

Why you should skip **VAXXED**: It can't be trusted.

This so-called "documentary" pretends to feature interviews with serious, rational parents and experts. Instead, it presents Andrew Wakefield's own little band of antivaccine friends/activists. Worse, they all treat autistic people as broken, diseased, and damaged.

Andrew Wakefield

Wakefield was a gastroenterologist. But his fraudulent study suggesting a link between MMR and autism was retracted by the Lancet. He was stripped of his medical license in the U.K. due to his unethical treatment of disabled children for the study. Yet he continues to urge parents to skip the MMR vaccine.

William Thompson

Audio recordings of Thompson's conversations with Brian Hooker are scattered throughout the film. We only hear short bits of dialog, no sustained lengths of conversation. So it is easy to imagine that these snippets are deliberately rearranged, cherry-picked, and pulled out of context.

Brian Hooker

Hooker evidently views himself as an epidemiologist or neurologist, and vaccine industry watchdog, although his background is in bioengineering on plants and fungi. Hooker had his own study on autism and MMR retracted from a science journal. It contained undeclared conflicts of interest that compromised the peer-review process.

Doreen Granpeesheh

Granpeesheh is a clinical psychologist. She is far from an internationally-recognized authority on autism. She is the founder of Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD). She used to work for Thoughtful House, which was Wakefield's clinic. In the film, she argues that GMOs and "toxins" cause autism.

Del Matthew Bigtree

Bigtree is credited as a "medical journalist" in the film. However, a review of his work online reveals that he has actually spent his time being a producer of the dubious *The Doctors* television show. He's also taken a shot at producing segments of the *Dr. Phil* show. There is no evidence online that he has any kind of background in either medicine or journalism.

Polly Tommey

Polly and husband Jon tell a gripping and emotionally-charged story of how their son has autism, and how they are certain it was due to MMR vaccine. They act like brave victims, and describe their son as a broken thing. Polly is editor of magazine *The Autism File* which sells quack cures. She's also worked closely with Wakefield on the Autism Media Channel.

Jim Sears

Sears (brother to Bob, author of the misleading *The Vaccine Book*) claims he is "not anti-vaccine" yet he has a history of voicing fishy statements about vaccines as a regular on *The Doctors*. He has said at least as far back as 2008 that vaccines can cause autism in "sensitive kids", and that organic foods will boost a child's immune system.

Jeanna Reed

Reed is an antivaccine activist who also claims that her son was gripped with autism following his immunizations. She cofounded Autism Is Medical (AIM) and is the Public Relations Coordinator for Wakefield's and Tommey's Autism Media Channel. Reed describes her effort as focused on vaccine safety, but she embraces quack biomed studies.

Mark Blaxill

Blaxill is yet another anti-vax activist. He is the editor of *Age of Autism*, and former director of *SafeMinds*. Both organizations portray autism as an epidemic (it's not) in which children's brains are "lost". Both claim that autism is due solely to environmental stressors, not genetics. Blaxill frequently speaks at quack autism conferences.

Sheila Ealey

Ealey tells how her son got a double-dose of the MMR accidentally at age 13 months, and suddenly he stopped walking and crawling. She claims that his medical records were stolen from her evacuated apartment in New Orleans. Also that her lawsuit was thrown out because of something Merck did. She feels that her son's life has been robbed from him.

Luc Montagnier

Montagnier co-discovered HIV, and received a Nobel Prize for the breakthrough. He's also completed studies of questionable scientific merit. He is embraced by homeopaths for his claims that water can retain the electromagnetic signals of DNA that is no longer within it. His rigor-free results have yet to be reproduced.

David Weldon

Physician and former U.S. Representative Weldon has been a lover of vaccine conspiracy theories for over a decade. He pushed for legislation to ban Thimerosal from all vaccines, even though Thimerosal has been proven safe at the levels received in vaccines.

Stephanie Seneff

Seneff's background is in computer technology, yet she is frequently presented as an expert in biology. She gained notoriety by concluding that (because of glyphosate) by the year 2025, half of all children will be autistic. She equates correlation with causation. Odd that Seneff is in a film that wants you to believe that *vaccine ingredients* are the real culprits.

Dan Burton

Burton's background includes real estate and insurance, and is a former U.S. Representative. He believes that his grandson developed autism due to vaccines. Like Wheldon, he wished to recall all vaccines containing Thimerosal. He also pushed for a \$30 million study to assess the use of dangerous chelation therapy to cure autism.

Jim Moody

Judge Moody wrote an article with Wakefield for Tommey's *Autism File* magazine entitled "Ethics, Evidence and the Death of Medicine". Moody has also appeared in two other "documentaries": *Autism: Made in the U.S.A.* (2009) and *Global Eugenics: Using Medicine to Kill* (2009). Both posture vaccination as a blight on humanity.

Rachael Ross

Similarly to Jim Sears, Ross has appeared regularly on *The Doctors*, as a co-host in fact. And similarly, she pretended to go from staunchly pro-vax to anti-MMR during the course of the movie. She just can't believe the CDC lied. This bit of drama is also astonishingly misleading. Because two years ago, she was arguing against the HPV vaccine.

Trustworthy Resources

Autistic Self Advocacy Network

autisticadvocacy.org

Simons Foundation Autism Research Initiative — SFARI

sfari.org

PACER Center: Family-to-Family Health Information Center

pacer.org/health

Autism Science Foundation autismsciencefoundation.org

Thinking Person's Guide to Autism thinkingautismguide.com

Left Brain Right Brain leftbrainrightbrain.co.uk