

# drsergegregoire.com

The website of a Texas nutritionist that has repeatedly promoted false health claims, including the debunked link between vaccines and autism and false claims about the COVID-19 virus outbreak.

## Ownership and Financing

DrSergeGregoire.com appears to be owned by Serge Gregoire, a nutritionist who runs Mind and Body Solutions, a "holistic wellness clinic," according to its website, based in Friendswood, Texas, south of Houston. Gregoire holds a PhD in experimental medicine from McGill University in Montreal, Canada. He previously worked as a postdoctoral fellow at Stanford Medicine and as a cardiovascular researcher at Massachusetts General Hospital.

The website's domain name is registered to Growth Formula LLC, a private company based in Pearland, Texas. Julie Lesage, owner of Growth Formula LLC, told NewsGuard in a telephone call that her company manages the website and handles marketing for Gregoire.

The site does not run advertisements.

#### Content

DrSergeGregoire.com is headed by a picture of Gregoire, featuring the logo "The nutrition scientist."

On the site's About Me page, Gregorie says, "My goal is to help people navigating the confusion in the world of health and nutrition. I use the scientific method to debunk myths and confusion. My objective here is to give the right information in order to empower people on their journey to achieve optimal health."

The Bible and Scriptures section includes articles addressing religious views on alternative medicine, such as "How should Christians view vaccines?" and "What does the Bible say about diets?"

## Credibility

Articles on DrSergeGregoire.com have repeatedly promoted false health claims, including false information related to the 2020 coronavirus outbreak.

For example, a March 2020 article headlined "The flu shot increases by 36% the risk of having the coronavirus," claimed that "the latest research shows that getting the flu vaccine increases the risk of getting the coronavirus by 36%!!!" The article based its claim on a study published in the journal Vaccine that studied rates of respiratory illness among U.S. military personnel, comparing their illnesses to whether they received a flu vaccine during the 2017-18 flu season. The COVID-19 virus first emerged in China late 2019.

In an email to NewsGuard, Gregoire defended the article, saying "The fact that you are labeling this information as being 'false' is a very strong statement." Gregoire then provided links to the Vaccine journal study cited in the article, as well as a June 2012 study in Clinical Infectious Diseases about the risk of respiratory illness after receiving a flu shot. Data used in both studies was collected years before the COVID-19 outbreak.

A February 2020 article, titled "The latest on the coronavirus," suggested that Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates was behind the outbreak. "Not only did the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation participate in and help set up the pandemic simulation of a coronavirus outbreak, but they just so happen to fund the group who owns the patent to the deadly coronavirus and are already working on a vaccine to solve the current crisis," the article said.

The Gates Foundation did participate in a simulated emergency preparedness exercise in October 2019. However, according to a January 2020 article from FactCheck.org, the exercise involved a mock coronavirus with different features than the COVID-19 virus. It is also true that the U.K.-based Pirbright Institute has accepted funding from the Gates Foundation, but the patent referenced by



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

Score: 17.5/100

- Does not repeatedly publish false content (22 points)
- Gathers and presents information responsibly (18)
- Regularly corrects or clarifies errors
- Handles the difference between news and opinion responsibly (12.5)
- X Avoids deceptive headlines (10)
- Website discloses ownership and financing (7.5)
- N/A 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.

The website has also promoted the debunked link between the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine and autism. A July 2019 article titled "The MMR causes autism," stated, "I have seen it over and over. Thousands of parents can confirm this, as well. A child who regresses into autism after the MMR shot. This vaccine does not contain aluminum or mercury. We all know that these heavy metals are involved and cause autism."

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and many other health and science authorities, including the U.K. National Health Service and the World Health Organization, have repeatedly stated that there is no link between vaccines and autism, based on an abundance of scientific evidence.

In a March 2020 article headlined "The CDC has lied for decades. The truth is: vaccines DO cause autism!," the website misrepresented the result of a lawsuit against the CDC, filed by the anti-vaccine group Informed Consent Action Network (ICAN), to promote the false vaccine-autism link.

"To get an answer straight from the CDC, ICAN sued them for falsely claiming that 'Vaccines do not cause AUTISM.' And funny enough, the CDC lost!!!," the article stated. "In other words, the CDC does not have any proof of their claim. They have lied to us for decades!"

ICAN did sue the CDC, seeking copies of studies that the agency relies upon for claiming that various childhood vaccines, including the diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (DTaP) and polio vaccines, do not cause autism. The CDC, contrary to the DrSergeGregoire.com article's claim, responded to the request with a list of 20 peer-reviewed studies demonstrating there is no link between vaccines and autism. The suit was then voluntarily dismissed with prejudice, as CDC had complied with ICAN's request under the Freedom of Information Act -- which does not mean the CDC "lost" the lawsuit, as ICAN and the DrSergeGregorie.com article had asserted.

Gregoire defended his site's coverage of the debunked vaccine-autism link in an email to NewsGuard, although he did not comment on the specific stories cited above. "You seem to imply that I wrote "all autism cases are caused by vaccines," Gregoire wrote. "This is not true. However, it is well known autism can be caused by vaccines because the syndrome is not well defined yet."

The website has also promoted false claims about Gardasil, a vaccine for human papillomavirus (HPV). An October 2019 article titled "Gardasil and POTS," claimed that "the HPV virus has never been shown to cause cervical cancer. Actually, the evidence we have so far supports that this virus is not implicated at all."

There is abundant scientific evidence demonstrating that HPV causes cervical cancer, dating to a 1983 study authored by Dr. Harald zur Hausen, who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 2008 for his discovery. The U.S. National Cancer Institute and the World Health Organization have stated on their websites that virtually all cervical cancer cases are caused by HPV.

Because DrSergeGregorie.com has promoted false health claims in its articles and headlines, NewsGuard has determined that the site repeatedly publishes false content, fails to gather and present information responsibly, and does not avoid deceptive headlines.

While Gregoire did not comment specifically on some articles cited by NewsGuard, he disputed NewsGuard's rating, saying, "I am not making any claims I can't back up with science. The articles include links to studies published in well known medical journals. I also share the work of other authors with the same view."

The site does not articulate a policy for correcting errors and NewsGuard could not find any corrections. Gregoire did not answer NewsGuard's question about the site's approach to correcting errors.

DrSergeGregoire.com's About page says that the website seeks to navigate "the confusion in the world of health and nutrition," but does not discuss an overall health perspective. However, articles frequently advance views promoting alternative treatments while criticizing the health care industry, vaccines, and government regulators.

For example, a February 2020 article titled "Corruption of big pharma companies!," said, "Forcing the MMR vaccine, or any other vaccine, on those who are uninformed or who do not consent represents nothing less than medical tyranny."

A November 2019 article, headlined "The FDA is cracking down on natural healing!," said "I believe that the government is slowly taking away our rights. Human rights and constitutional rights. They are becoming more and more strict about guns (second amendment), they have put restrictions on the first amendment (freedom of speech. Etc..), and they are becoming more and more controlling."

In an August 2019 article, titled "Medical errors are the third cause of death in the US," Gregoire wrote, "I am SO relieved that I am not part of this sick system anymore. I am relieved that I am not part of the third cause of death in the US. As a health care provider, I could not accept the fact that the western medical system is based on a capitalistic model. In other words, I could not sleep at night, knowing that patients were just numbers in a big system modeled to make money."

Asked by NewsGuard about the site's failure to disclose its perspective, Gregoire wrote, "I have no problem stating the conclusions shared with our readers are personal and based on my own analysis and experience. I always share enough information for them to draw their own conclusions."

#### Transparency

While the website is named after Gregoire, he is never explicitly named as the website's owner. Growth Formula LLC, the company that registered the website's domain, is also not mentioned on the website.

Gregoire told NewsGuard, "The fact the website's URL is my full name and I have a photograph of myself is enough evidence."

The website's About Me section provides Gregoire's biography, and the About Me and Contact Me pages provide a general contact form. Most articles are signed "Dr. Serge" at the end. Gregoire confirmed to NewsGuard that he is the only person involved in the site's content. Because the website features his biography, NewsGuard has determined that the website does not fail to meet NewsGuard's standards for revealing who is in charge and providing information about content creators.

The site does not run advertisements.

## History

The website's domain name was registered in 2018.

Written by: John Gregory Edited by: Amy Westfeldt

Send feedback to NewsGuard: Click Here

## Sources

## Ownership and **Financing**

https://www.whois.com/whois/drsergegregoire.com

Growth Formula LLC:

https://opencorporates.com/companies/us\_tx/0801944270

https://web.archive.org/web/20200331184856/https://www.ecocleanol

ogy.com/contact/ McGill thesis:

https://escholarship.mcgill.ca/concern/theses/2227mv158?locale=en

https://nutrition-houston.com/dr-serge-gregoire/

https://communityimpact.com/houston/business/2018/10/19/mindand-body-solutions-focuses-on-natural-health-remedies/

Study crediting him as working at Massachusetts General Hospital's cardiology division:

https://www.ahajournals.org/doi/full/10.1161/circresaha.113.259259

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6048588/

https://web.archive.org/web/20200331191003/http://med.stanford.edu

/seanwulab/people/alumni.html

https://www.healthprofs.com/us/nutritionists-dietitians/dr-serge-

gregoire-friendswood-tx/542170

https://www.linkedin.com/in/drsergegregoire/

https://www.chron.com/life/health/article/Pearland-doctor-completes-

Nutritional-Response-9460671.php

#### Content

http://www.drsergegregoire.com/bible-and-scriptures/how-shouldchristians-view-vaccines/

http://www.drsergegregoire.com/conventional-medicine/cholesterol-

statins-and-vaccine-effectiveness/

http://www.drsergegregoire.com/nutrition/is-intermittent-fasting-just-

another-fad-diet/

http://www.drsergegregoire.com/bible-and-scriptures/healing-throughour-faith/

http://www.drsergegregoire.com/bible-and-scriptures/what-does-the-bible-say-about-diets/

http://www.drsergegregoire.com/bible-and-scriptures/how-should-christians-view-vaccines/

http://www.drsergegregoire.com/conventional-medicine/vaccination-individual-rights-and-medical-freedom-time-to-fight-for-our-children/http://www.drsergegregoire.com/about/

## Credibility

#### Coronavirus/flu shot article:

https://web.archive.org/web/20200326163838/http://www.drsergegreg oire.com/vaccines/the-flu-shot-increases-by-36-the-risk-of-having-the-covid-19/

https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0264410X19313647

?via%3Dihub

https://leadstories.com/hoax-alert/2020/03/fact-check-the-flu-shot-

does-not-increase-by-36-the-risk-of-having-the-covid-19.html

Coronavirus #2: http://archive.is/S8znm

https://www.pirbright.ac.uk/news/2020/01/pirbright%E2%80%99s-

livestock-coronavirus-research-%E2%80%93-your-questions-answered

http://www.centerforhealthsecurity.org/newsroom/center-news/2020-

01-24-Statement-of-Clarification-Event201.html

https://www.factcheck.org/2020/01/new-coronavirus-wasnt-predicted-

in-simulation/

Vaccine/autism:

https://web.archive.org/web/20200330191746/http://www.drsergegreg

oire.com/vaccines/the-mmr-causes-autism/

https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/mmr-vaccine/

http://www.euro.who.int/\_\_data/assets/pdf\_file/0005/339620/Myths-and-facts.pdf?ua=1

https://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/concerns/autism.html

Vaccine ICAN lawsuit:

https://web.archive.org/web/20200330195156/http://www.drsergegreg oire.com/vaccines/the-cdc-has-lied-for-decades-the-truth-is-vaccines-

do-cause-autism/

ICAN press release: https://www.icandecide.org/wpcontent/uploads/2020/03/ICAN-VS-CDC-LAWSUIT-PR.pdf

DTaP study: https://www.jpeds.com/article/S0022-3476(13)00144-

3/fulltext

https://dockets.justia.com/docket/new-

york/nysdce/1:2019cv11947/529313

Final ruling: https://ecf.nysd.uscourts.gov/doc1/127126484251

Gardasil story:

https://web.archive.org/web/20200331212024/http://www.drsergegreg

oire.com/vaccines/gardasil-and-pots/

https://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/85/9/06-038414/en/

https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/causes-

prevention/risk/infectious-agents/hpv-and-cancer

1983 study: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC393419/

https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/medicine/2008/summary/

News/opinion #1:

https://web.archive.org/web/20200331182312/http://www.drsergegreg

oire.com/vaccines/corruption-of-big-pharma-companies/

News/opinion #2:

https://web.archive.org/web/20200331183045/http://www.drsergegreg

oire.com/nutrition/the-fda-is-cracking-down-on-natural-healing/

News/opinion #3:

https://web.archive.org/web/20200331183740/http://www.drsergegreg oire.com/nutrition/medical-errors-are-the-third-cause-of-death-in-the-us/

## Transparency

http://www.drsergegregoire.com/contact-me/

http://www.drsergegregoire.com/about/

Serge credited at bottom of the article:

http://www.drsergegregoire.com/nutrition/why-do-we-get-fat/

### History

https://www.whois.com/whois/drsergegregoire.com

https://www.facebook.com/pg/DrSergeTheNutritionScientist/about/?

ref=page\_internal