

greenmedinfo.com

A website that has promoted unproven “natural” cures for illnesses including cancer and the COVID-19 virus, and has published false claims that vaccines can cause autism.



Proceed with caution: This website severely violates basic journalistic standards.

Score: 30/100

Ownership and Financing

The site is owned by GreenMedInfo LLC, a private company registered in Bonita Springs, Florida. The company was founded by Sayer Ji, an author and speaker on alternative health who has expressed views against vaccines and chemotherapy.

The site does not run advertisements, but generates revenue from memberships that provide access to exclusive content, e-books, online courses, and PDF documents that claim to give a synopsis of current biomedical research on various topics. The site also solicits donations.

Content

GreenMedInfo.com says on its About Us page that it “is dedicated to providing evidence-based natural medical information.” Articles on the site, which cover health-related topics spanning from vaccination to nutrition to environmental and agricultural regulations, are written by the site’s authors or reposted from other alternative, natural, or holistic medicine sites such as VacTruth.com and NaturalNews.com.

The site also contains a searchable database of scientific journal abstracts, grouped into categories such as “Western Diet”, “Vaccination: Influenza”, and “Turmeric.” Typical headlines include “FDA Approves Painkiller 1,000X More Powerful Than Morphine Despite Epidemic of Drug Overdoses & Natural Alternatives” and “Sesame Oil May Heal Liver Damage.”

Credibility

GreenMedInfo.com’s articles have repeatedly promoted false health claims, including misinformation about vaccines and the virus that causes COVID-19.

- ✗ 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.](#)

For example, a May 2020 article titled titled “Dr. Blaylock: Face Masks Pose Serious Risks to the Healthy,” argued that wearing face coverings in public to slow the spread of the virus — a measure recommended by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, among other global organizations — can “in some cases” cause the virus to enter the brain.

“In most instances it enters the brain by way of the olfactory nerves (smell nerves), which connect directly with the area of the brain dealing with recent memory and memory consolidation,” the article said. “By wearing a mask, the exhaled viruses will not be able to escape and will concentrate in the nasal passages, enter the olfactory nerves and travel into the brain.”

In a May 2020 fact-checking article from The Associated Press, Sarah Stanley, an infectious diseases professor at the University of California, Berkeley, said that this claim was false. “Breathing out the virus is not going to appreciably change the amount that is there,” Stanley told The AP. “Therefore, there should be no reason why wearing a mask would increase your chance of infection in the brain.”

An April 2020 story promoted the use of Vitamin C as a treatment for the virus, saying, “supplemental vitamin C, both oral and IV, is an excellent and relatively simple and inexpensive treatment for both uninfected individuals at home and critically ill individuals in the hospital.”

While a clinical trial is underway in China to test whether a high-dose vitamin C regimen is effective against the COVID-19 virus, the claim that it is a proven treatment for the illness is not supported by scientific evidence. In a February 2020 Q&A on the World Health Organization’s website, the WHO named vitamin C among a handful of remedies that were “not specifically recommended as 2019-nCoV remedies as they are not effective to protect yourself and can even be harmful.”

Multiple articles on GreenMedInfo.com have supported the debunked link between vaccines and autism. For example, a July 2018 article entitled “Aluminum in Vaccines Cause Autism” asserted that aluminium adjuvants, which are substances added to vaccines that are meant to help accelerate the immune system’s response in producing antibodies, have been proven to be “the SOLE cause of autism.” To back this claim, the article referenced two studies co-authored by University of British Columbia researchers Christopher Shaw and Lucija Tomljenovic. The World Health Organization called those studies “seriously flawed” in 2012, saying that they showed “incorrect assumptions about known associations of aluminium with neurological disease.”

Other articles that link vaccines and autism include October 2018’s “Measles Transmitted By The Vaccinated, Gov. Researchers Confirm,” which claimed that “increased autism risk” is among the “MMR vaccine dangers,” and August 2016’s “Could Depression be an Unrecognized Side Effect of Vaccinations?,” which opened by stating that “vaccines have been linked to hundreds of diseases including autism.”

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has issued many statements debunking claims that vaccines — and vaccine ingredients such as thimerosal, a mercury-based preservative — lead to the development of autism. The CDC's webpage on autism spectrum disorders (ASD) states: "Since 2003, there have been nine CDC-funded or conducted studies that have found no link between thimerosal-containing vaccines and ASD, as well as no link between the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine and ASD in children." The WHO also asserts “there is no evidence of a link between MMR vaccine and autism or autistic disorders.”

GreenMedInfo.com has also promoted unsubstantiated claims about natural health cures. For example, a December 2018 article titled “The Cannabis Cure for Cancer” claimed that “medical marijuana is chemotherapy, natural style, for cancer patients.” While

medical marijuana has been shown to help alleviate symptoms of chemotherapy, such as nausea, it has not been proven to be an effective cancer treatment on its own. A January 2017 report on the health effects of marijuana from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine concluded, “There is insufficient evidence to support or refute the conclusion that cannabinoids are an effective treatment for cancers.”

A July 2019 story “Traditional Food Puts Chemotherapy to Shame, Study Reveals,” also promoted an unsubstantiated treatment for cancer. “A powerful study published in *Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry* provides evidence that a traditional food consumed in the tropics as vegetables — *Morinda citrifolia* (Noni) leaves — may be the ideal complementary therapy or functional food in the prevention or management of lung cancer,” the article read. Despite noting that the study in question was an animal study, the story said that “the implications of this research are truly profound.”

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center says on its website that some lab and animal studies “show that noni extracts have anticancer effects both when used alone and with chemotherapy drugs,” but points out that “there is no proof from clinical trials that the same effect occurs in humans.” Winchester Hospital states on its website that “there have been no meaningful human trials of noni.”

Multiple articles on GreenMedInfo.com included criticism of Pinterest after GreenMedInfo was removed from the platform for violating its community guidelines. For example, a December 2018 article titled “Pinterest Censoring Anti-Vaccine Doctors and Pins Related to Vaccine Rights” said the Pinterest policy was “clearly written to protect the interests of Big Pharma” and asserted that “it is well-known that the U.S. corporate-sponsored ‘mainstream’ media censors all contrary vaccine information.”

Because GreenMedInfo.com has promoted false claims about vaccines, cancer, the virus that causes COVID-19, and other ailments, and because it has used unreliable research to advance its claims, NewsGuard has determined that the site repeatedly publishes false content, does not gather and present information responsibly, and does not avoid the use of deceptive headlines.

A Corrections section on the site provides a form that allows readers to submit corrections to stories, stating, “after we have received a submission, we will review the information and all references, and potentially apply the changes based on your submission.” However, NewsGuard was unable to find examples of corrections made to articles posted by the site, which does not meet NewsGuard’s standard for regularly correcting errors.

GreenMedInfo’s About page explains its overall views supporting natural medicine, saying,

“GreenMedInfo is dedicated to providing evidence-based natural medical information. Through both open access, paid memberships and high-quality educational products, GreenMedInfo provides physicians, healthcare practitioners, clinicians, researchers and consumers a resource to determine the therapeutic value of vitamins, minerals, herbs and foods.” The website’s stories primarily advocate for this perspective. GreenMedInfo labels some opinion columns “op-ed” in headlines.

Because the website’s content advocates a perspective that it discloses, NewsGuard has determined that GreenMedInfo.com does not handle the difference between news and opinion irresponsibly.

NewsGuard sent two messages through GreenMedInfo.com’s contact form -- including one in 2020 -- asking about its publication of false content, approach to corrections, use of opinion, and other editorial practices. Kate Colter, the site’s chief operating officer, responded to the initial inquiry in 2018 with

questions of her own about NewsGuard's process and management, but did not address NewsGuard's questions in that response or a follow-up email. A phone call to the number listed on Greenmedinfo.com's Contact page was not returned.

Transparency

The site's Contact Us page invites readers to send letters to "GreenmedinfoLLC," but does not clearly state there, or elsewhere on the site, that it is owned by Greenmedinfo LLC. The page also includes a contact form for email correspondence.

The site's About Us pages includes a biography for Sayer Ji, the site's founder. The majority of articles credit individual authors, including Ji, and include a short biography at the bottom of the page. However, others are only credited to "GMI Reporter" or "GreenMedInfo Research Group."

Because most of the articles are credited to authors and include biographical information, NewsGuard has determined that the site meets its standard for providing information about content creators.

Advertisements on GreenMedInfo.com are distinguishable from editorial content.

NewsGuard sent two messages through GreenMedInfo.com's contact form, including one inquiry in 2020, asking about its lack of ownership disclosure. Kate Colter, the site's chief operating officer, responded to NewsGuard's initial inquiry in 2018 with questions of her own about NewsGuard's process and management, but did not address NewsGuard's questions in that response or a follow-up email. A phone call to the number listed on Greenmedinfo.com's Contact page was not returned.

History

According to the site's About Us page, GreenMedInfo.com was founded in 2008 by Sayer Ji.

Editor's Note: This Nutrition Label was updated on June 4, 2020, and its rating was changed, to reflect NewsGuard's determination that GreenMedInfo.com

now meets NewsGuard's standard for handling the difference between news and opinion responsibly. The criteria checklist has been adjusted accordingly.

Written by: [Lillian Childress](#), [John Gregory](#)

Contributing: [Anicka Slachta](#)

Edited by: [Amy Westfeldt](#), [Jim Warren](#)

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

Sources

Ownership and
Financing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1J6bIDk-QLs>
<https://go.thetruthaboutvaccines.com/sayer-ji/>
<http://store.greenmedinfo.com/categories/ebooks>
<http://store.greenmedinfo.com/categories/ecourses>
<http://www.greenmedinfo.com/downloadable/documents>
<http://www.greenmedinfo.com/donation/donate-greenmedinfo.com>
<http://www.greenmedinfo.com/contact>
<http://www.greenmedinfo.com/page/about-us>
<http://search.sunbiz.org/Inquiry/CorporationSearch/SearchResultDetail?inquirytype=EntityName&directionType=Initial&searchNameOrder=GREENMEDINFO%20L110000568600&aggregateId=flal-l11000056860-75bc9d74-0ce6-46e0-8230-96d5a465b486&searchTerm=greenmedinfo&listNameOrder=GREENMEDINFO%20L110000568600>
<http://search.sunbiz.org/Inquiry/CorporationSearch/GetDocument?aggregateId=flal-l11000056860-75bc9d74-0ce6-46e0-8230-96d5a465b486&transactionId=l11000056860-5729ba89-cb56-4063-9a49-bc789b0e9aed&formatType=PDF>

Content

<http://www.greenmedinfo.com/blog/fda-approves-painkiller-1000x-more-powerful-morphine-despite-epidemic-drug-overdo>
<http://www.greenmedinfo.com/blog/sesame-oil-may-heal-liver-damage>

<http://www.greenmedinfo.com/research-dashboard>

<http://www.greenmedinfo.com/blog/food-sourced-melatonin-provides-natural-way-help-sleep>

VacTruth.com article:

<http://www.greenmedinfo.com/blog/1742-reports-adverse-events-after-children-received-vaccine>

NaturalNews.com article:

<http://www.greenmedinfo.com/blog/biosludged-epa-allows-spraying-highly-toxic-sewage-sludge-food-crops-documentary->

NVIC article: <http://www.greenmedinfo.com/blog/new-internet-police-protecting-you-freedom-thought-and-speech>

Credibility

<http://www.greenmedinfo.com/blog/aluminum-vaccines-cause-autism>

WHO on aluminum studies:

https://www.who.int/vaccine_safety/committee/reports/Jun_2012/en/

<https://www.who.int/features/qa/84/en/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/tools/parents-guide/parents-guide-part4.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/conversations/downloads/vacsafe-understand-color-office.pdf>

<http://www.greenmedinfo.com/blog/could-depression-be-unrecognized-side-effect-vaccinations>

<http://www.greenmedinfo.com/blog/cannabis-cure-cancer>

<https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/317798.php>

<http://www.greenmedinfo.com/blog/single-dose-cbd-resets-schizophrenic-brains>

NASEM cancer report:

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK425767/#sec_00103

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25226414>

<http://www.greenmedinfo.com/blog/unreported-health-benefits-measles>

<http://www.greenmedinfo.com/blog/quackbusters-and-shock-troops-medical-mccarthyism>

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

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/vaccines/mmr-vaccine.html>

<http://www.greenmedinfo.com/blog/clear-legal-basis-vaccines-cause-autism>

<http://www.greenmedinfo.com/blog/aluminum-vaccines-cause-autism>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20190108173921/http://www.greenmedinfo.com/blog/new-vaccines-still-cause-autism-and-our-government-knows>

Hep B/autism study:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21058170>

1991 CDC Hep B recommendation:

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5730a3.htm>

<https://leftbrainrightbrain.co.uk/2009/09/17/another-weak-study-proves-vaccines-cause-autism/>

Italian autism decision overturned:

<https://www.politico.eu/article/italys-vaccine-fear/>

<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/health-news/mmr-vaccine-abandoned-by-japan-but-rise-in-disease-has-killed-85-9182966.html>

<https://japantoday.com/category/features/health/japans-national-immunisation-program-still-trails-behind-europe>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/1808316.stm>

<https://www.newscientist.com/article/dn7076-autism-rises-despite-mmr-ban-in-japan/>

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/j.1469-7610.2005.01425.x>

Pinterest community guidelines:

<https://policy.pinterest.com/en/community-guidelines>

<http://www.greenmedinfo.com/blog/pinterest-bans-greenmedinfo-posting-natural-health-vaccine-safety-info>

<http://www.greenmedinfo.com/blog/pinterest-censoring-anti-vaccine-doctors-and-pins-related-vaccine-rights>

Transparency

<http://www.greenmedinfo.com/page/about-us>

<http://www.greenmedinfo.com/contact>

<http://www.greenmedinfo.com/gmi-blogs/GMI%20reporter>

Writer guidelines:

<http://www.greenmedinfo.com/blog/join-greenmedinfos-health-wellness-revolution-become-writer>

<http://www.greenmedinfo.com/blog/7-healing-uses-lavender-essential-oil>

Bio at bottom of page:

<http://www.greenmedinfo.com/blog/hpv-debacle-suppressing-inconvenient-evidence>

History

<http://www.greenmedinfo.com/page/about-us>