Global Health Cast
Thanks for joining!

Every Friday
12.00 noon - CET

Dr. Melvin Sanicas
Prof. Dr. Joe Schmitt
What we talk about today:

- COVID-19 update and news
- Can scientists / physicians make a difference in debunking “fake science”?
- Mild respiratory SARS-CoV2 infection may cause cellular dysregulation and myelin loss in the brain
- Measles vaccination gap – USA – and elsewhere?
Figure 1. COVID-19 cases reported weekly by WHO Region, and global deaths, as of 19 June 2022**

**See Annex 1: Data, table, and figure notes**
COVID-19 cases in Germany

12. Nov. 2021
Neue Fälle: 48,640
7-Tage-Mittelwert: 33,343
Can scientists and medical experts impact public beliefs in vaccines?

Study question:

Does expert endorsement increase effectiveness of debunking messages about COVID-19 vaccines?

Methods:

Sample: 2,277 people in Italy; longitudinal study; series of messages endorsed by either medical researchers (experimental group) or by generic others (control).
Results

- No increase in vaccination behavior, but:
  - Experimental group: higher intention to vaccinate, more positive vaccine-views.
  - Dose-response effect: more messages – higher vaccination intention.
  - Multiple exposure may be critical for debunking messages.
  - Significant effects regardless of participants’ trust toward science.

- Scientists and medical experts are not simply a generally trustworthy category but also a well-suited messenger in contrasting disinformation during vaccination campaigns.
Mild respiratory SARS-CoV2-infection may cause cellular dysregulation and myelin loss in the brain.
Measles susceptibility: COVID19-impact

BACKGROUND:
- Measles elimination (Ro 16-18) needs vaccination coverage > 95 %
- Routine measles vaccination declined during COVID-19 pandemic to 92%

METHODS: Immunity-estimation for children 0–18 years:
- Number and % subjects vaccinated with a measles containing vaccine (MCV), and
- age when fully vaccinated for all doses.

Gambrell A. Vaccine 2022: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vaccine.2022.06.033
Measles- vaccination Gap -2

**RESULTS:** Measles susceptibility
- Currently: 9,145,026 children (13.1%)
- Pandemic rates, 15,165,221 children (21.7%)
- Catch-up: 9,454,436 children (13.5%) (decline by 2–3%).
- 10% increased vaccine hesitancy: 14,925,481 children (21.37%)

**CONCLUSIONS:**
- Measles immunity is below herd immunity thresholds (USA).
- If pandemic-era reductions are not rectified, Immunity will decline further.
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In some instances, “hat failures” are failures to use the hat in the right way.

>90% of COVID-19 cases are not “vaccine failures” but “failures to vaccinate”