

westonaprice.org

The website for the Weston A. Price Foundation, a nonprofit that has advanced false claims about vaccines, cholesterol, and the COVID-19 virus, and has promoted unpasteurized milk.



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

Score: 30/100

Ownership and Financing

The Weston A. Price Foundation is a nonprofit based in Washington, D.C. According to its most recent filing with the Internal Revenue Service, the foundation reported revenue in 2018 of \$1.3 million, including \$412,000 in contributions and grants and \$383,000 generated from its annual Wise Traditions Conference.

The foundation is named after a Cleveland dentist who died in 1948. Weston Price promoted the view that many dental issues and health problems in the Western world were caused by eating refined, processed foods, based on his observations of isolated, indigneous cultures.

✗ 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)

Content

According to the website's About The Foundation page, the group is "dedicated to restoring nutrient-dense foods to the human diet through education, research and activism."

WestonAPrice.org publishes content promoting the foundation's advocacy work and positions in a variety of formats, including articles, podcasts, and press releases. News and opinion articles are organized by subjects including Vaccination, Homeopathy, and Environmental Toxins. Many articles on the site are republished from the foundation's quarterly journal, Wise Traditions in Food, Farming, and the Healing Arts.

The site's Reviews section includes reviews of books and DVDs on alternative medicine, diet, and agriculture. The Brochures section contains printable booklets explaining the foundation's views and projects, including the Campaign for Real Milk, which advocates for greater access to raw, unpasteurized milk.

Criteria are listed in order of importance.

[More information.](#)

Credibility

WestonAPrice.org has repeatedly published false claims on a variety of health topics, including dietary recommendations that are contradicted by an abundance of scientific evidence. For example, in a foundation brochure available on the site titled “Myths & Truths About Cholesterol,” one of the supposed “myths” was that “people with high cholesterol are more prone to heart attacks.”

The association between high LDL cholesterol (also known as “bad” cholesterol) and a greater risk of cardiovascular disease is backed by decades of research. The European Atherosclerosis Society, a medical group that issues clinical guidelines on preventing and treating heart disease, said in April 2017 that its review of evidence from 30 studies involving over 200,000 subjects “definitively shows that LDL causes cardiovascular disease.”

Another of the “myths” listed was that “cholesterol-lowering drugs have saved many lives.” In fact, an April 2018 study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, which analyzed 34 studies involving more than 270,000 participants, found that the use of cholesterol-lowering statin drugs prevented tens of thousands of deaths from cardiovascular disease annually among those with high levels of LDL cholesterol. According to a 2017 study published in the Annals of Internal Medicine, patients who continued taking statins after experiencing an adverse reaction to the drug had a “lower incidence of death and cardiovascular events” than those who stopped taking statins.

The same brochure claimed that statins can cause heart failure. However, according to an October 2016 article published by the Cleveland Clinic, “statins have been tested in more than 1 million patients and overwhelmingly, research shows they do not cause heart damage.” In fact, statins have been repeatedly studied as a potential treatment for heart failure, not a cause.

The foundation has also frequently promoted false claims about vaccines, including the debunked link between vaccines and autism. For example, a February 2019 article, titled “Vaccines and Autism: A Very Real Connection,” stated: “There can be no denying that recent science proves a strong connection between vaccines and autism.” The same article encouraged readers to avoid all vaccinations, stating that “because all vaccines carry the potential to cause grave harm and premature death, it is not safe to administer even one vaccine.”

Similarly, a January 2019 article, headlined “Chronic Disease: A Study of Vaccinated and Unvaccinated Children,” claimed that vaccinated children have higher rates of chronic diseases, including autism, than the unvaccinated. This conclusion relied on the author’s interviews with families of home-schooled children, and the article acknowledged that “we did not verify reported medical conditions from medical records.”

The site has also promoted an unproven and potentially dangerous and treatment for autism known as chelation. The treatment aims to remove toxic-heavy metals from the body and is typically used to treat mercury and lead poisoning. In an interview published on the site in both August 2016 and May 2018, Andy Cutler, a promoter of the therapy, said that those who have used chelation “talk about how their child got better, their kid lost their diagnoses, he is no longer autistic, he’s healthy or he’s in college, whatever. That’s the kind of thing that should convince you to look into this.”

According to the Organization for Autism Research, there is no evidence that people with autism have significant levels of heavy metals in their bodies. A January 2013 study published in the journal *Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders* found no evidence that chelation was an effective autism treatment. In a 2010 warning to marketers of unapproved chelation products, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration said that “even

when used under medical supervision, these products can cause serious harm, including dehydration, kidney failure, and death.“

Such claims are partially supported by an October 2011 study published in the Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology that found that European children who drank raw milk were less likely to develop asthma or allergies. However, the same study concluded that “on the basis of current knowledge, raw milk consumption cannot be recommended because it might contain pathogens.” The CDC, meanwhile, has reported that “unpasteurized milk is 150 times more likely to cause foodborne illness and results in 13 times more hospitalizations than illnesses involving pasteurized dairy products.”

In 2020, the site’s “Wise Traditions” podcast featured guests promoting false and unsubstantiated health claims related to the COVID-19 virus. For example, in a March 2020 episode titled “Protect Yourself from the Coronavirus (or Any Virus),” Weston A. Price Foundation president Sally Fallon Morrell suggested that 5G cell phone technology was linked to the COVID-19 virus pandemic.

There is no evidence that health effects from the COVID-19 virus are connected to 5G, according to fact-checking articles published in 2020 by FullFact.org and Reuters. A March 2020 report from the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection, a Germany-based organization that studies the health effects of non-ionizing radiation such as radio waves, found no evidence that 5G exposure posed a risk to human health. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration says on its website that “to date, there is no consistent or credible scientific evidence of health problems caused by the exposure to radio frequency energy emitted by cell phones.”

In another March 2020 podcast, titled “Behind the Coronavirus,” Leslie Manookian, producer of the anti-vaccine documentary, “The Greater Good,” promoted

an unsubstantiated conspiracy that Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates will use the COVID-19 virus vaccine to implant people with microchips.

“This is about control,” Mankoonian said. “This is about a global police state and these people are pushing it and Gates is funding this microchipping technology. He's also funding a micropatch vaccine, and it's being tested. It's one of the tests that's now underway. A micro patch vaccine that you stick on the skin and it releases not only the antigens and the vaccine into you, but it also releases dye little dye particles that are invisible to the naked eye, but visible with an app on a smartphone, that can read infrared. And this will be a way for tracking you.”

Mankoonian's claim misrepresented research funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. That study, conducted by researchers at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Rice University, used a vaccine delivery device that did involve an ink, invisible to naked eye but detectable with an infrared device, with the goal of allowing health providers in developing countries to more easily track a child's vaccinations. However, the ink could not be used as a tracking device and there is no evidence that the research was related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“These markings require direct line-of-sight imaging from a distance of less than 1 foot,” Kevin McHugh, a Rice University professor who worked on the study, told FactCheck.org in an April 2020 article. “Remote or continuous tracking is simply not possible for a variety of technical reasons.”

Because [WestonAPrice.org's](#) content has promoted false and unsubstantiated health claims, NewsGuard has determined that the site has repeatedly published false content, fails to gather and present information responsibly, and does not avoid deceptive headlines.

[WestonAPrice.org](#) does not articulate a corrections policy. NewsGuard found only three corrections published between 2005 and 2017, and the false claims

cited above have not been corrected.

Asked about the website's approach to corrections, a woman who only identified herself as "Kathy" stated in an April 2020 email: "People email us at times when they have found an error in something. We put a correction about it in our journal and update our website." However, because WestonAPrice.org has not published a correction since 2017 and numerous false claims have gone uncorrected, NewsGuard has determined that the website does not have effective corrections practices.

The foundation discloses its agenda on the site's About The Foundation page. Because WestonAPrice.org is clearly the site of an advocacy organization and is transparent about its mission, NewsGuard has determined that the criterion covering the separation of news and opinion does not apply.

Transparency

WestonAPrice.org provides the organization's tax returns on its WAPF Funding page, and the site states that its main sources of financial support "are the dues and contributions of its members." However, no information is provided about the foundation's major donors, which is permissible by law but does not meet NewsGuard's standard for nonprofits' disclosure of ownership and financing.

When asked by NewsGuard why the foundation does not disclose its major donors, "Kathy" responded in an April 2020 email only with a link to the WAPF Funding page.

The site's Board of Directors page identifies the foundation's leadership, including its president, and each edition of the Wise Traditions journal, which is posted on the site, includes a list of its editors. The Contact Us page provides a mailing address, phone number, and two general email addresses.

Articles typically credit their authors and include a short biography at the bottom of the page.

The website does not run advertising.

History

The Weston A. Price Foundation was founded in 1999.

Editor's Note: This Nutrition Label was updated on April 27, 2020, with additional examples of the site's content and a response from the site.

Written by: [John Gregory](#)

Edited by: [Kendrick McDonald](#), [Eric Efron](#)

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

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Ownership and Financing

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Content

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History

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