

# renovatio21.com

The website of Renovatio21, an anti-abortion Catholic nonprofit that has published false and unproven scientific and health information, including the false claim that vaccines are linked to autism.



**Proceed with caution: This website severely violates basic standards of credibility and transparency.**

**Score: 20/100**

## Ownership and Financing

Renovatio21 is a nonprofit founded by Roberto Dal Bosco, an author based in Vicenza, in the Veneto region. Dal Bosco is also the registrant of nearly 60 other websites, many of which are inactive, including riscossacristiana.com (meaning "Christian comeback"), partitocristiano.com (meaning "Christian party") and statocristiano.com (meaning "Christian state").









The site does not run advertising. Dal Bosco told NewsGuard in a phone interview that he and the site's other authors contribute to the site without compensation.

## Content

The About Us (Chi Siamo) page states its central point of view: "New life, end-of-life, artificial insemination, moral subversion, vaccinations and mass psychopharmaceuticals: the Culture of Death spreads everywhere." The site's goals, the page continues, are "the reconstruction of the Catholic mind, and the promotion of a society of Christian ideals" ("la ricostruzione della mente cattolica, e la promozione di una società di ideali cristiani").

Renovatio21 primarily publishes articles about politics, abortion, gender, and genetics from a version of traditional Catholicism. The site also publishes articles against vaccinations. It mostly publishes original articles, but also publishes content translated from foreign media outlets — including some that NewsGuard found repeatedly publish false information, such as the anti-vaccine site Children's Health Defense and the medical hoax site NaturalNews.

Content is not sorted into sections. Instead, stories are labeled with tags such as Sterilization (Sterilizzazione), Eugenics (Eugenetica), Contraception

-  Does not repeatedly publish false content (22 points)
-  Gathers and presents information responsibly (18)
-  Regularly corrects or clarifies errors (12.5)
-  Handles the difference between news and opinion responsibly (12.5)
-  Avoids deceptive headlines (10)
-  Website discloses ownership and financing (7.5)
- Clearly labels advertising (7.5)
-  Reveals who's in charge, including any possible conflicts of interest (5)
-  The site provides names of content creators, along with either contact or biographical information (5)

*Criteria are listed in order of importance.*

[More information.](#)

(Contraccezioni), Vaccines (Vaccini), Gender, and Family (Famiglia).

Typical articles have run under headlines including "Trans children, the threat of lawsuits could restrain doctors dealing with gender dysphoria?" ("Bambini trans, la minaccia di cause legali potrebbe frenare i dottori che si occupano di disforia di genere?"); "Vaccines, escalating Anti-Parent Propaganda" ("Vaccini, la crescente propaganda anti-genitori"); and "Global warming data FAKED by government to fit climate change fictions" ("Falsificano i dati per adattarli alla finzione del Cambiamento Climatico").

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#### Credibility

Renovatio21.com has repeatedly published articles supporting false claims about health and science, including vaccines and the 2020 Wuhan coronavirus outbreak.

For example, a January 2020 article headlined "Coronavirus contains 'HIV insertions': an artificially created biological weapon?" ("Il coronavirus contiene 'inserzioni di HIV': un'arma biologica creata artificialmente?") stated that "China would obtain coronavirus through a Canadian research program and begin to transform it into a biological weapon at the Wuhan Institute of Virology" ("la Cina avrebbe ottenuto il coronavirus attraverso un programma di ricerca canadese e avrebbe iniziato a trasformarlo in un'arma biologica presso l'Istituto di virologia di Wuhan"). Moreover, the article said that there is "an artificial correlation between coronavirus and AIDS virus". Neither of these claims are supported by scientific evidence.

While it is true that a lab at the Wuhan Institute of Virology works with dangerous pathogens, there is no evidence backing the claim that the new strain of coronavirus came from that lab. A February 2020 study published in the journal Nature found that the virus is "96% identical at the whole-genome level to a bat coronavirus." Rutgers University chemical biology professor Richard Ebright also told the Washington

Post that “based on the virus genome and properties there is no indication whatsoever that it was an engineered virus.”

Also the link between coronavirus and HIV virus is insubstantial. This claim was attributed to a study posted on the website bioRxiv, which publishes scientific studies before they have undergone peer review. According to a January 2020 article on the fact-checking website HealthFeedback.org, the study’s finding that there is a similarity between the Wuhan coronavirus and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) “was detected using extremely short protein sequences, a practice that often gives rise to false positive results,” noting that those same sequences are found in many other organisms.

The authors of the study withdrew it from bioRxiv just two days after it was published.

Renovatio21.com’s stories are sometimes republished with attribution to organizations found by NewsGuard to repeatedly publish false content. For example, Children’s Health Defense is an anti-vaccine nonprofit chaired by the attorney and environmentalist turned anti-vaccine advocate Robert F. Kennedy Jr., which publishes false and unproven scientific and health information, while Natural News has promoted medical hoaxes and other conspiracy theories, including the false claim that vaccines are linked to autism.

In August 2019, Renovatio21.com published a translated article from Children’s Health Defense titled “The Autism Blame Game: This Time, It’s the Womb,” (“Autismo, lo scaricabarile. Questa volta è il grembo materno”) which advanced the false claim that vaccines cause autism. The article claimed that “autism’s explosion on the scene coincided with key trends such as the escalating overuse of childhood vaccines containing toxins like aluminum and glyphosate” (“l’esplosione dell’autismo è avvenuta in concomitanza con eventi specifici, come l’aumento dei vaccini infantili contenenti sostanze tossiche come l’alluminio o il glifosato”).

No major health or science organization, including the U.K. National Health Service and the World Health Organization, has found a causal link between autism and vaccines. The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has declared that "there is no link between vaccines and autism," a conclusion backed by an abundance of scientific evidence.

The site published another article translated from Children's Health Defense in March 2019, which claimed that vaccines cause autoimmune diseases. Headlined "Real-Life Data Show that the CDC Vaccine Schedule is Causing Harm," ("Autismo, i dati reali mostrano il danno del programma vaccinale USA") the post claimed that "overstimulation of the immune system when [children] are very young [...] tips the immune system into autoimmunity and allergy" ("la sovrastimolazione del sistema immunitario quando [i bambini] sono molto piccoli [...] spinge il sistema immunitario verso autoimmunità e allergia").

The CDC states on its website that multiple studies have found "no evidence to suggest a link between vaccines and autoimmune conditions," such as multiple sclerosis, diabetes, or asthma.

In another example, an article published on the site in May 2019 and titled "MMR, DPT and hepatitis B vaccination increases the risk of childhood leukemia" ("La vaccinazione MMR, DPT ed epatite B aumenta il rischio di leucemia infantile") asserted that "children who received the MMR vaccination (measles, mumps, rubella) had a significantly elevated risk of acute lymphatic leukemia" ("i bambini che hanno ricevuto la vaccinazione MMR (morbillo, parotite, rosolia) hanno avuto un rischio significativamente elevato di leucemia linfatica acuta").

The article's conclusion was based on a misinterpretation of a 1994 study conducted by the Department of Preventive Medicine at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. The study affirmed that acute lymphocytic leukemias were caused by "a broad range of factors," but it did not directly link the MMR vaccination to an increased risk of acute lymphatic leukemia, as the article suggested.

Moreover, a comprehensive 2017 analysis of studies published by the International Epidemiological Association stated that “Neither the total number of vaccine doses received nor exposure to each vaccination given in childhood was associated with altered risk of ALL [acute lymphatic leukemia],” including vaccines for “measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR), diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (DTP), poliomyelitis, hepatitis.”

Because of the site’s record of promoting false and unsupported health claims in articles and headlines, NewsGuard has determined that Renovatio21.com has repeatedly published false content, does not gather and present information responsibly, and does not avoid deceptive headlines.

Asked for a comment on these examples of misleading content, Roberto Dal Bosco, the founder of Renovatio21, told NewsGuard in a phone interview that he thought such an assessment was wrong: “I totally disagree, it goes against my freedom of expression and offends me” (“Sono in totale disaccordo, va contro la mia libertà di esprimermi e mi offende”).

Renovatio21.com is clear about its agenda and does not purport to publish straight news. Therefore, NewsGuard has determined that the site handles the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

Renovatio21.com does not articulate a corrections policy, and NewsGuard could not find corrections on the site. Dal Bosco told NewsGuard that the site would consider the possibility of starting to publish corrections.

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#### Transparency

The site does not disclose its ownership or provide any information about its editorial leadership or content creators. Articles on Renovatio21.com generally name authors at the bottom, but they do not provide biographical or contact information, which does not meet NewsGuard’s standards for providing information about content creators.

Dal Bosco said the site plans to add contact information about its ownership, authors, and editorial leadership in the future.

The site does not run advertisements.

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## History

Renovatio21.it went online in 2017.

*Editor's Note: This Nutrition Label was last updated on March 9, 2020, to include the website's reports on a debunked theory that the Wuhan coronavirus was engineered in a military laboratory and that it is linked to the HIV virus.*

**Written by:** [Angelo Paura](#)

**Edited by:** [Sarah Brandt](#), [Jim Warren](#), [Giampiero Gramaglia](#), [Virginia Padovese](#)

**Send feedback to NewsGuard:** [Click Here](#)

## Sources

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### Ownership and Financing

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### Content

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Transparency

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History

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