



Global Health Cast

Edition 3

June 24th, 2022

Global Health Cast

Thanks for joining!



Dr. Melvin Sanicas



Prof. Dr. Joe Schmitt

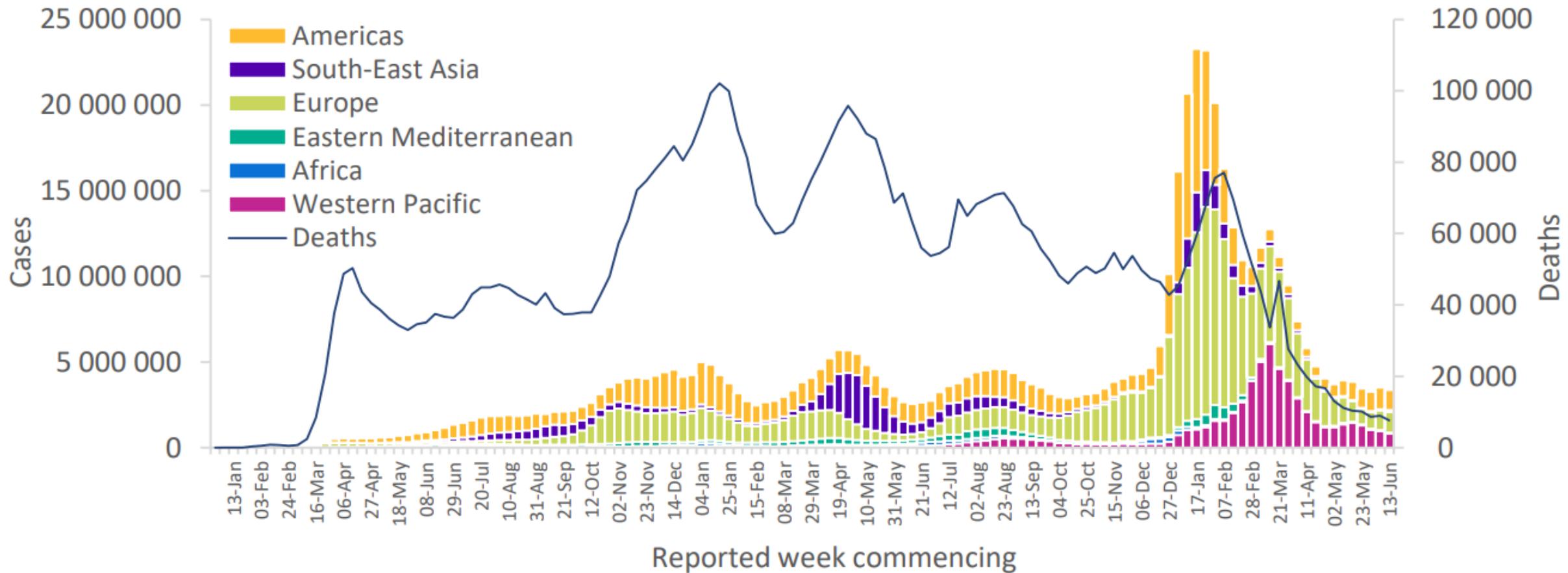
Every Friday

12.00 noon - CET

What we talk about today:

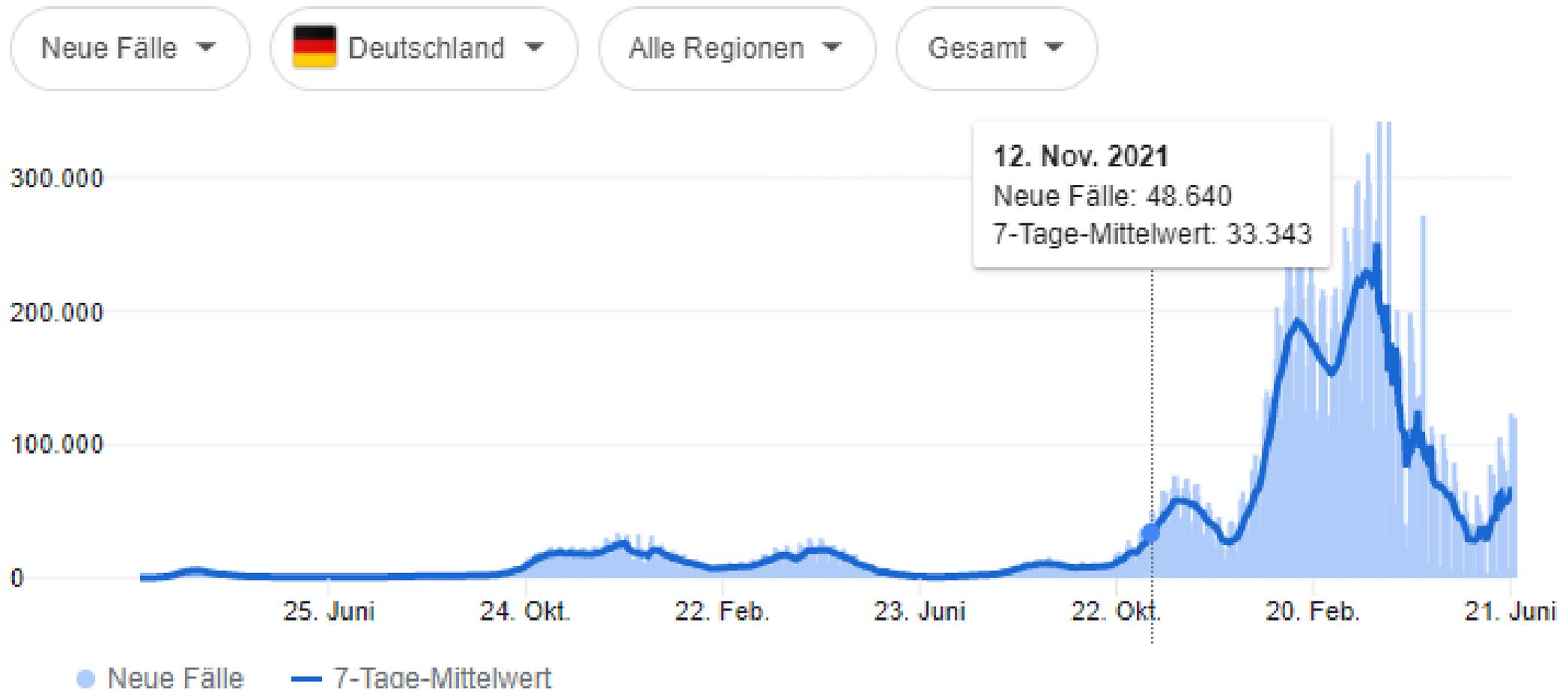
- ▶ COVID-19 update and news
- ▶ Can scientists / physicians make a difference in debunking “fake science”?
- ▶ Mild respiratory SARS-CoV2 infection may cause cellular dysregulation and myelin loss in the brain
- ▶ Measles vaccination gap – USA – and elsewhere?

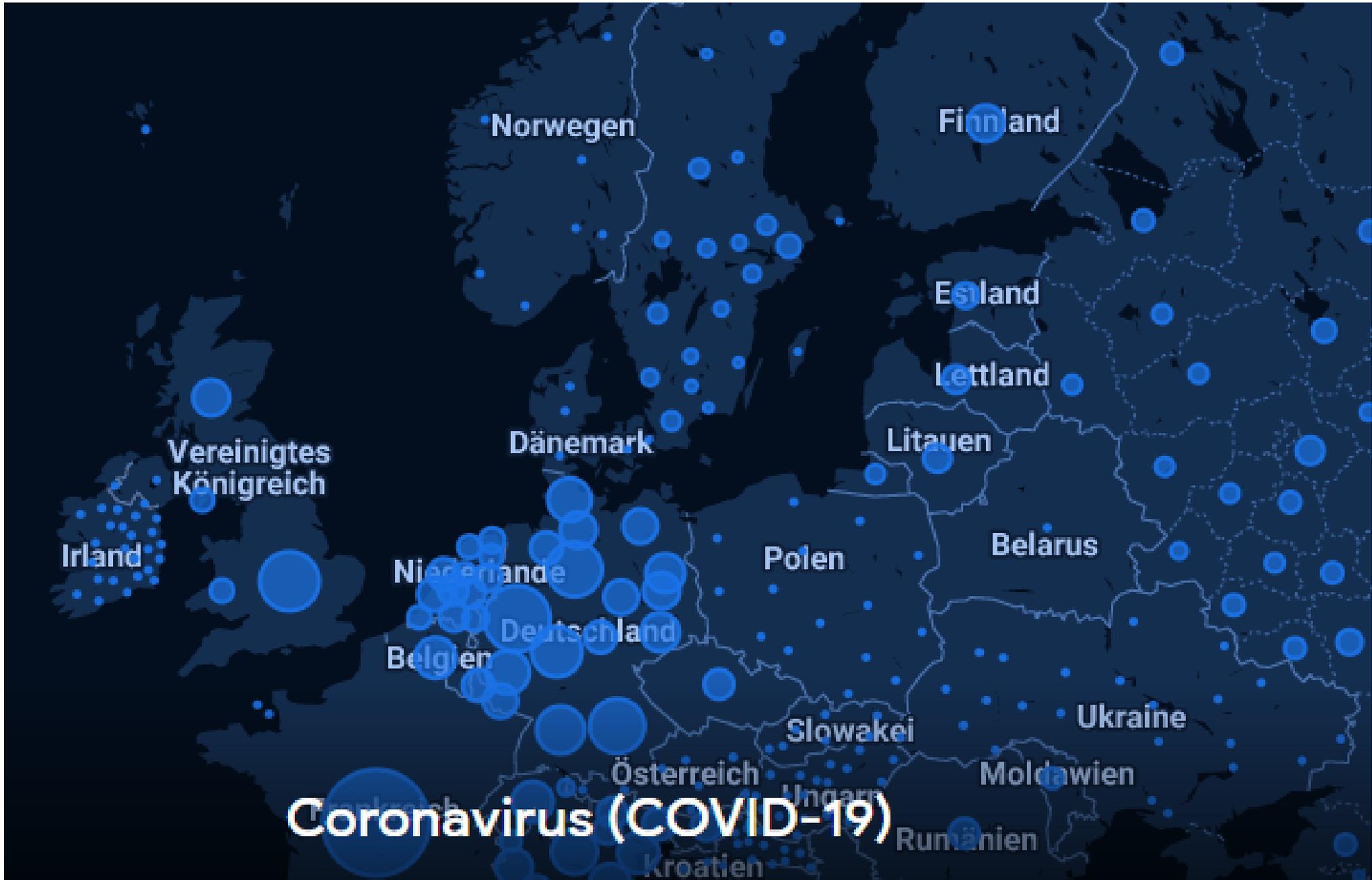
Figure 1. COVID-19 cases reported weekly by WHO Region, and global deaths, as of 19 June 2022**



**See [Annex 1: Data, table, and figure notes](#)

COVID-19 cases in Germany





Can scientists and medical experts impact public beliefs in vaccines?

▶ Study question:

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

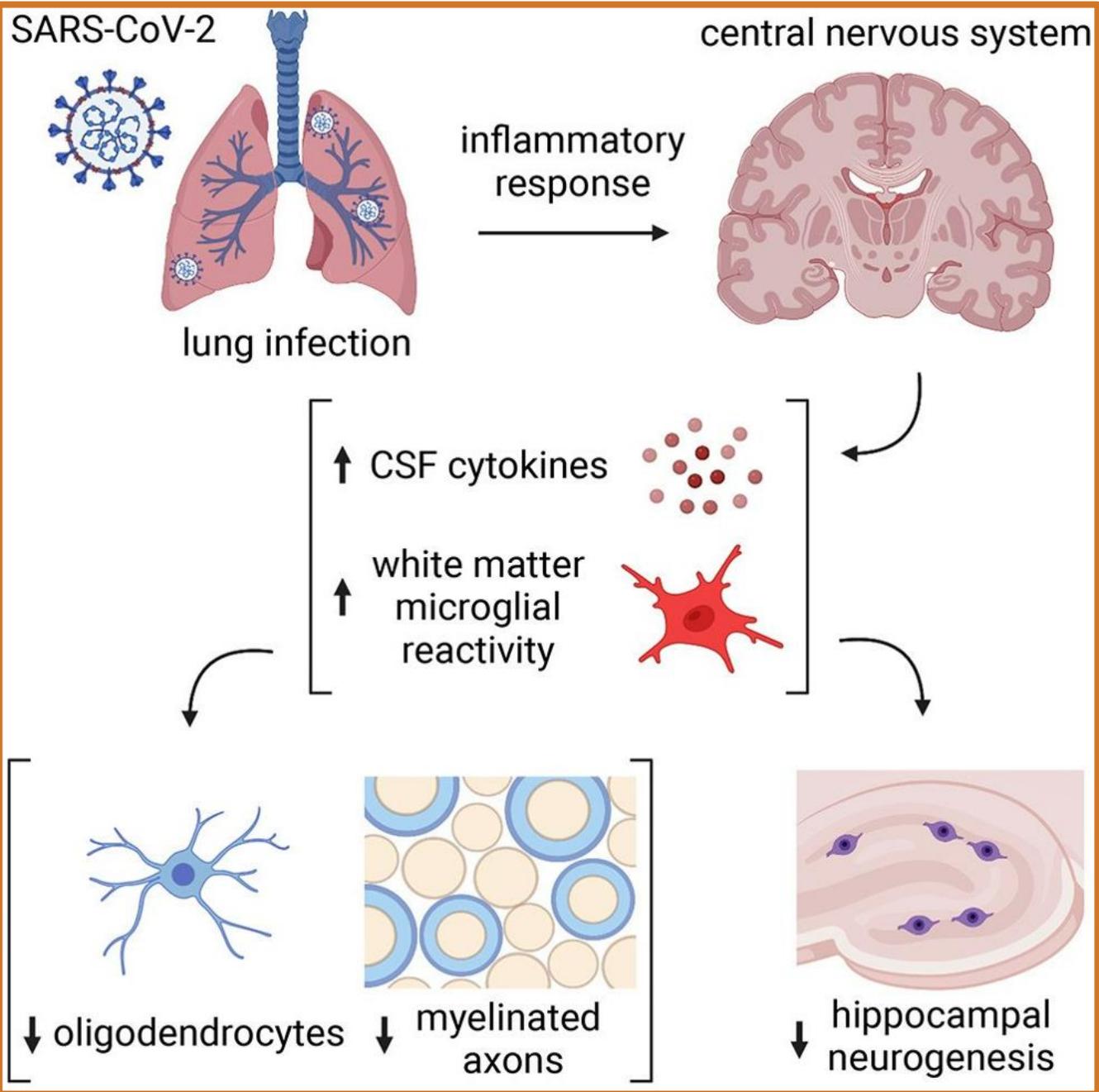
▶ Methods:

- ▶ 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 (R_0 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.

Measles- vaccination Gap -2

▶ **RESULTS:** Measles susceptibility

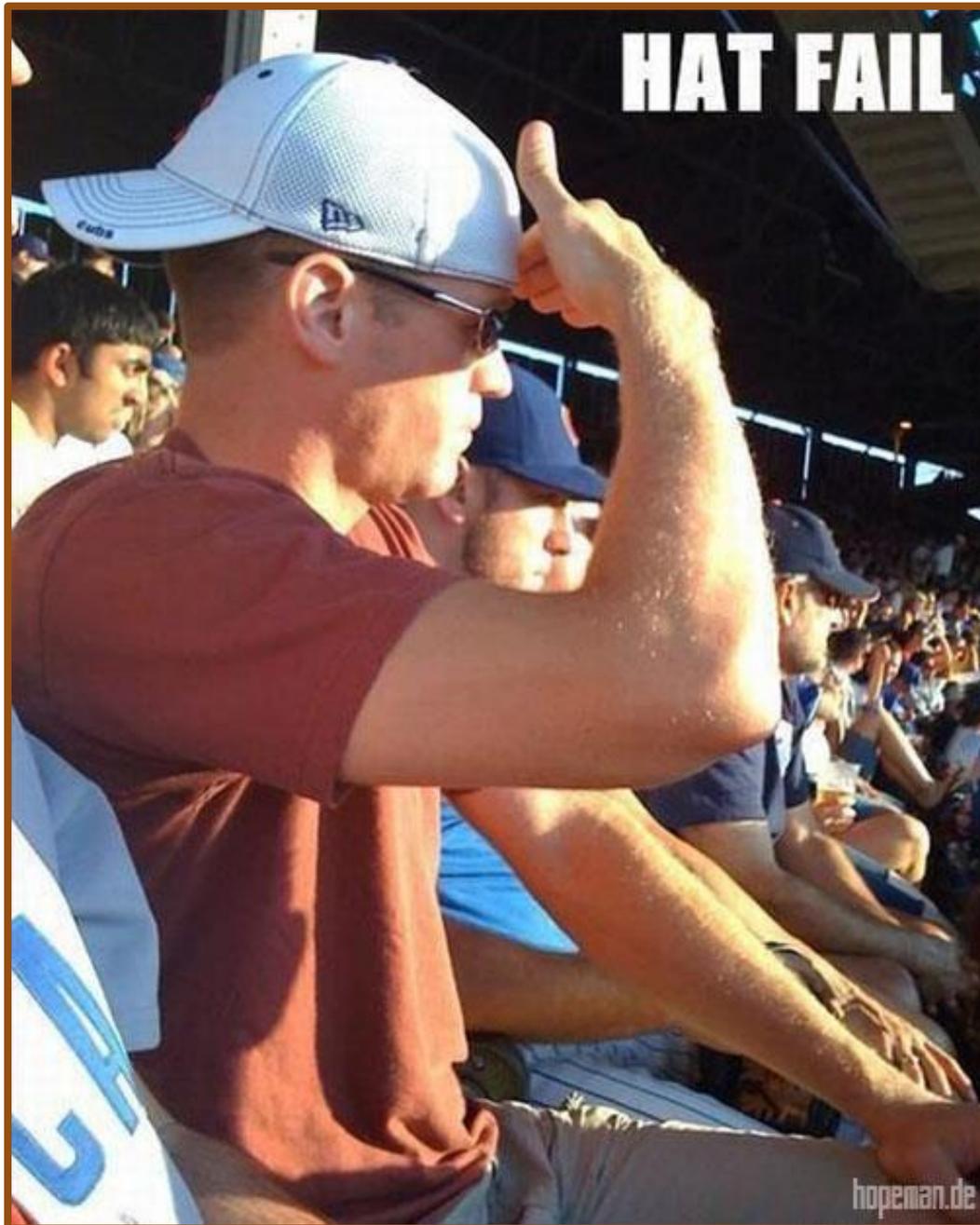
- ▶ Currently: 9,145,026 children (**13.1%**)
- ▶ Pandemic rates, 15,165,221 children (**21.7%**)
- ▶ Catch-up: 9,454,436 children (**13.5%**) (decline by 2–3%).
- ▶ 10% increased vaccine hesitancy 14,925,481 children (**21.37%**)

▶ **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**”