

Summary: Supplying the Evidence

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- Do-gooders can do harm.
- A higher proportion of the population need to become better bullshit detectors otherwise people are going to suffer and die needlessly.
- Harm has resulted from insufficiently critical clinical practice.
- But harm has also resulted from insufficiently critical journalism: for example the MMR story.
- Critical journalism can guard against this and cause bad decisions over clinical care to be overturned.
- But journalists are under increasing pressure *not* to be critical, and take the press release at face value.
- There are good resources available, and being developed, to counter this pressure. This should be encouraged and supported, because ultimately good health journalism is about reducing unnecessary suffering and death.