

Re: Polygraph reporter asking for interview

Skaggs, Beth (CDC/CGH/DGHP) <bgs7@cdc.gov>

Thu 9/20/2018 8:24 PM

To: David Sergeenko <dsergeenko@moh.gov.ge>;

Cc: Maia Lagvilava <mlagvilava@moh.gov.ge>; Averhoff, Francisco (CDC/OID/NCHHSTP) <fma0@cdc.gov>; Gamkrelidze, Amiran (CDC ncdc.ge) <a.gamkrelidze@ncdc.ge>; Imnadze, Paata (CDC ncdc.ge) <pimnadze@ncdc.ge>;

Dear Minister Sergeenko

Thank you for your reply. I agree with you completely. If the author of this false story really cared about the Georgian people, he would not use these lies to scare people in need of life saving treatment away from this opportunity to be cured of HCV.

I have a meeting tomorrow with US Embassy to discuss what kind of response should come from Embassy. CDC Atlanta's Media Department has also been contacted by this reporter and they are working to develop a response with our input.

Thank you for the links to the reports coming from Ministry so far. I will follow up with you once I get guidance from Embassy and CDC HQ.

Kind regards

Beth

Beth Skaggs, PhD

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On Sep 20, 2018, at 7:07 PM, David Sergeenko <dsergeenko@moh.gov.ge> wrote:

Hello Dear Beth

Ongoing Campaign/Publication is obvious attempt for discreditation of our outstanding project.

Currently for me would be difficult to judge about real roots of this process- who is trying to gain any win, but speculation is obvious- during first case of the project we were trying to save lives of patients with most advanced stages of liver disfunction and unfortunately we can not save all of them.

However without launching of this program we would lost thousands of lives.

All of us understands, that this is guided disinformation, that we were "doing experiments on humans".

Last days MoH and nCDC published several publications about this process -

<http://www.mythdetector.ge/node/1311>

<https://www.vesti.ru/doc.html?id=3060846>

<http://www.mediamonitoring.ge/mms/includes/image.php?id=5550764&name=19.09.2018+-+%E1%83%A0%E1%83%94%E1%83%96%E1%83%9D%E1%83%9C%E1%83%90%E1%83%9C%E1%83%A1%E1%83%98&p=1&lang=Ge>

<http://medianews.ge/ge/lugaris-tsentrshi-ashsh-biologiur-iaraghs-ar-qmnis-es-saertod-ashsh-s-obieqti-araa-ashsh-is-tavdatsvis-saministros-tsarmomadgeneli/49526>

However I think this "Black PR Campaign" has to be answered by more strong arguments/publications and reaction from CDC will be important.

This reaction could be interview, other media activity or even court claim.

I am ready to meet and discuss this issue with you at any convenient time.

Best Regards

David Sergeenko

From: "Skaggs, Beth (CDC/CGH/DGHP)" <bgs7@cdc.gov>
Date: Thursday, September 20, 2018 6:34 PM
To: Maia Lagvilava <mlagvilava@moh.gov.ge>, Davit Sergeenko <dsergeenko@moh.gov.ge>
Cc: "Averhoff, Francisco (CDC/OID/NCHHSTP)" <fma0@cdc.gov>, "Skaggs, Beth (CDC/CGH/DGHP)" <bgs7@cdc.gov>
Subject: Polygraph reporter asking for interview

Dear Min Sergeenko, Dear Dep Minister Lagvilava,
Hello. I hope this email finds you well. I know Minister that you are traveling back from WHO Regional Meeting, but I wanted to share with you that I have received multiple requests from Polygraph reporter from Washington DC, Boris Kamchev, asking for information regarding the false stories about Lugar Center and HCV. (please see below). I have not responded in any way because I would like to give a consistent message as the Ministry. Please advise how you/if would like for the CDC SCO to respond. Thank you.

Kind regards

Beth

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Hi Beth,

I'm a reporter in Polygraph.info and have couple of questions. Last year in October you spoke to Ia Meurmishvili on a similar topic and she gave me your contact.

We are trying to confirm some findings after the speculations given by Igor Giorgadze, the ex-Georgian state security minister, that Lugar Laboratory personnel performed testing on people and that many persons died as a result of this testing in 2015 and 2016.

The documents published by Giorgiadze reveal some facts and we would ask you or your office to confirm what it is about.

1. Why those people listed in the Lugar Lab documents died and have they really been victims of "illegal drug testing," as Giorgadze tried to portray at a recent press conference in Moscow.
2. Who are these people. Are they all Georgians with terminal liver illness caused by chronic hepatitis C virus?
3. Please comment on this speculation and what is behind it?

Here it is the link where you can download the Lugar Lab documents revealed by Giorgadze.

<https://ge2018.wordpress.com/>

Link about the news conference.

<http://ren.tv/novosti/2018-09-14/stalo-izvestno-vo-vremya-kakogo-eksperimenta-v-laboratorii-ssha-umirali-lyudi>

Please revert back with your comments and opinion on this matter as soon as possible,

Thank you,

Boris

Boris Kamchev

[Polygraph.info](https://polygraph.info)

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