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Prof. Shoenfeld refers to Dr. Helen Petousis-Harris' attack on Dr. Manuel Martinez-Lavin's article. Clin Rheumatol 2016; 35: 833–834

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Dr. Luis R. Espinoza, MD
Editor-in Chief of Clinical Rheumatology
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Dear Dr. Espinoza,

I take the opportunity to refer to Dr. Helen Petousis-Harris' [1] attack on Dr. Manuel Martinez-Lavin's article [2].

We do understand the fear of physicians and health givers of any article raising suspicion of adverse effects of vaccines. Vaccines are composed of viral components [3] as well as adjuvant, i.e., aluminum [4–6]. Both of which may have adverse reactions with the immune system. These “attacks” are unjustified and prevent transparency from millions healthy people subjected to vaccines. Are all people immunized equal in regard to their responses to vaccines?

Is it possible that in some cases of hyperactive immune system (HLA DRB1) [7] we should avoid vaccines or approach those subjects with a personalized medicine [8, 9].

I would like to draw your attention to our experimental model study of Gardasil in mice [10]. The article went through peer reviewing in the journal *Vaccine*, was accepted by one of the Editors—Prof. Danny Altmann—and appeared on the internet website version of the journal. Then by an individual decision of one Editor, Dr. G. Poland, who has conflict of

interests with companies producing vaccines, it was withdrawn. A week later, 10 pages single-space reviewers' comments arrived to justify the post-factum withdrawal. These attacks on any physicians who are reporting cases, series or even epidemiological studies alluding to adverse effects of injected material to human body should be avoided [11].

Criticism should be directed against article reporting the use of Aluminum as a control for Gardasil [12].

Sincerely yours,



Prof. Yehuda Shoenfeld,

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