

Recognize scientific source of information vs fake news

*Professor George E. Griffin
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Brussels, 6 November 2018

Who do you believe?



Hardworking Britons may receive TAX CUT Financial Secretary hints ahead of Autumn Budget

HOPES of an income tax cut for millions of hard-working households were dramatically boosted last night when a Treasury minister signalled that keeping taxes low will be a top Budget

By MACER HALL, EXCLUSIVE

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Brexit: Campaigner demands taxes to be CUT by 10%



Promised tax cuts dropped to fund welfare

Higher personal allowance abandoned as Hammond gives ground on universal credit

The Daily Telegraph 12 Oct 2018 [+14 more](#) By Anna Mikhailova Political correspondent

PHILIP HAMMOND plans to scrap a promised income tax cut to pay for a climbdown on universal credit, *The Daily Telegraph* understands.

The Chancellor is under pressure to find an extra £2 billion to ease the troubled roll-out of the benefit scheme after ministers admitted some people would be worse off.

Esther Mcvey, the Work and Pensions Secretary, is reported to have warned Cabinet colleagues that some recipients would be £2,400-a-year poorer under universal credit (UC).

Sir John Major, the former prime minister, yesterday warned that the

Government could trigger “the sort of problems that the Conservative Party ran into with the poll tax” if it did not urgently address the problems. Both he and Iain Duncan Smith, the architect of UC, said the Government needed to reverse a £2 billion cut to UC made by George Osborne in 2015.

It is thought the extra money would be used to counter some of the former chancellor’s changes. No 10 hinted at a climbdown, saying: “We are listening to concerns and we are taking a test-and-learn approach to universal credit, improving the system as we roll it out.”

The Daily Telegraph understands that Mr Hammond plans to scrap a

manifesto pledge to raise the personal allowance for income tax in order to put more money into UC. The Tories promised to increase the level at which workers start paying income tax from £11,850 to £12,500 by 2020.

The higher rate income tax threshold was meant to rise from £46,351 to £50,000 over the same period, according to the Tory manifesto pledge. The Chancellor is already under pressure to raise taxes at the Budget following the Prime Minister’s pledge to give the NHS a £20 billion funding boost by 2023. He must also find another £1.8 billion to pay for a freeze on fuel duty and more money for housing. UC replaces a range of existing welfare

payments and is designed to encourage claimants back into work by ensuring that getting a job will always make them better off.

However, workers on the lowest incomes can find themselves out of pocket when they start earning more.

Ms Mcvey said: “I have said we made tough decisions – and some people will be worse off.” Mr Duncan Smith, who quit as work and pensions secretary over the £2 billion cuts, said they must be reversed for the system to operate as planned.

Sir John told the BBC: “You need to look at those people who in the

short term are going to lose, and protect them, or you will run into the sort of problems the Conservative Party ran into in the late Eighties.” Nigel Mills, the Tory MP, urged ministers to slow down the roll-out until payments were made accurately and on time.

Reports last night also alleged the Government had inserted clauses into contracts with charities and companies working with universal credit claimants to prevent them criticising its work.

A government spokesman said UC was “based on the sound principles that work should always pay and those who need support receive it. We are listening to concerns about

achieving these principles, improving the benefit, and targeting support to the most vulnerable, including for around one million disabled people who will receive a higher award under universal credit.”

When Sir John Major and Gordon Brown agree on something, it’s worth paying attention. As prime ministers, both had serious flaws. But as retired politicians, they know how to use their status to put neglected issues on the political agenda, as they have over universal credit. Both have this week suggested that the painful implementation of the new benefits system will result in a “poll tax moment”, with people taking to the streets to protest in a show of anger that

Autism and measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine

THE LANCET

Log in Register

RETRACTED: Ileal-lymphoid-nodular hyperplasia, non-specific colitis, and
pervasive developmental disorder in children

Dr AJ Wakefield, FRCS · SH Murch, MB · A Anthony, MB · J Linnell, PhD · DM Casson, MRCP · M Malik, MRCP
et al. [Show all authors](#)

Published: February 28, 1998 · DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(97\)11096-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(97)11096-0)

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Background

We investigated a consecutive series of children with chronic enterocolitis and regressive developmental disorder.

Methods

12 children (mean age 6 years [range 3–10], 11 boys) were referred to a paediatric gastroenterology unit with a history of normal development followed by loss of acquired skills, including language, together with diarrhoea and abdominal pain. Children underwent gastroenterological, neurological, and developmental assessment and review of developmental records. Ileocolonoscopy and biopsy sampling, magnetic-resonance imaging (MRI), electroencephalography (EEG), and lumbar puncture were done under sedation. Barium follow-through radiography was done where possible. Biochemical, haematological, and immunological profiles were examined.

Findings

Onset of behavioural symptoms was associated, by the parents, with measles, mumps, and rubella vaccination in eight of the 12 children, with measles infection in one child, and otitis media in another. All 12 children had intestinal abnormalities, ranging from lymphoid nodular hyperplasia to aphthoid ulceration. Histology showed patchy chronic inflammation in the colon in 11 children and reactive ileal lymphoid hyperplasia in seven, but no granulomas. Behavioural disorders included autism (nine), disintegrative psychosis (one), and possible postviral or vaccinal encephalitis (two). There were no focal neurological abnormalities and MRI and

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- Lead to MMR vaccine refusal
- Research shown to be incorrect
- GMC remove Wakefield from register
- Wakefield in USA private funding

RETRACTED

Some myths about vaccines

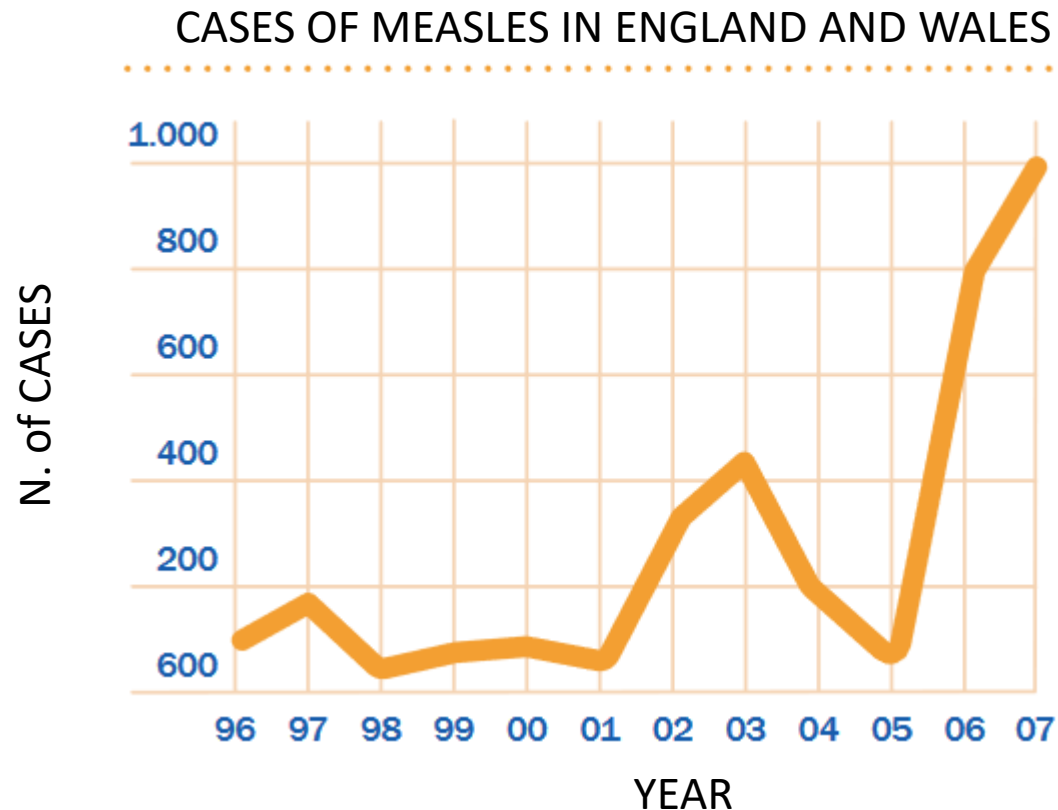
Myth n.1: Vaccines weaken the immune system

- Studies demonstrate that vaccines do not weaken the immune system
- Today we know which vaccines can or cannot be administered at the same time.



Myth n.2: Vaccines are not useful anymore

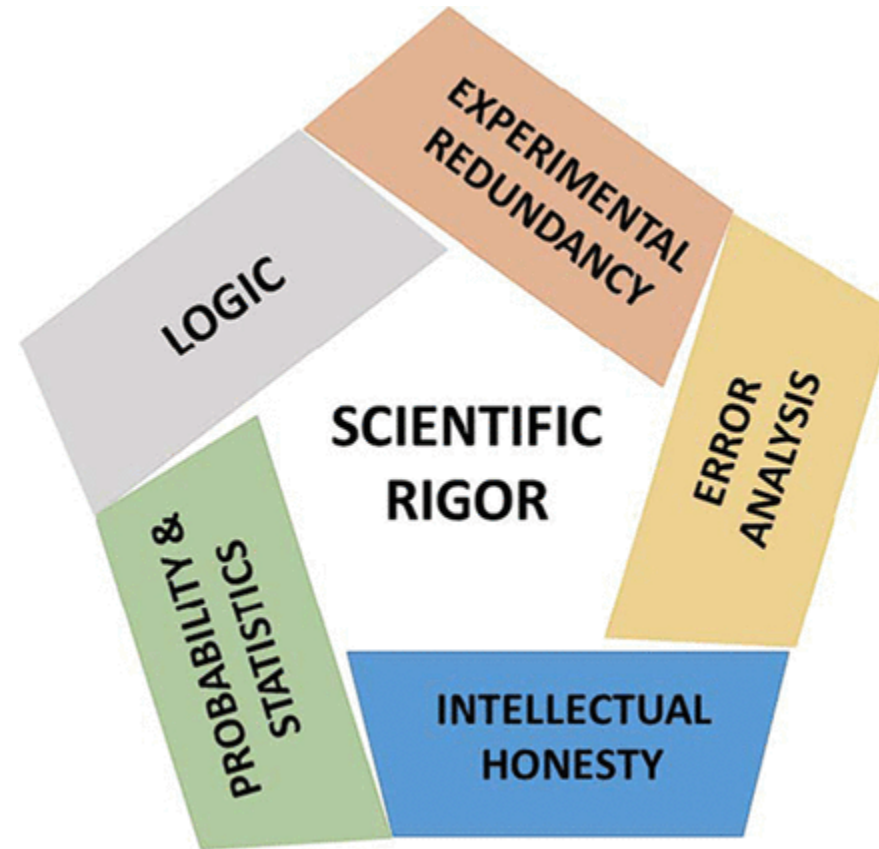
- After the publication of the Wakefield study many parents did not agree to vaccinate their children



Source: Andrea Grignolio, «Storie sui Vaccini» Institute Pasteur of Italy/IBSA, page n.43

How to recognise fake news?

Good science = scientific rigor



Source: Arturo Casadevall, Ferric C. Fang *mBio* Nov 2016, 7 (6) e01902-16; DOI: 10.1128/mBio.01902-16

Tips for evaluating news

1. Check the publisher's credibility

Would the publishing site meet academic citation standards?

Just because a site is popular among your friends does not mean its content is accurate.

Who is the author? Has he or she published anything else?

Source: Christina Nagler, *4 Tips for Spotting a Fake News Story*, Harvard Summer School,
<https://www.summer.harvard.edu/inside-summer/4-tips-spotting-fake-news-story>

Tips for evaluating news

2. Pay attention to quality and timeliness

Are there spelling mistakes? Reputable sources have high proofreading and grammatical standards.

Is the story current or recycled? Make sure an older story isn't being taken out of context.

Tips for evaluating news

3. Check the sources and citations

Who is (or is not) quoted, and what do they say? Credible journalism is fed by fact-gathering.

Is the information available on other sites? Credible information is usually reported in other sources.

Can you perform reverse searches for sources and images? By checking cited sources, you can confirm that the information has been accurately applied and not altered to meet the author's point of view.

Planned development in computer aided detection of fake news

- Prof. Piek Vossen (Computational lexicology), Vrije University Amsterdam
- Blogging, emotion, conspiracy -- No evidence
- How to find your way
Developing web, order information by shared observation
- Perspective web (in progress)



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