BOOK REVIEW

MMR Science and Fiction. Exploring the Vaccine Crisis

Janet Cairns

The introduction to this book sets the historical context around the debate that proposed a link between the MMR vaccine, autism and bowel disease. The scientific rigor of the studies is explored and challenged by Horton in a way that, to researchers and possibly health professionals, may be considered of interest.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

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› PREVIOUS ISSUES
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› WRITE FOR US
› PERMISSIONS

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"MMR - SCIENCE AND FICTION": the Richard Horton story II 27 September 2004. In his account of the meeting at the Lancet offices of 18 February 2004 Richard Horton recounts (p.5): “There the consensus ended. Exploring the Vaccine Crisis; MMR and Autism: What Parents Need to Know’ Double review of books by Richard Horton and Michael Fitzpatrick. http://bmj.bmjjournals.com/cgi/content/full/329/7473/1049). 1) The claim (a) that Andrew Wakefield had failed to disclose an interest is predicated on the claim (b) that the 1998 paper presented a hypothesis that the children's condition had been caused by MMR: “Did this behaviour amount to scientific misconduct? It was hard to tell. Claims of a link between the MMR vaccine and autism have been extensively investigated and found to be false. The link was first suggested in the early 1990s and came to public notice largely as a result of the 1998 Lancet MMR autism fraud, characterised as “perhaps the most