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Conflict of Interest: CDC & Vaccines

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is tasked with vaccine safety & yet it is also the largest purchaser of vaccines, spending over \$4 billion annually to purchase vaccines.

Dr. Julie Gerberding was in charge of the CDC from 2002 to 2009, which includes the years the FDA approved the Merck Gardasil vaccine.

Gerberding resigned from the CDC on January 20, 2009 & took over as the president of Merck's Vaccine division, a \$5B a year operation, & the supplier of the largest number of vaccines the CDC recommends.

It was reported in 2015 that Dr. Gerberding, now the executive vice president of pharmaceutical giant Merck, sold 38,368 of her shares in Merck stock for over \$2M.

Besides examples like this showing a clear conflict of interest between government agencies tasked with overseeing public health, vaccine safety, & pharmaceutical companies; the National Institute of Health also holds patents on vaccines such as Gardasil & earns royalties from the sale of vaccines.

Should the agency responsible for vaccine safety (which is YOUR safety) profit from the sale of vaccines?