

# Conduct – Poul

## Kennedy Jr. and Children's Health Defense Issue Report Evidence of Ongoing Criminal and Scientific Misconduct

*Justice and a fresh look at criminal law enforcement action, rigorous and objective science, and safer vaccines.*

On September 18, 2017, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. outlined various criminal acts on the part of consultants for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) whose questionable ethics and actions resulted in untrustworthy vaccine safety.

Recently, Kennedy has found additional evidence of criminal activity by the CDC consultant, Poul Thorsen, who served as principal coordinator of multiple CDC projects involving a mercury-based preservative in vaccines, a component of autism.

Recently uncovered Children's Health Defense research shows that Thorsen and his collaborators did not obtain an Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval for a study which was published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* in 2002 and *Pediatrics* in 2003. In 2017, the U.S. Department of Justice indicted Thorsen on 22 counts of racketeering and money laundering for stealing over \$1 million in federal money earmarked for autism research. Kennedy's work for CDC was a series of fraudulent claims that autism rates that, today, form the basis of the orthodoxy that vaccines don't cause autism.

It is also revealed that Thorsen never applied for IRB approval and did not report the errors and retract his findings. A review of documents show that CDC

missteps and covered up the illegal

mines the legitimacy of these studies, the vaccine injury claims in the National Compensation Program (NVICP). The studies in VICP's "Omnibus" to dismiss 5000 who claimed that their children had autism related to vaccines. These claims, if settled in the past, have resulted in payouts totaling an

Chairman, stated, "Children's Health Defense Attorney General, Jeff Sessions, to extradite Thorsen to face prosecution. We also call upon the Department of Human Services, Dr. Tom Price, to review the related autism research papers that are excluded research."

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## **Children's Health Defense Report – Poul Thorsen Fugitive Researcher**

### **Update by Beth Clay**

Poul Thorsen is a key figure in the shaky research that denied justice to thousands of families whose children suffered a vaccine related neurological injury (brain and nervous system) that developed into autism spectrum disorder (ASD or autism). Thorsen's influence on US vaccine projects and policies is extensive. The studies he led had strong influence on the review and outcomes of the Institute of Medicine (now known as the National Academy of Medicine) of the National Academy of Sciences when looking at thimerosal in vaccines. Today, Thorsen is a fugitive from justice since a warrant for his arrest was issued in April 2001. Thorsen was added to the HHS Office of Inspector General's 'Most Wanted' list in April 2012.

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## **Poul Thorsen Exhibits 1-11: The Indictment**

POUL THORSEN, 49, of Denmark, has been indicted by a federal grand jury on charges of wire fraud and money laundering based on a scheme to steal grant money the CDC had awarded to governmental agencies in Denmark for autism research.

United States Attorney Sally Quillian Yates said of the case, "Grant money for disease research is a precious commodity. When grant funds are stolen, we lose not only the money, but also the opportunity to better understand and cure debilitating diseases. This defendant is alleged to have orchestrated a scheme to steal over \$1 million in CDC grant money earmarked for autism research. We will now seek the defendants extradition for him to face federal charges in the United States."

"Stealing research grant money to line his pockets, as Poul Thorsen stands accused of here today, cheats U.S. taxpayers and will simply not be tolerated," said Derrick L. Jackson, Special Agent in Charge of the Atlanta Region for the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Health & Human Services. "HHS/OIG will continue to work closely with our law enforcement partners to bring these criminals to justice."

Reginael D. McDaniel, Special Agent in Charge of the Atlanta Region for Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation said, "Today's global economy demands a high-level

coordinated approach by multiple agencies and authorities in the investigation of financial crimes. While schemes often become more sophisticated over time, fortunately, so do our investigative techniques. IRS Criminal Investigation is proud to have shared its hallmark expertise in following the money trail in the scheme alleged in this indictment.”

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### **Poul Thorsen Exhibits 12–23: Thorsen’s Research with the CDC/Lack of IRB Approvals**

Prosecutors in the United States are seeking to extradite a Danish scientist researching the relationship between autism and vaccines, who, they allege, stole more than US\$1 million in research funding. Poul Thorsen was a visiting scientist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta in the 1990s. US prosecutors say that after returning to Denmark in 2002, Thorsen submitted false invoices from the CDC to Aarhus University, which unknowingly funds to his personal account. He was last week charged with 13 counts of wire fraud and 9 of money laundering.

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### **Poul Thorsen Exhibits 24–34: Internal CDC E-mails/The Fraud is Discovered/Thorsen Resigns**

Meeting and conference call notes and other documents.

Various emails between Diana Schendel (CDC), Joanne Wojcik (CDC), Coleen Boyle (CDC), Marshalyn Yeargin-Allsopp (CDC), Lisa T. Garbarino (CDC), Nosrat Irannejad (CDC), Anne Christiansen (Danish Agency for Science), Technology and Innovation), Sonja Rasmussen (CDC), William A. Paradies (CDC), Margaret Honein (CDC), Adolfo Correa (CDC) and Randolph B. Williams (CDC).

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### **Poul Thorsen Exhibit 36: The Love Emails**

Love emails between Autism/Vaccine Researcher and CDC Grantee, Poul Thorsen, and his supervisor, Diana Schendel, CDC Autism/Vaccine Researcher

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### **Poul Thorsen Exhibits 35-40: Missing Money/The "Love" E-mails/The Cover Up**

Various emails between Diana Schendel (CDC), Teresa Fulford (CDC), Dorte Hejl, Søren K. Kjærgaard (University of Aarhus), Joanne Wojcik (CDC), Paul Thorsen, Darlene Carlton (CDC), Coleen Boyle (CDC), Erik Parner, Carsten Obel, Catherine Rice (CDC), Kim Van-Naarden-Braun, Robert Vogt (CDC), Marshalyn Yeargin-Allsopp (CDC), Ulrik Kesmodel, Clark Denny (CDC), Tina Røndrup Kilburn, Hanne-Lise Falgreen Eriksen, Ashild Skogerø and Jakob Grove.

Notes, minutes and documents from various meetings.

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## **Poul Thorsen Exhibit 41: Former Congressman Dave Weldon, M.D., on Scientific Fraud's Impact**

Further complicating the CDC's role in undermining the research is the fact that the vaccine safety studies produced by the CDC are impossible to reproduce. External researchers are not granted the same level of access to the raw data sets that the CDC's internal researchers are granted. The bottom line is that the CDC studies related to vaccine safety cannot be validated by external researchers, a critical component in demonstrating the validity of scientific findings. The CDC's recently convened Blue Ribbon Panel to examine how the CDC might better review vaccine safety is a step in the right direction. However, I do not hold out much hope because the panel is limited in its scope. Much like the IOM was limited in the outcome they were allowed to draw, this panel is limited to deciding where within CDC vaccine safety monitoring should be housed. The NIH recently recognized the importance of moving patient safety monitoring out of the NIH. I believe the same should be done with vaccine monitoring. It should be completely removed from CDC's jurisdiction. The CDC is too conflicted to oversee this function.

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## **Poul Thorsen Exhibit 42: SafeMinds – Analysis of the Danish Studies**

Poul Thorsen, a prominent researcher responsible for a series of epidemiological studies which utilized the Danish Psychiatric Central Research Register reviewed in this report was indicted April 13th, 2011 by a federal grand jury on 13 counts of fraud and 9 counts of money laundering based on a scheme to steal grant money the CDC had awarded to governmental agencies in Denmark for autism research. According to United States Attorney Sally Quillian Yates, "Grant money for disease research is a precious commodity. When grant funds are stolen, we lose not only the money, but also the opportunity to better understand and cure debilitating diseases. This defendant is alleged to have orchestrated a scheme to steal over \$1 million in CDC grant money earmarked for autism research. We will now seek the defendant's extradition for him to face federal charges in the United States."

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## **Poul Thorsen Exhibit 43: Schendel Reprimand for Improper Conduct**

May 14, 2009 Department of Health & Human Services Official Reprimand for Improper Conduct from Marshalyn Yeargin-Allsopp, MD to Diana Schendel: As part of an ongoing investigation related to funding

irregularities with the Denmark Cooperative Agreement (~018305 and DD-0230) [sic], CDC staff members were authorized to search all e-mails of those in authority related to the Denmark Cooperative Agreement. In so doing, it was discovered that a long-term relationship of a romantic nature has been ongoing between you and the Principal Investigator (PI) for the Denmark project, Dr. Poul Thorsen. During this review, it was also noted that information of sensitive/budgetary/programmatic nature was shared by you with the grantee (Dr. Thorsen). In addition, intense advocacy to the point of impartiality and lack of objectivity on your part for the Denmark project was witnessed and reported by others to your immediate supervisors. Because of this personal relationship and your official activities as the scientific lead for the Denmark project, there is an appearance of impropriety and lack of appropriate judgement on your part related to this project. Information about the nature of the relationship was apparently known by many outside the CDC and has subsequently come to the attention of the leadership within the NCDBDDD as well as us at Emory University where Dr. Thorsen now has an academic appointment. Because of the unprecedented conflict of interest and lack of objectivity related to this project, you are being directed to suspend all activities as the lead Science Collaborator for this Cooperative Agreement. You will be able to complete analyses already begun, as to be determined by your immediate supervisor.

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## **Poul Thorsen Exhibit – Evidence of Misconduct in Danish–CDC Collaboration (Mismanagement & Intentional Collusion by CDC Staff with Principal Investigator Poul Thorsen)**

An easy-to-follow overview by Beth Clay for Children’s Health Defense that puts some of the emails in context with a timeline of events.

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## **Congressman Posey Asks Attorney General Jeff Sessions to Extradite Poul Thorsen**

Dear Attorney General Sessions:  
I write to inquire about the long overdue extradition and prosecution of Poul Thorsen, MD, PhD. He was indicted in April 2011, (Criminal Indictment No. 1: 11-C R-194 United States of America v. Poul Thorsen) on 22 counts of wire fraud and money laundering. He is alleged to have stolen more than \$1 million from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) autism research grant, part of a Danish research collaboration. Information included in the indictment detailed that Thorsen submitted false invoices and created private bank accounts as part of a complex scheme to pilfer from our nation’s limited autism research resources.

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