

stefanomontanari.net

The personal website of Italian researcher Stefano Montanari, which has published false and unsubstantiated claims about health, including about the 2020 coronavirus pandemic.



Proceed with caution: This website fails to meet several basic standards of credibility and transparency.

Score: 47.5/100

Ownership and Financing

The site is owned by Stefano Montanari, an Italian researcher with a degree in pharmacology who runs a private diagnostic laboratory in Modena.

StefanoMontanari.net does not run advertisements. The site sometimes promotes dietary supplements and other products in its articles.

The site solicits donations from its readers. Montanari states on the site that he is available, for a fee, to consult and to participate in conferences.

The site also sells Montanari's books, which are often written with his wife, Antonietta Gatti.

- ✗ Does not repeatedly publish false content (22points)
- ✗ 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.](#)

Content

Content on the site often focuses on the supposed dangers of vaccines. For example, in one post, Montanari stated that "in the best case scenario, vaccines are perfectly useless. They usually cause damages that are, not infrequently, irreversible." ("nella migliore delle ipotesi, i vaccini sono perfettamente inutili. Di solito provocano danni che non di rado sono irreversibili"). Articles also regularly express disapproval of pharmaceutical companies and traditional medicine and therapies, including chemotherapy.

The site's sections include Biography (Biografia), with Montanari's biography; Support Us (Sostienici); Contact Us (Scrivici), and Conferences and Consultation (Conferenze e Consulenze), with information on how to book Montanari for an event.

Typical headlines have included: "Wake up!" ("Sveglia!"); "Coronavirus: what to do?" ("Coronavirus: che fare?"); and "Let's abolish the National Medical Association" ("Abolire l'Ordine dei Medici").

Credibility

The site has repeatedly published unsubstantiated medical claims, including about the COVID-19 pandemic.

For example, in a March 2020 article, Montanari published the transcript of one of his interviews in which he stated: "What I can tell you is that the Coronavirus ... is one of the many viruses made in the laboratory" ("Ciò

che posso dirle è che il Coronavirus [...] è uno dei non pochi virus fatti in laboratorio”). Similarly, a February 2020 article stated that “There is no doubt that it is a laboratory-modified virus” (“Che si tratti di un virus modificato in laboratorio non ci sono dubbi”).

There is no evidence to back the claim that the COVID-19 virus has been created in a laboratory. A March 2020 study published in the journal Nature Medicine concluded that the virus “is not a laboratory construct or a purposefully manipulated virus.” An earlier study, published in February 2020 in the journal Nature, found that the COVID-19 virus is “96 percent identical at the whole-genome level to a bat coronavirus.”

The site also frequently claims that there is a connection between vaccines and autism.

For example, according to a May 2019 article, “A child, one of many who has been massacred by compulsory vaccines and having become autistic, is the protagonist of very serious and now continuous crises, with high fever, vomiting and so on.” (“Un bambino, uno dei tanti massacrati dai vaccini di regime e diventati autistici, è protagonista di crisi gravissime e ormai continue, con febbre alta, vomito e quant’altro”).

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 website has also claimed that cells from aborted fetuses are used to make vaccines. In a January 2019 article, the author stated: “A technical practice that has existed for decades and which, however, seems to have always gone unnoticed. I refer to the use of human fetuses in the production process of a few dozen types of vaccine, almost all of which are very widely used and not infrequently even compulsory” (“una pratica tecnica che esiste da decenni e che, tuttavia, pare essere sempre passata inosservata. Mi riferisco all’uso dei feti umani nel processo di produzione di alcune decine di tipi di vaccino, quasi tutti di larghissimo impiego e non di rado addirittura di somministrazione obbligatoria”). The article also stated that “the most basic practice is used: fetuses are purchased from young ladies who agree to have an abortion” (“si ricorre alla pratica più elementare: si acquistano i feti da signore o signorine che si prestano ad abortire”).

In another October 2018, article Montanari stated: “For years several vaccines have been manufactured from paid aborted human fetus tissues” (“Da anni diversi vaccini sono fabbricati a partire da tessuti di feti umani abortiti a pagamento”).

Some vaccines, such as those protecting against rubella and chicken pox, are in fact produced using cell lines descended from two fetuses aborted in the 1960s, according to a January 2017 article in Science magazine. However, no additional fetal cells are required for vaccine production, and no actual fetal tissue is present in these vaccines. The National Catholic Bioethics Center, which consults with the Vatican and Catholics on medical ethics issues and opposes abortion, has stated that “one cannot accurately say that the vaccines contain any of the cells from the original abortion.”

Because StefanoMontanari.net frequently publishes false and unsubstantiated claims, NewsGuard has determined that the site repeatedly publishes false content and does not gather and present information responsibly.

Headlines are typically short and general, such as “Interview” (“Intervista”), “Maybe I did not get it” (“Forse non ho capito”), and “No problem” (“Nessun problema”). They are generally not deceptive or misleading.

Because the site is presented as the personal work of one person and does not purport to publish straight news, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not handle the difference between news and opinion irresponsibly.

StefanoMontanari.net does not publish a corrections policy, and NewsGuard did not find any corrections on the site.

NewsGuard sent two messages seeking comment on the site’s editorial practices and corrections policy, but it did not receive a response.

Transparency The name of the site clearly indicates that the site is owned and operated by Montanari.

Articles are generally written by Montanari and the site provides his biography. His wife, Antonietta Gatti, occasionally writes for the site, but there is no biographical or contact information about her. However, Gatti’s contributions are not frequent enough for NewsGuard to conclude that the site does not generally adhere to its standard for disclosing information about content creators.

A Contact Us (Scrivici) page provides a form to contact the site.

StefanoMontanari.net does not run advertisements. The site sometimes promotes products, such as supplements, and clearly discloses that it could get a commission on purchases made through the site.

History The domain was registered in 2007.

On March 25, 2020, Patto Trasversale per la Scienza, a group that fights hoaxes and false news in the medical-scientific field, said that it had “reported Stefano Montanari to the Prosecutors of Modena and Ancona, for the serious claims on the spread, containment and treatment of SARS-CoV-2 and the disease COVID-19 and for the anti-vaccination conspiracy theories in various videos and interviews.” (“Oggi abbiamo presentato alle Procure di Modena e Ancona un esposto penale contro Stefano Montanari, per le gravi affermazioni sulla diffusione, contenimento e cura del SARS-CoV-2 e della malattia COVID-19 e per le tesi complottistiche anti-vaccinali, contenute in vari video ed interviste dello stesso”).

Montanari replied with a post on his site on April 1, 2020, stating that Patto Trasversale per la Scienza has the right to express its opinion, but that “it can’t be legit to pretend to hush up those who express opinions that are different from their own.” (“Dove la legittimità cade è nella pretesa di tacitare chiunque esprima opinioni diverse dalle loro”).

Written by: [Virginia Padovese](#)

Edited by: [Eric Efron](#), [Angelo Paura](#), [Giampiero Gramaglia](#)

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

Sources

Ownership and
Financing

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https://www.paypal.com/donate/?token=mNhGi1mOiFHnU-50v4OHw6l6dnQV_VthgEqCXE0lj-s6BCwTwAOvhy5Ran9EGmKw-uHkc0&country.x=IT&locale.x=IT
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