



editorial

Challenges for the Journal to Continue Publishing

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With this edition (No. 14, 2024) "Ozone Therapy Global Journal" celebrates 14 years of uninterrupted publication since 2011. With legitimate pride we can say that it is an editorial and scientific event of enormous magnitude within the periodical publications of medical ozone therapy in the world. Today, it is the only bilingual journal (English & Spanish), of its kind, that can boast of this achievement for the benefit of the medical and scientific dissemination of ozone therapy.

Challenges to ensure that the reader is sure that the published articles are scientific. In previous editorials we detailed some of the negative and harmful points that discredit scientific journals. We listed four.

1. What two editors of the two most prestigious medical journals in the world said. Richard Horton (The Lancet): "Much of the scientific literature, perhaps half, may simply be untrue." Marcia Angell (The New England Journal of Medicine): "It is simply no longer possible to believe much of the clinical research that is published, or to rely on the judgment of trusted physicians or authoritative medical guidelines."

2. What two editors of world-renowned medical journals and researchers and a president of a scientific association published. All three were at the economic service of the pharmaceutical giants and their research and publications sought the benefit of whoever paid them.

3. What two Nobel Prize winners and an epidemiologist said about the pharmaceutical companies. Thomas Steitz: "I may sound cynical, but drug companies [don't want people to get cured](#)." Gordon Guyatt: "There are many cases where the pharmaceutical industry has presented the drugs it manufactures as being highly profitable, when in reality the profit is quite small and the damage is not insignificant."¹ Ada Yonath: "The pharmaceutical companies provide these sick people with very expensive medicines that keep them alive."²

¹ <https://ozonetherapyglobaljournal.es/en/scientific-journals-and-their-challenge-to-advance-science/>

² <https://ozonetherapyglobaljournal.es/en/the-challenge-that-covid-19-represents-for-ozone-therapy-as-complementary-medicine/>

4. Million-dollar contracts for COVID-19 vaccines. Western pharmaceutical companies did not contribute a single cent to the discovery of anti-COVID vaccines. The money came exclusively from the taxpayers of the United States and the European Union. The United States government and the presidency of the European Union signed secret contracts with pharmaceutical giants. We had in 2021 only listed incompletely the huge profits granted to the industry to the detriment of the medical and economic interests of citizens. They did discover the vaccines, but the pharmaceutical companies sold them at high prices to the States that had paid for the entire research.³

What is the current situation?

The European justice confirms the illegality of the COVID-19 contracts. The European Commission “**did not give the public sufficiently wide access to the purchase agreements for Covid-19 vaccines**”. This was decided by the ruling of the General Court of the European Union.⁴

The ruling recalls that “purchase agreements for Covid-19 vaccines were concluded between the Commission and some pharmaceutical undertakings: approximately €2.7 billion were quickly released so that a firm order could be made for more than 1 billion doses of vaccine.” When appeals were filed to make the secret contracts public, the Commission, the ruling states, “granted only partial access to those documents, which were put online in redacted versions”.

The General Court annulled “the Commission’s decisions in so far as they contain irregularities. “As regards the agreements’ provisions on the indemnification of the pharmaceutical undertakings by the Member States for any damages [collateral damage] that those undertakings would have to pay in the event of their vaccines being defective the General Court states that a producer is liable for the damage caused by a defect in its product and its liability cannot be limited or excluded vis-à-vis the victim by a clause limiting, or providing an exemption from, liability under Directive 85/374 2.”

The Commission “did not provide sufficient explanations as to how access to the definitions of ‘wilful misconduct’ or ‘best reasonable efforts’, in some of the agreements, and as to how access to the agreements’ provisions on donations and resales of the vaccines, could actually and specifically undermine those commercial interests.”

It points out that the names of the persons who negotiated, on behalf of the Commission, with the pharmaceutical companies for the purchase of the vaccines should have been made public in order to verify” that they had no conflict of interests.”

German Christian Democrat Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission throughout the process of negotiation, signing and implementation of the secret contracts, and recently re-elected for a second term, managed “personally some contracts with Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla via calls and SMS and then delete those documents”.⁵

“The New York Times has sued the European Commission as part of a freedom-of-information request, seeking access to text messages Ms. von der Leyen exchanged with the chief executive of Pfizer over securing the deal for Covid 19 vaccines. The court case is pending in the European Court.”⁶

³ <https://ozonetherapyglobaljournal.es/en/pharmaceuticals-covid-vaccines-and-ozone-therapy/>

⁴ Press release, General Court of the European Union. Luxembourg, 17 July 2024. The Commission may appeal against this ruling before the Court of Justice of the European Union. <https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2024-07/cp240113en.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.swissinfo.ch/spa/justicia-ue:-la-comisi%C3%B3n-europea-no-dio-suficiente-informaci%C3%B3n-sobre-la-compra-de-vacunas/84057478>

⁶ <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/02/19/world/europe/ursula-von-der-leyen-european-commission-president.html?searchResultPosition=1>

At least one vaccine was not as safe as promised - Pharmaceutical company that makes an anti-Covid vaccine faces a lawsuit. The Vaxzevria vaccine, developed by AstraZeneca (AZ), was presented as “safe and effective”: It is “79% effective in preventing symptomatic disease and 100% against its severe forms.” The Anglo-Swedish company, one of the world's leading pharmaceutical companies, stressed that “there is nothing to indicate that it can cause problems with blood clotting.”⁷ However, the Spanish Agency for Medicines and Health Products (AEMPS, May 2021), in the vaccine leaflet “included thrombosis with thrombocytopenia, adding that these cases occurred ‘very rarely’ and alerted patients about the symptoms in order to obtain immediate attention.”⁸

Three years later, the European Commission “at the holder's request, the marketing authorisation granted” on 29 January 2021 “for the medicinal product “Vaxzevria - COVID-19 Vaccine (...) is withdrawn.”⁹ AstraZeneca justified its request by citing a “commercial decision,” insisting that it was “very proud” of the vaccine.¹⁰

It seems, however, that the company has been forced to do so by the class action lawsuit in the United Kingdom, involving 51 cases of victims and their families who are claiming 100 million pounds sterling for damages caused by the side effects of the vaccine. However, AZ insists that the withdrawal of the vaccine in Europe was not due to the open legal process, but rather due to “a surplus of vaccines available and a decrease in demand.”¹¹

AZ initially argued before the British Court that the claims against the company were “confused” and “wrong in law”. And added “the benefit/risk profile of the vaccine was, and remains, positive.” Later on it recognized that its Covid vaccine “can, in very rare cases, cause TTS. TTS – which stands for Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome – causes people to have blood clots and a low blood platelet count.”¹²

“Scientists first identified a link between the vaccine and a new illness called vaccine-induced immune thrombocytopenia and thrombosis (VITT) as early as March 2021, shortly after the Covid-19 vaccine rollout began. It was then recommended that under-40s be offered an alternative jab because the risk of the AstraZeneca vaccine outweighed the harm posed by Covid.” “Official figures from the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) show at least 81 deaths in the UK are suspected to have been linked to the adverse reaction that caused clotting in people who also had low blood platelets.”¹³

It worth indicating that chief executive of AZ “is the highest-paid boss among FTSE 100” [Financial Times Stock Exchange 100 Index] companies, with earnings close to £19 million.”¹⁴

What we have done and will continue to do with the publication of the journal

The challenges mentioned in the previous paragraphs (scientific articles written to serve the interests of pharmaceutical companies, Nobel Prize winners saying that medicines do not serve to cure, million-dollar contracts signed by States with pharmaceutical companies where the interest in discovering vaccines, although important, was not fundamental, but rather for the economic benefit of pharmaceutical companies, etc.) show how complex, complicated and difficult to be able to publish a journal that is sufficiently serious, credible, read, and independent, with the reader knowing that the medical articles we publish do have a scientific basis.

⁷⁷⁷ <https://es.euronews.com/2021/03/22/covid-19-los-datos-estan-con-astrazeneca-la-vacuna-es-segura-y-muy-eficaz>

⁸ <https://diariofarma.com/2024/05/06/la-comision-europea-suspende-la-comercializacion-de-la-vacuna-covid-de-az>

⁹ https://ec.europa.eu/health/documents/community-register/2024/20240327162288/dec_162288_en.pdf

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<https://www.bbc.com/mundo/articles/c72pyzev6gdo#:~:text=Tras%20m%C3%A1s%20de%20tres%20mil,la%20empresa%20que%20la%20produce.>

¹¹ <https://diariofarma.com/2024/05/06/la-comision-europea-suspende-la-comercializacion-de-la-vacuna-covid-de-az>

¹² <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/04/28/astrazeneca-admits-covid-vaccine-causes-rare-side-effect/>

¹³ <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/04/28/astrazeneca-admits-covid-vaccine-causes-rare-side-effect/>

¹⁴ <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/04/28/astrazeneca-admits-covid-vaccine-causes-rare-side-effect/>

Challenges that the journal routinely faces. To successfully overcome them, it means a titanic job for the authors, reviewers and editorial team of the journal.

The initial challenge is faced by the author of the paper that is published, because pharmaceutical companies do not finance research on ozone therapy as they do not obtain any economic benefit, since ozone cannot be encapsulated and sold. The research capacity of ozone therapists is therefore economically limited and in general their publications are the result of work carried out in their medical facilities, mostly private, and with a limited number of patients. Despite this, there are ozone therapists who dedicate extra time, financial resources, and updated knowledge to research and publish. The conclusive proof is the more than 352 papers that we have published over 14 years of tireless and constant work.

The next challenge is for the reviewers of the papers sent for publication. In addition to being a totally ad-honorem job, it is a thankless and practically unknown job. The reviewer does not know who the author of the article being reviewed is, nor does the author know who his reviewer was. The latter must have the scientific and editorial knowledge to be able to determine if the article meets the demanding requirements to give his approval; or if not, to return it to the author so that he can make the pertinent changes; and finally, if this is the case, reject its publication. It is a job that requires a huge amount of hours of work and effort, which goes unnoticed by readers.

The final challenge is to be able to send the papers, if there are sufficient financial resources, for their printing, revision and publication. Even if there are scientific articles to be printed and distributed, if there is no money, the journal cannot be published.

This entire process is carried out under the direct, immediate and constant supervision of the journal's management, so that the articles are scientific, innovative, and of educational and practical use to its readers.

Journal finances. Ozone Therapy Global Journal since its first issue in 2011 until now, has been an open access publication. Anyone had had totally free and unrestricted access to all issues of the journal and to each of its papers.

In practical terms, this meant that AEPROMO, the publisher of the journal, had to finance its publication with its own scarce resources. The journal's economic resources come solely from the fees paid by its members of AEPROMO and from the income from the continuing education courses organized. The journal does not have advertising and does not receive public or private subsidies. This guarantees the journal's complete editorial freedom and that its content supports, defends and disseminates the benefits of this therapy.

The economic challenge of the journal's survival in the future. After 14 years of publishing the journal completely free of charge, we find ourselves in the urgent need to convert it into a scientific journal with access:

- Free and comprehensive access to the entire journal for AEPROMO members, without any restrictions;
- Free and partial access, exclusively to the editorials, and the abstracts of each of the papers, for those who are not members of the association; and
- Paid access to the entire paper and/or a specific issue of the journal, for those who are not members of AEPROMO.

We have also been forced to ask authors to pay for their article, if it meets the editorial requirements, to be published in the journal. To encourage authors, the journal will publish, at the beginning of each year, the list of the first five papers that had the most visits in the previous year, regardless of the year in which the article was published.

The money received will be used to cover, even if only very partially, the annual costs of publication. Charging is nothing new in the publishing world of scientific journals. In this way, the journal enters a new economic stage, with the aim, until now rather utopian, of becoming self-financing at some point.

Commitment of the “Ozone Therapy Global Journal”

The Director and editor of the journal, all members of the Editorial Committee and Reviewers will continue to work on the journal free of charge and committed to ensuring that each published issue meets the international standards for publishing scientific journals, and that it contains articles that contribute to the dissemination and application of ozone therapy in a scientific manner.

AEPRIMO will continue to cover the costs of indexing, layout, computer equipment, hosting and updating of the web page, dissemination and advertising of the journal.

The reader can consult the [detailed economic policy](#) of the journal in another article found in this same issue.

We trust that readers will support this new stage of the journal, in search of its self-financing, and that reading and/or consulting its articles will provide with the information and knowledge that will be useful for the daily professional practice.