

Sheep revelations

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Over the years, most practising homeopaths have become accustomed to being at the receiving end of lies, misleading information and even overt denigration, courtesy of the mainstream media. Naturally, we would prefer it to be otherwise, but we don't have the time, energy or resources to take on the mighty pharmaceutical industry, so we usually try to ignore the nonsense, and focus on what is important: supporting our patients. Sometimes it feels as though we're the only ones in the firing line, and that homeopathy alone attracts all the flack. This is certainly not the case. Even respected scientists who are experts within their field, and have absolutely nothing to do with homeopathy, can be silenced or maligned, especially if their work challenges the apparent safety or effectiveness of the international vaccine programme.

In November 2018, the Dutch publishing house Elsevier, one of the world's major providers of scientific and medical information, took the unprecedented step of withdrawing an article which had already been peer-reviewed, accepted and published online in the journal *Pharmacological Research*. No reason was given for pulling the paper. All that was stated was: 'Withdrawn at the request of the editor'. The paper, compiled by the Spanish veterinary pathology researcher Lluís Luján and his team, was a small-scale, easily replicable animal study, but the subject matter was potentially highly contentious: *Cognition and behaviour in sheep repetitively inoculated with aluminium adjuvant-containing vaccines or aluminium adjuvant only*.

A withdrawn paper in the world of academia is viewed in the same light as a retracted paper, which means it is assumed to represent poor research, or be significantly flawed. Luján was understandably shocked by this inexplicable decision to withdraw his paper, and he challenged the editor directly. First, he was told that 'readers' had concerns about flaws in his methodology but, when pressed to specify the apparent flaws, it transpired that just one reader, subsequently anonymised, had provided a signed 'note of concern'. Luján still refused to voluntarily withdraw his paper, so the editor insisted that he (Luján) re-submit all his raw data for review by the journal's statistical editor, Elia Biganzoli, a biostatistician from Milan. Having studied the data used by Luján, Biganzoli observed that the paper focused on 'a very delicate issue in science', but he could see no good reason to withdraw the article. Despite Luján's research methodology being deemed acceptable by a reputable independent reviewer, the editor went ahead and withdrew the article anyway. The ramifications of this action are startling. **When a respected mainstream, science journal appears willing to nullify all the usual publishing protocols in order to censor important information being placed in the public domain, something is seriously wrong.** Science is supposed to support, advance and uphold the pursuit of truth, irrespective of what the findings may reveal, so the fact that the Luján paper was gagged should ring alarm-bells throughout the

scientific community. It can also lead to the conclusion that vested interests find it acceptable to use their considerable powers to suppress facts, and manipulate the truth.

So, what was so controversial about the sheep study, and in what way was it revealing? To place this matter into context, one of Lluís Luján's responsibilities is to determine the cause of unexpected death in farm animals. Back in 2007, he was called out to a farm in the Aragon region of Spain, to examine a flock of sheep exhibiting strange and unusual symptoms; they were emaciated, and had been wool-biting (pulling out their own wool, or that of others in the flock). Their behaviour ranged from restless and skittish, to weak and lethargic, and some had such bad tremors they could barely stand. The farmer had never seen anything like it before. Luján ran all the usual tests, looking for nutritional deficiencies, environmental toxins, parasite infestations and other possible pathogens, but the results revealed nothing of consequence. In the end, Luján recommended that the flock should be culled, and the farmer compensated.

Nearly two years later, there was an outbreak of bluetongue across Europe. This is a potentially deadly viral disease which affects ruminants (mainly sheep), and is insect-borne. A mass immunisation programme was ordered and, in what has been described as the widest vaccination campaign in history, an estimated 90 million animals were targeted. In the weeks following the vaccinations, Luján began receiving multiple reports of sheep exhibiting strange symptoms, which included agitation, lethargy, wool-biting, involuntary tremors, disorientation, spontaneous abortion and, in some severe cases, seizures followed by death. What he saw was remarkably similar to the mystery symptoms exhibited by the sheep in Aragon, back in 2007. Furthermore, a number of farmers were convinced that there was a direct correlation between administering the bluetongue vaccine, and the sheep becoming ill. Some affected sheep did recover, but many more died, and veterinarians across the region were overwhelmed by the ferocity of this unidentified disease, which threatened to decimate Spain's sheep industry.

Following on from the possibility of a link between the bluetongue vaccine and the appearance of the mystery condition, Luján started to research various medical journals for information. In one particular human immunology journal, he was introduced to a condition known as Autoimmune / Inflammatory Syndrome Induced by Adjuvants, or ASIA for short. It was recognised that the aluminium adjuvants used in human vaccines could trigger a hyperactive immune response in some people, and these adjuvants were also connected to diseases such as encephalitis, macrophagic myofasciitis and Gulf War syndrome. Furthermore, the symptoms described in post-vaccination syndrome in humans were remarkably similar to those exhibited by the affected sheep, and aluminium is the adjuvant used in the bluetongue vaccine. Luján referred to this 'mystery' condition which had affected thousands

of sheep as 'Ovine ASIA syndrome' and, in order to better understand the possible link between the aluminium adjuvant and the diseased sheep, he and his team set up a trial to study different aspects of the pathological developments associated with aluminium adjuvant exposure.

The trial was designed to replicate, under controlled conditions, what had happened earlier to the millions of sheep adversely affected by the bluetongue immunisation programme. The trial animals were lambs, which were separated into three groups, isolated from each other, but kept in similar conditions. They comprised a control group to be given injections of saline only, a vaccine group, and a group which were inoculated with the aluminium-adjuvant only. Initially, they were all given seven doses of injections, followed by an assessment. The vaccination schedule was then accelerated, and the trial lambs received a total of 16 injections over a 12-month period.

One study resulting from the trial was published in *Veterinary Pathology* in October 2018, and tracked levels of neurotoxic aluminium in the vaccinated / adjuvanted lambs. Following post-mortem examination, it was revealed that all of the vaccinated lambs, and 93% of the adjuvant-only lambs, had developed clusters of small, cyst-like nodules under the skin, known as 'granulomas'. These granulomas, which are formed of white blood cells, appeared at the injection site and nearby lymph nodes, and were loaded with neurotoxic aluminium. Contrary to assertions frequently made by public health officials, this study shows that aluminium is not excreted by the body, and it is certainly not inert. In fact, according to this study, the aluminium seems to slowly migrate from the lymph nodes to distant parts of the body, and eventually accumulates in the brain.

As stated above, the vaccinated sheep produced more toxic granulomas than the adjuvant-only group, suggesting that the combination of a vaccine with aluminium potentially induces profound physiological changes. A second study resulting from the lamb trial examined the genetic changes which occur following vaccination. The findings, which were published in *Frontiers in Immunology* in October 2018, appear to confirm that the vaccinated group were more negatively affected than the aluminium-adjuvant only group. Following detailed gene sequencing of blood samples taken from the trial lambs, the vaccinated group showed a higher immune response than the group receiving the aluminium adjuvant on its own. This, to some extent, was to be expected because the vaccine also carried an antigen intended to stimulate an immune response. However, the team seemed to feel this was a point which warranted further research, because it was unclear if the heightened immune response indicated lasting immunity, or an over-stimulated (deranged) immune system. The team's conclusion included a note of caution: '... it seems that aluminium-containing adjuvants are not simple delivery vehicles for antigens, **but also induce endogenous danger signals that can stimulate the immune system.**'

The third and final study resulting from Luján's trial is the one which Elsevier has withdrawn, and it charts the severe and distressing behavioural changes which took place in the lambs subjected to frequent aluminium-adjuvanted vaccinations. After receiving the first seven inoculations, the trial lambs, now just a few months-old, were assessed. The vaccinated and adjuvanted group were already displaying unusual behavioural patterns, which ranged from seeking solitude and being antisocial (most 'un-lamb-like'), to restlessness, compulsive eating, aggression and wool-biting.

During that winter, blood sample analysis showed that both the vaccinated and aluminium-adjuvanted group had raised cortisol levels. The vaccinated group also had an increased white blood cell count, which indicated that the vaccine itself was responsible for this increase. Both raised cortisol levels and a high white blood cell count are symptoms normally seen in animals experiencing stress, yet the trial conditions were not stressful. Furthermore, the control group had normal cortisol levels and a normal white blood cell count. Although the trial lambs did not go on to develop the more extreme symptoms which had previously been observed during the chronic phase of Ovine ASIA syndrome (such as debilitating tremors, seizures and even death), it needs to be remembered that all the experimental animals were young, and treated well. What the trial did clearly demonstrate was that significant neurological changes took place following vaccination. It would be reasonable to speculate that if a similar trial was undertaken involving adult sheep living under normal, sometimes stressful, field conditions, the neurological changes would be more severe.

Closer to home, Chris Exley, professor in Bioinorganic Chemistry at Keele University, is another person currently under attack because, having spent 30 years studying the effect of aluminium adjuvants in humans, he has expressed concerns about their safety. **This is an ongoing and developing situation which should be a matter of grave concern to all of us.** Exley is not an anti-vaxxer, but he has (among other things) had the temerity to question the use of a sulphated version of aluminium hydroxyphosphate, the adjuvant used in the Gardasil HPV vaccine manufactured by Merck. Based on his research, Exley considers this adjuvant to be especially toxic, yet Merck has failed to make it available for independent analysis or safety testing.

We know that a significant number of apparently healthy young girls have experienced severe, even debilitating symptoms, following the Gardasil vaccine. If the adjuvant is the primary cause of these adverse reactions, we need to know and, if the manufacturers themselves suppress vital information about the safety of their product, we need people like Chris Exley to establish the truth. Because Exley has made his concerns public knowledge and, furthermore, suggested the possibility of a link between paediatric vaccinations and autism, he has now had his research funding withdrawn, and is forced to rely on crowdfunding to continue his important work.

Two different scientists, working in very different fields, have reached the same conclusion; they have been able to clearly demonstrate that vaccines containing aluminium adjuvants can cause significant physiological and neurological changes. So far, public health agencies, the pharmaceutical industry, and even some fellow scientists, have chosen to suppress, nullify, deny or denigrate their findings. Even more alarmingly, the response of governments across the globe to the concerns raised by researchers such as Luján and Exley, appears to tacitly support the suppression of any information which might disclose the real dangers of the adjuvants used in many vaccines. Some governments have even imposed mandatory vaccination programmes on their citizens, thereby denying individuals the fundamental right of choice. This is both shocking and unacceptable but, ultimately, the truth will prevail. I suggest that the most effective way for us to counter this, and any future attempt to censor the facts, is to stay informed ourselves. We can then pass this information on to our patients, to ensure that the choices they make in relation to their health, are fully informed choices. □