worldhealth.net

A website that has published numerous false health claims, including the promotion of unproven treatments for the COVID-19 virus.

Ownership and Financing

WorldHealth.net is owned by the American Academy of Anti-Aging Medicine (A4M), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Chicago. According to the website's Mission Statement page, A4M is "dedicated to the advancement of technology to detect, prevent, and treat aging-related disease and to promote research into methods to retard and optimize the human aging process."

According to its most recent filing with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, in 2018 A4M reported revenue of $1.4 million, with all but $76,000 of it coming from dues collected from its members. WorldHealth.net runs advertisements.

Content

WorldHealth.net's Mission Statement page says that A4M "seeks to disseminate information concerning innovative science and research as well as treatment modalities designed to prolong the human life span."

Health articles are sorted into dozens of categories, including Aging, Alternative Medicine, Cancer, Infectious Disease, Medical Technology, and Women's Health. Typical headlines include "Strengthening The Immune System With Food," "The Biggest Wellness Trends of 2020," and "Life Hacks From Okinawa Centenarians."

The site's homepage includes a small selection of video content from the WorldHealth.net TV YouTube page, such as interviews of medical professionals conducted by A4M co-founder Dr. Ronald Klatz.

Credibility

WorldHealth.net regularly publishes false and misleading content, including articles in 2020 about unproven treatments for the COVID-19 virus.

For example, a March 2020 article titled "Info to Proper Parties to Assist with Coronavirus Containment," suggested colloidal silver, a liquid product containing silver particles, should be used to stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus. "Issuing colloidal silver in spray bottles to wash eyes will also greatly reduce risk of infection," the article said. "A colloidal silver solution at 100 ppm is non irritating and universally viricidal as well as only costing a few cents per gallon to the manufacturer."

Helene Langevin, director of the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health, a division of the National Institutes of Health, told The Associated Press in February 2020, "There are no complementary products, such as colloidal silver or herbal remedies, that have been proven effective in preventing or treating this disease (COVID-19), and colloidal silver can have serious side effects."

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued an advisory in October 2009 warning that consuming colloidal silver can cause a condition called argyria, a permanent bluish-gray discoloration of the skin, nails, and gums.

Another March 2020 article, "Official Statement From China For Recommended Treatment of COVID-19," promoted using Vitamin C to treat the virus. The article said, "Confirming the reports from small independent studies and 3 clinical trials, Shanghai has announced a recommendation to use high dose Intravenous treatment of vitamin C to treat COVID-19."

WorldHealth.net cited two Chinese articles about COVID-19 treatment to back its claim about the recommendation from "Shanghai" but neither article said that China had recommended Vitamin C as a treatment.

The first article, which was published in the Chinese Journal of Clinical Medicine, said that vitamin C has anti-oxidant properties that support the function of immune cells and reduce inflammation. However, it emphasized that the use of vitamin C should be based on evidence from clinical trials.
Infectious Diseases, mentioned intravenous Vitamin C as just one of several potential treatments for COVID-19, according to health fact-checking website HealthFeedback.org. World Health.net also cited a second article published by China’s Xibei Hospital, which omitted information that the hospital’s article reported about potential side effects of the Vitamin C treatment, including nausea and kidney stones.

Taking vitamin C is not an effective remedy for the COVID-19 virus, according to the World Health Organization. The WHO and the CDC have said there is no specific treatment recommended for treating the coronavirus strain responsible for the 2020 outbreak.

A January 2020 article headlined “Corona Virus 2020: A Global Pandemic?” stated, “Pharmaceutical companies have more and more vaccines in their pipelines. All they must do is to convince us and our governments that their vaccines are the only thing that saves us from vast epidemics, severe illness and probably death. And not a surprise, the Corona virus has already been patented.”

There is no patent for the virus that causes COVID-19. WorldHealth.net’s source for this false claim was a January 2020 article from a site called USAHitman.com, which listed 19 patents that mention “coronavirus,” which is a family of viruses that affect both humans and animals, and does not specifically refer to the virus behind the 2020 outbreak. None of the patents listed in the USAHitman.com article is related to the COVID-19 virus.

WorldHealth.net has also promoted unsubstantiated claims that cannabidiol, or CBD, a non-intoxicating extract of marijuana, can treat cancer. A December 2019 article titled “Some Benefits of CBD Oil” claimed that “using CBD oil consistently may help prevent a cancerous tumor from developing as well as helping to prevent an existing cancer from spreading.”

Marijuana has been shown to help treat certain side effects of chemotherapy, such as nausea. However, cannabis has not been proven to be an effective treatment for cancer. A 2017 review of existing scientific evidence on the health effects of marijuana, published by the U.S. National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine, concluded that “there is insufficient evidence to support or refute the conclusion that cannabinoids are an effective treatment for cancers.”

The website promoted another unsubstantiated cancer treatment in an October 2018 article headlined “Using Black Seed Oil To Treat Cancer.” The story claimed that there are “57 reviewed papers on the subject finding black cumin to be effective against cancers such as blood, breast, colon, pancreatic, lung, leukemia, skin, fibrosarcoma, renal, prostate, and cervical cancer.” None of those studies are cited within the article, which concluded, “So much data and research is available that it makes one wonder why cancer patients are not routinely being treated with black cumin seed oil.”

There is no evidence that black cumin seed or its components can treat cancer in humans, according to an August 2014 article published on the website for Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. “Laboratory studies have shown that some components have antioxidant and anti-inflammatory effects,” the article stated. “Therefore, there is some speculation that black cumin seed may be useful in the treatment of cancer and protect against the side effects of radiation therapy, but these have not been proven in humans.”

WorldHealth.net also misrepresented who reviews its content. The site’s Medical Editors page is described as a list of “Who’s Who in Anti-Aging and Regenerative Medicine,” listing a total of 13 medical professionals. Four of these individuals are also named as the site’s medical editors in an image on the site’s homepage, including Ronald Klatz and Robert Goldman, the founders of the American Academy of Anti-Aging Medicine. However, two of the remaining nine health professionals listed on the Medical Editors page — Drs. James Lineback and Ronald Rothenberg — told NewsGuard by email that they have no affiliation with WorldHealth.net and have no role in reviewing its content.

Because WorldHealth.net has promoted false health claims in its articles, NewsGuard has determined that the site repeatedly publishes false content and fails to gather and present information responsibly.

The website does not explain its policy for correcting errors. NewsGuard did find one published correction, noting that a typographical error was fixed in a March 2019 article. Because numerous other false claims have gone uncorrected on the site, NewsGuard has determined WorldHealth.net fails to meet NewsGuard’s standard for regularly correcting errors.
The site's Mission Statement page states that the American Academy of Anti-Aging Medicine "seeks to disseminate information concerning innovative science and research as well as treatment modalities designed to prolong the human life span."

However, articles on the site regularly include opinions promoting alternative medicine and criticizing the medical industry and vaccines, which is not a perspective disclosed in the Mission Statement page.

For example, a March 2020 article headlined "The Missing Narratives in the Debate for Medicare for All," accused the "corporatist wings of both political parties" and the press of misrepresenting proposals to achieve universal health coverage. "The Democrat Party's full throttle assault to undermine the legitimacy of Bernie Sanders' campaign is being orchestrated by the insurance and medical industrial complex, which has bought unbridled biased coverage across the media waves," the article said.

A December 2019 article advocated against vaccination requirements. "What was once only seen in sci-fi and horror movies may no longer be fiction, they are actively trying to push this, alarmingly at the same time as mandating vaccines to take away freedom of choice," the article said. "With laws being written for mandatory vaccination it is foreseeable that these new universal gene therapy 'vaccines' will be forced upon us altering our DNA without consent. The big question is whether this will be for better or worse, unfortunately only time will tell."

Because WorldHealth.net's articles regularly include opinions promoting alternative medicine and criticizing traditional medicine and vaccines, and because the website does not disclose such a perspective, NewsGuard has determined that the website fails to handle the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

A4M co-founders and WorldHealth.net medical editors Drs. Ronald Klatz and Robert Goldman did not respond to two emails from NewsGuard seeking comment on the site's history of publishing false claims, its approach to corrections, and its inclusion of medical editors who said they had no affiliation with the website. Two messages sent through the site's contact form and a phone call to A4M were also not returned.

Stories that contain false or misleading information on the site often avoid including those claims in headlines. For example, the article that falsely claimed colloidal silver could reduce the risk of COVID-19 was titled "Info to Proper Parties to Assist with Coronavirus Containment."

**Transparency**

WorldHealth.net's About A4M and Mission Statement pages make it clear that it is owned by the American Academy of Anti-Aging Medicine. A4M sponsors are identified at the bottom of the homepage on both WorldHealth.net and A4M.com.

The co-founders of A4M, Drs. Ronald Klatz and Robert Goldman, are identified among the site's medical editors on the site's homepage. A general contact form is provided on the Contact Us page.

Articles on WorldHealth.net generally do not name their authors, and no information about content creators is provided on the website. No individual contact information is provided.

A4M co-founders and WorldHealth.net medical editors Drs. Ronald Klatz and Robert Goldman did not respond to two emails from NewsGuard seeking comment on the site's lack of information about its content creators. Two messages sent through the site's contact form and a phone call to A4M were also not returned.

Advertisements are distinguished from editorial content.

**History**

The American Academy of Anti-Aging Medicine was founded in 1992. WorldHealth.net's domain name was registered in 1992.

Written by: John Gregory
Edited by: Amy Westfolt

Send feedback to NewsGuard:  Click Here

**Sources**

Ownership and  https://www.a4m.com/about-a4m.html