
The Revolving Door

Conflicts of Interest

There is a revolving door between government and the very industry they regulate.

Centers for Disease Control (CDC)

Between 2002 and 2009, Dr. Julie Gerberding worked as the Director of the CDC. In January 2010, one year after resigning from the CDC, she began working for Merck, the manufacturer of Gardasil (HPV) and the MMRII vaccines, as President of their Vaccine division. While working at the CDC, Gerberding oversaw the approval of Merck's Gardasil vaccine for routine use in all girls beginning at age 11-12.¹

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Between 2002 and 2008, Dr. Elias Zerhouni served as Director of the National Institutes of Health. In December 2010, French drug and vaccine maker Sanofi Pasteur announced that Zerhouni was chosen to lead its drug and vaccine research. In 2019, the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health, which creates and leads partnerships between private companies and public institutions to accelerate biomedical research, announced that Zerhouni had been elected to the Board of Directors.²

Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

Within weeks of his resignation from the FDA, Pfizer announced that former commissioner Dr. Scott Gottlieb had been elected to Pfizer's Board of Directors. Gottlieb, who led the FDA from May 11, 2017 to Apr. 5, 2019, previously served on the board of directors of pharmaceutical companies Daiichi Sankyo Co and Tolero Pharmaceuticals, Inc. He also served on the investment board of GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), one of the largest vaccine makers in the world.³

This should make you question whether our government leaders are looking out for the American people or for the interest of their prospective pharmaceutical industry employers.

¹ Merck Merck Announces Appointment of Dr. Julie Gerberding as Executive Vice President for Strategic Communications, Global Public Policy and Population Health *Press Release* Dec. 10, 2014 (<https://tinyurl.com/yymh8m82>)

² Foundation for the National Institutes of Health (FNIH) Elias Zerhouni, M.D., Joins the FNIH Board of Directors *Press Release* Jan. 2, 2019 (<https://tinyurl.com/y3qdoe6v>)

³ TVR Staff Former FDA Commissioner Gottlieb Joins Pfizer *The Vaccine Reaction* July 10, 2019 (<https://tinyurl.com/y65cu9pu>)