

# A Baha'is response to Vaccination

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While the Faith advises us to consult “competent physicians”, there remains a big question as to what the word “competent” actually means, and whether the current system has reached a state of said ‘competency’. The Faith also repeatedly tells us that the science of medicine is imperfect and in its infancy, that there is ignorance, and that it is not yet sufficiently developed.

In the Faith we are told that science and religion must go hand in hand, otherwise the bird will not fly. We are currently attempting to fly with the wing of (corrupt) science alone, which means that we are being held back by unethical vested interests (including greed, profit and social control), and an overly materialistic world view. This is impeding our journey towards happiness, healing and truth.

In The Promulgation of Universal Peace, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá tells us that:

“No matter how far the material world advances, it cannot establish the happiness of mankind. Only when material and spiritual civilization are linked and coordinated will happiness be assured. Then material civilization will not contribute its energies to the forces of evil in destroying the oneness of humanity, for in material civilization good and evil advance together and maintain the same pace.”

We are living in an age when the science of medicine is not yet sufficiently developed and “spiritualised”. It is currently based on a materialistic worldview, one which favours profit over people and other unethical agendas. The focus is on creating customers rather than cures.

This corrupt state of current scientific knowledge and practice is acknowledged by many doctors and scientists, who are acutely aware that science is currently in a very dark state. It is not necessarily focused on a moral exploration of truth and healing, but on other dubious agendas and vested interests, some of which are evil.

Here are quotes from editors of two of the world’s foremost medical journals about the science of medicine:

“It is simply no longer possible to believe much of the clinical research that is published, or to rely on the judgement of trusted physicians or authoritative medical guidelines. I take no pleasure in this conclusion, which I reached slowly and reluctantly over my two decades as an editor of The New England Journal of Medicine.” —Dr Marcia Angell

(Dr Marcia Angell is an American physician, author, and the first woman to serve as Editor-in-Chief of The New England Journal of Medicine. Dr. Angell joined the Journal’s staff in 1979, became Executive Editor in 1988, and served as Editor-in-Chief of the journal until June of 2000.)

“The case against science is straightforward: much of the scientific literature, perhaps half, may simply be untrue. Afflicted by studies with small sample sizes, tiny effects, invalid exploratory analyses, and flagrant conflicts of interest, together with an obsession for pursuing fashionable trends of dubious importance, science has taken a turn towards darkness.”

—Dr Richard Horton, current Editor-in-Chief, The Lancet

(Dr Richard Horton became Assistant Editor of The Lancet in 1990 and its Editor-in-Chief in 1995.)

This is an article from the British Medical Journal entitled Evidence Based Medicine is Broken:

<https://www.bmj.com/content/348/bmj.g22>

The Faith informs us that the science of medicine is imperfect and in its infancy:

“The majority of the diseases which overtake man also overtake the animal, but the animal is not cured by drugs. In the mountains, as in the wilderness, the animal’s physician is the power of taste and smell. The sick animal smells the plants that grow in the wilderness; he eats those that are sweet and fragrant to his smell and taste, and is cured. The cause of his healing is this. When the sugar ingredient has become diminished in his constitution, he begins to long for sweet things; therefore, he eats an herb with a sweet taste, for nature urges and guides him; its smell and taste please him, and he eats it. The sugar ingredient in his nature will be increased, and health will be restored.

It is, therefore, evident that it is possible to cure by foods, aliments and fruits; but as today the science of medicine is imperfect, this fact is not yet fully grasped. When the science of medicine reaches perfection, treatment will be given by foods, aliments, fragrant fruits and vegetables, and by various waters, hot and cold in temperature.” —‘Abdu’l-Bahá

Currently, medicine focuses on drugs and vaccines, rather than on food and healing. However, Bahá’u’lláh tells us:

“Treat disease first of all through diet, and refrain from medicine. If you can find what you need for healing in a single herb do not use a compound medicine. Leave off medicine when the health is good, and use it in case of necessity.”

We are advised to begin with and focus on food when it comes to disease, and only to use medicine “in case of necessity”. It is clear that the future science Bahá’u’lláh envisages as being helpful to humanity in terms of healing is the science of nutrition. However, the world has not yet advanced to this stage, we have not yet developed up to this level of understanding and practice. The science of medicine remains focused primarily on a materialistic worldview rather than on health and healing.

“Animal food is not forbidden, but ‘Abdu’l-Bahá says:—“Fruits and grains [will be the foods of the future]. The time will come when meat will no longer be eaten. Medical science is only in its infancy, yet it has shown that our natural diet is that which grows out of the ground.”

—Ten Days in the Light of ‘Akká, by Julie M. Grundy