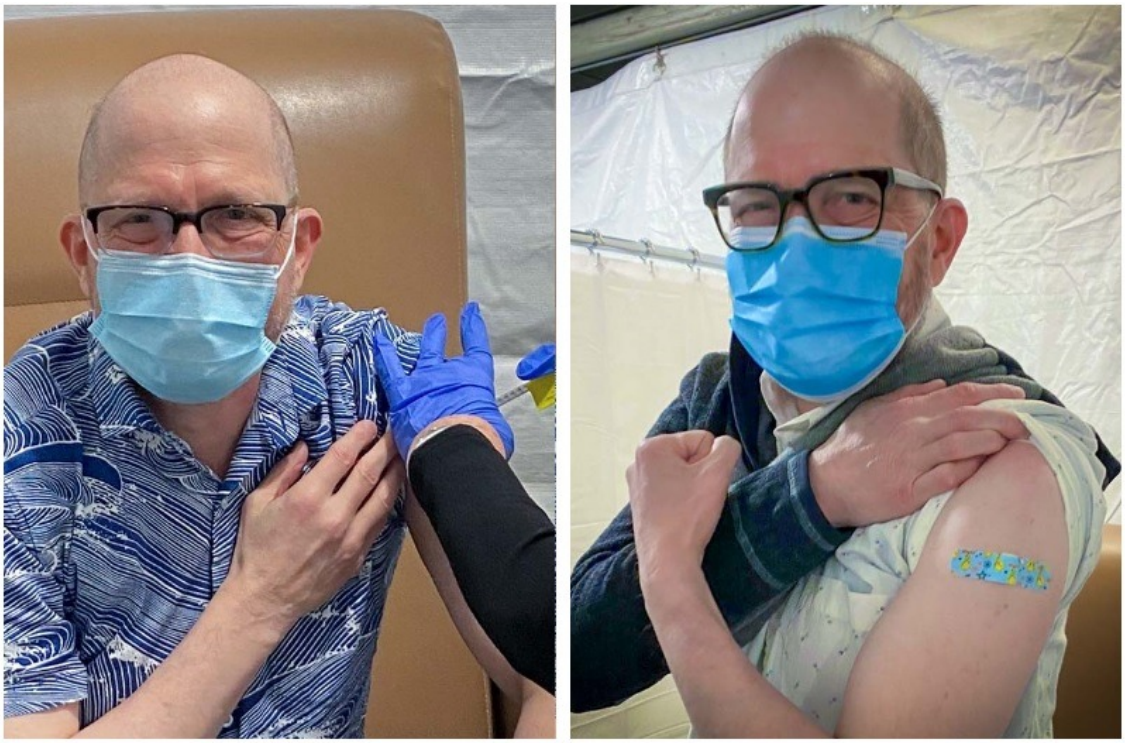
But the meeting roster shows that numerous members of the committee and temporary voting members have worked for Pfizer or have major connections to Pfizer.

Members include a former vice president of Pfizer Vaccines, a recent Pfizer consultant, a recent Pfizer research grant recipient, a man who mentored a current top Pfizer vaccine executive, a man who runs a center that gives out Pfizer vaccines, the chair of a Pfizer data group, a guy who was proudly photographed taking a Pfizer vaccine, and numerous people who are already on the record supporting Coronavirus vaccines for children. Meanwhile, recent FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb is on Pfizer's board of directors.

HERE'S THE MEETING ROSTER: Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee October 26, 2021 Meeting Draft Roster.

Acting Chair Arnold S. Monto was a paid Pfizer consultant as recently as 2018.

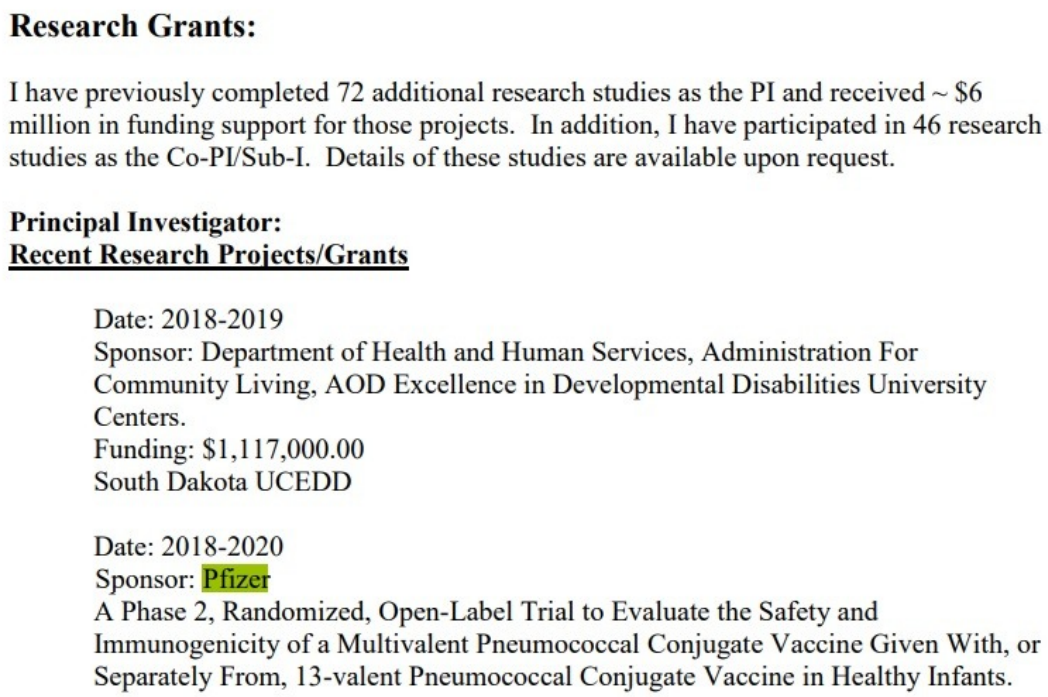
Steven Pergam got the Pfizer vaccine: Building trust in safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines (fredhutch.org)



It takes two. Fred Hutch infectious disease scientist and physician Dr. Steven Pergam received his first dose (left) of the Pfizer vaccine on Dec. 29, 2020, and the second (right) on Jan. 18. Pergam, who survived cancer and has a kidney transplant, was a member of the FDA advisory panel that endorsed emergency use of the vaccine.

Photos courtesy of Dr. Steven Pergam

Committee member Archana Chatterjee worked on a research project related to vaccines for infants between 2018-2020, and the research project was sponsored by Pfizer.



Research Grants:

I have previously completed 72 additional research studies as the PI and received ~ $6 million in funding support for those projects. In addition, I have participated in 46 research studies as the Co-PI/Sub-I. Details of these studies are available upon request.

Principal Investigator:
Recent Research Projects/Grants

Date: 2018-2019
Sponsor: Department of Health and Human Services, Administration For Community Living, AOD Excellence in Developmental Disabilities University Centers.
Funding: $1,117,000.00
South Dakota UCEDD

Date: 2018-2020
Sponsor: Pfizer
A Phase 2, Randomized, Open-Label Trial to Evaluate the Safety and Immunogenicity of a Multivalent Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine Given With, or Separately From, 13-valent Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine in Healthy Infants.

Myron Levine has mentored some U.S. post-doctoral fellows, and one of his proteges happens to be Raphael Simon, the senior director of vaccine research and development at Pfizer.

U.S. Post-Doctoral Fellows Mentored by Myron M. Levine, M.D., D.T.P.H. 1976 until Present			
Name	**Training period**	**Title of research project**	**Last position**
James D Campbell, M.D.	1998-2001	Detailed measurement of human infant immune response to fractional doses of Hib conjugate vaccine, including antibody avidity	Center for Vaccine Development, University of Maryland School of Medicine
Milagritos Tapia, M.D.	2001 - 2003	Measurement of tetanus antitoxin in oral fluids from Malian infants, children and adults. Measles serosurveys to define the "window of vulnerability" in rural Malian infants	Assoc. Prof., Center for Vaccine Development, Univ. of MD School of Medicine
Jakub Simon, M.D.	2003-2005	Measurement of measles antibodies in Chilean adults immunized with Edmonston Zagreb attenuated measles vaccine administered intranasally or subcutaneously	Director, Clinical Research, Vaccines Merck & Co
Julia Hutter, M.D.	2006-2009	Cross-sectional survey of anti-*Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) antibody and tetanus antitoxin	DAIDS, NIAID, NIH
Kelly K. Baker, Ph.D.	2009-2011	Comparison of water and sanitation conditions of case versus control households to identify environmental risk factors for the development of severe pediatric diarrheal disease	Assistant Professor, Occupational & Environmental Health, University of Iowa
Raphael Simon. Ph.D.	2009-2012	Development of a bivalent *Salmonella* Enteritidis/*Salmonella* Typhimurium conjugate vaccine to prevent invasive non-typhoidal *Salmonella* disease in sub-Saharan Africa	2019 - Sr. Director, Vaccine Research and Development, Pfizer
Adetinuke Mary Boyd, M.D.	2011-2013	Measurement of serum bactericidal antibody against non-typhoidal *Salmonella* serovars. Development of an ultra-sensitive quantitative real-time PCR method for identifying invasive *Salmonella* infections in blood. Setting up a field trial in Karachi, Pakistan to test the sensitivity and specificity of a new qPCR diagnostic versus standard blood culture	Medical Officer, DHHS/CDC/CGH/DGHT - Lusaka, Zambia

James Hildreth, temporary voting member, made a financial interest disclosure for this meeting in which he disclosed more than $1.5 million in relevant financial interests, including his work as president of Meharry Medical College, which administers Pfizer Coronavirus vaccines.

Geeta K. Swamy is listed as the chair of the "Independent Data Monitoring Committee for the Pfizer Group B Streptococcus Vaccine Program," a committee sponsored by Pfizer. Duke University states that "Dr. Swamy serves as a co-investigator for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine trial."

Research Ethicist Faculty Search Committee, Trent Center for Bioethics, Humanities & History of Medicine, Duke University, 2017

Chair, Independent Data Monitoring Committee for the Pfizer Group B Streptococcus Vaccine Program #C109, 2017 to present

Department of Medicine Chair Search Committee, Duke University, 2017

Gregg Sylvester previously served as a vice president for Pfizer Vaccines, where he launched Pfizer vaccines including one for children.

Career Highlights

- Head of Medical Affairs for Seqirus, a CSL company
- Launched Pfizer's Pediatric and Adult Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine, as well as Meningococcal B vaccine in the USA
- Launched Merck's HPV4 vaccine in over 100 countries, presented to numerous National Immunization Technical Advisory Groups (NITAGs), public health and medical societies
- Partnered with community organizations in Delaware to reduce infant mortality, teen pregnancy rates and HIV rates

Professional Experience

SEQIRUS, a CSL company Summit, N.J

Vice President, Medical Affairs 2016 – present

- Responsible for the strategy and implementation of Medical Affairs plan
- Ensures appropriate use of Seqirus' influenza vaccines
- Overseas Phase IV research and presents data to NITAGs and other key stakeholders.

PFIZER VACCINES Collegeville, Pa

Vice President, Medical and Scientific Affairs: Americas 2013 – 2016

- Spearheaded science-based rationale to preserve Prevnar 13 infant schedule in US recommendations
- Successfully achieved an adult Prevnar 13 recommendation from US Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice
- Accelerated launch of groundbreaking Meningococcal B vaccine to accommodate urgent public health need

Global Head of Medical Affairs for Pediatric Vaccines 2010 – 2013

- Global Medical Lead for Pfizer's Pediatric vaccine, Prevnar 13
- Created medical strategy for Prevnar 13, an asset exceeding over $5 billion in revenue
- Created innovate systems to improved scientific exchanges in a complex, global environment

Among the meeting's "temporary voting members," Ofer Levy, Boston Children's Hospital, is for the Pfizer vaccine for children, Eric Rubin is pro-vaccine for children, Jay Portnoy supports authorizing Coronavirus vaccines for kids, and Melinda Wharton complained over the summer about how orders for the CDC's "Vaccines For Children" program dropped.

FDANews stated last December: "FDA advisory committee members in the past have frequently been the target of heavy politicking by industry representatives of whatever drug they were considering for a recommendation at in-person meetings. That process has been somewhat altered by the fact that during COVID-19, meetings are being held virtually. But it's likely that behind-the-scenes pressuring still goes on. The industry defends the attempts to influence committee members as simply efforts to best present their case."

Patrick Howley

Patrick Howley is a seasoned reporter responsible for revealing the Veterans Affairs scandal, exposing Ralph Northam's racist yearbook photo, breaking the Cal Cunningham adultery scandal, and revealing the financial links between the Pelosi family and Ukraine. Howley is currently focusing on the possible politicization of Child Protective Services. Follow Patrick on Twitter @HowleyReporter and at Gab.com/patrickreports