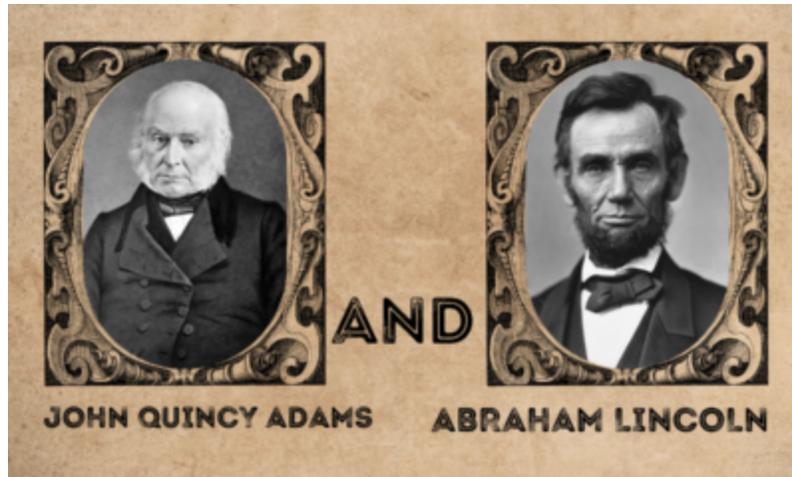


# Medical wannabe dictator gets his comeuppance

[cnav.news/2023/06/20/editorial/talk/medical-wannabe-dictator-comeuppance/](https://cnav.news/2023/06/20/editorial/talk/medical-wannabe-dictator-comeuppance/)

By Terry A. Hurlbut

June 20, 2023



Medical tyranny is relatively new in human society, but the impulse for it has always lurked beneath the surface. The release (accidental or intentional) of SARS-CoV-2 from a Wuhan laboratory brought out the worst impulses in academic doctors worldwide. And for the most part, those who run academic medicine *did not even try* to resist that tyrannical urge. One such wannabe medical tyrant (*not* Anthony S. Fauci) ran into something from which his world largely insulates him. This did *not* make him happy, and in fact he bitterly resents it. That resentment blinds him – and most of his colleagues – to the monumental resentment of patients everywhere who have lost trust in the medical profession. This particular medical tyrant is now trying to justify certain policies that violated that trust.

## The latest medical tyrant – not Anthony S. Fauci

Everyone remembers Anthony S. Fauci, M.D., former Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease. We remember him declaiming, “I am the science,” which sounds suspiciously like King Louis XIV declaiming, “I am the state.” (And how even *National Review* told its readers to stop playing that game on his terms.) But over the weekend, a new medical tyrant emerged. He didn’t take Fauci’s place in government, but he certainly took his place as an apologist for tyranny.

Ladies and gentlemen, may we present Peter Jay Hotez, M.D. While your editor was getting his medical degree at Baylor College of Medicine, Dr. Hotez was getting his at Weill Cornell Medical College. (Not only that, but we two graduated from Yale together, he in Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry, and your editor in Engineering and Applied Science.) But our paths have differed markedly. Your editor never lost respect for human liberty and the

concept and practice of informed consent. Dr. Hotez lost his, if he even had it to begin with. (Yale graduated about 5,000 students in 1980, including ourselves, and our paths never crossed.)

Today he serves as the founding Dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine, established at Baylor. More to the point, he serves as Director, Center for Vaccine Development, Texas Children's Hospital. Parasitology (especially lesser-known parasites) and "vaccinology" are his two special fields.

## On COVID-19

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But he has made his big mark as a COVID-19 scold. He has long insisted that young adults could expect to sicken from, and transmit, coronavirus and not realize it. On August 7, 2020, he predicted "years and years" of bad effects from COVID-19, and said the federal government was not doing enough to contain it, according to *The Huffington Post*.

In short, he has invested himself and his career – totally – in the proposition that all immunizations work. Furthermore, he seems to believe that any side effects from immunizations pale in comparison to the effects of the spread of the diseases against which they are supposed to protect, upon the general population. On that ground, he has called publicly for achieving a 100 percent vaccination rate by any means necessary, including coercive. And whenever anyone dares tell him to take a second look, he quashes the conversation with a predictable appeal to:

- The authority of duly appointed public health officers and "recognized experts" (*argumentum ab auctoritate*), and
- His own medical graduate and postgraduate training and research (*argumentum a gradis*, or perhaps *argumentum a dignitate*).

(Note: the ancient Roman concept of *dignitas* went far beyond the concept *dignity* today. It referred to a person's total standing in society and social and professional circles.)

Tragically, he appears not to recognize either of the logical fallacies above as logical fallacies. As we will show, he saw fit to urge medical authority to take the full force and effect of law.

## The medical tyrant and the skeptical layman

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Last week, podcaster Joe Rogan (*The Joe Rogan Experience*) interviewed Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. on his program. In the process, Mr. Kennedy held forth on his signature campaign issue: medical tyranny and especially the tyranny of coronavirus vaccines, and vaccines generally. Anna Merlan at *Vice* took exception to the episode even airing. Dr. Hotez, in this tweet, took up her refrain.

Spotify Has Stopped Even Sort of Trying to Stem Joe Rogan's Vaccine Misinformation. It's really true @annamerlan just awful. And from all the online attacks I'm receiving after this absurd podcast, it's clear many actually believe this nonsense <https://t.co/GwIFsOODC2>

— Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD (@PeterHotez) [June 17, 2023](#)

Separately, he offered this:

Not easy to respond when those 3 gang up and tag team. Wish I could be more eloquent and clever when the moment demands, but there you are..

— Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD (@PeterHotez) [June 18, 2023](#)

Rogan took exception to *that* and challenged Dr. Hotez to debate Kennedy, with Rogan as moderator.

Peter, if you claim what RFKjr is saying is "misinformation" I am offering you \$100,000.00 to the charity of your choice if you're willing to debate him on my show with no time limit. <https://t.co/m0HxYek0GX>

— Joe Rogan (@joerogan) [June 17, 2023](#)

Dr. Hotez' immediate response was to send this demand:

Be serious, Joe, that's what you throw out for your hunting buddies on a weekend. A \$50 million endowment (which You/Spotify/RFK Jr can easily afford), not for me but so we can continue making low-cost patent-free vaccines for the world's poor. Preceded by RFK Jr.'s public apology.

(That last is an apparent break with Fauci, who build a nasty reputation for himself as a patent troll.)

Later, thinking better of that, Hotez deleted the tweet. Instead he sent this:]

Joe, you have my cell, my email, I'm always willing to speak with you <https://t.co/dJDzJMxBwi>

— Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD (@PeterHotez) [June 17, 2023](#)

But other users noted that Dr. Hotez has blocked several influencers' accounts, and criticized him for it.

I can't believe that a doctor and PhD actually thinks it's beneficial to block people and not engage in debate.

I mean I can, because I'm aware of the ideological captivity  
But it's really still unbelievable to see it in action

— L L R (@pathforward327) [June 18, 2023](#)

Rogan, in reply to Hotez, reiterated his debate offer.

This is a non answer. I challenged you publicly because you publicly quote tweeted and agreed with that dogshit vice article. If you're really serious about what you stand for, you now have a massive opportunity for a debate that will reach the largest audience a discussion... <https://t.co/g1FGalC0Ym>

— Joe Rogan (@joerogan) [June 17, 2023](#)

Dr. Hotez repeated his refrain about excess deaths among the unvaccinated.

Joe if you are serious about addressing vaccines + the fact that 200,000 unvaccinated Americans needlessly perished during our awful delta/BA.1 Covid waves (including 40,000 in our state of Texas) because they fell victims to vaccine disinformation: I want to have that discussion <https://t.co/m8vGNtLnJs>

— Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD (@PeterHotez) [June 18, 2023](#)

Rogan asked him again:

Again, I'm going to ask you very clearly, are you willing to debate [@RobertKennedyJr](#) on my podcast? <https://t.co/vFkzW9CCBq>

— Joe Rogan (@joerogan) [June 18, 2023](#)

Dr. Hotez then offered to appear on Rogan's show – alone. But he also appeared to apologize for the \$50 million demand.

I'm happy to come on and clear the air. I respect you and your show. I don't want an adversarial relationship, I think we can work well together

— Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD (@PeterHotez) [June 18, 2023](#)

This did not satisfy Rogan, who referred to an earlier bit of invective by Dr. Hotez.

To those misunderstanding what he's saying, he's NOT agreeing to debate [@RobertKennedyJr](#). He's just offering to come on my show by himself.

— Joe Rogan (@joerogan) [June 18, 2023](#)

Since then, others have come forward, offering to help underwrite a charitable honorarium to induce Dr. Hotez to debate. At last report, the offered honorarium has grown to \$1.5 million.

6/18 9am EST UPDATE

💰 The Peter Hotez vs. RFK Jr Charity Debate Pot Is Now Over \$1.52 MILLION!!

Here is the Leaderboard:

- 1) \$500k – [@Cobratate](#)
- 2) \$250k – [@realnickmugalli](#)
- 3) \$150k – [@billackman](#)
- 4) \$100k – [@joerogan](#)
- 5) \$100k – [@patrickbetdavid](#)
- 6) \$100k – [@stkirsch](#)
- 7) \$100k -...

— Chief Nerd ([@TheChiefNerd](#)) [June 18, 2023](#)

## A professional speaks out against him

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But Dr. Hotez has come in for opprobrium from even his fellow professionals. Simon Goddek, Ph.D. (Biotechnology) dropped this thread:

📌 THREAD: [@PeterHotez](#) is a sincere and non-corrupt scientist who has been right about everything in the last three years. [pic.twitter.com/Hp4oMnkr5c](https://pic.twitter.com/Hp4oMnkr5c)

— Dr. Simon Goddek ([@goddeketal](#)) [June 18, 2023](#)

2/ The problem is that until April 2020, he was claiming the opposite. Back then, Hotez expressed his concerns about a potential vaccine for the seasonal cold virus. But how did it come to pass that he suddenly changed his opinion and labeled all critics as anti-science? [pic.twitter.com/jkSXDdj08b](https://pic.twitter.com/jkSXDdj08b)

— Dr. Simon Goddek ([@goddeketal](#)) [June 18, 2023](#)

4/ Therefore, it's unsurprising that he rejects the current 1.5 million-dollar bid and refuses to debate with [@RobertKennedyJr](#). That's because

- The hush money from Big Pharma is probably more generous
- He knows that he stands no chance against the facts. <https://t.co/A3qsOJ5Glz>

— Dr. Simon Goddek ([@goddeketal](#)) [June 18, 2023](#)

6/ "The task force should include experts who have tackled complex global threats such as terrorism because anti-science is now approaching similar levels of peril. It is becoming increasingly clear that advancing immunization requires a counteroffensive."  
<https://t.co/0J82K4BBwN>

— Dr. Simon Goddek (@goddeketal) [June 18, 2023](#)

8/ As if this wasn't already enough, his latest publication unmasks the absurdity of his pseudo-scientific phantasm, stating that we need malnutrition vaccines. In Sept 2022, Hotez again was able to publish his mental diarrhoea in a high-impact journal.  
<https://t.co/RIfuLzI4WK> [pic.twitter.com/NELDtnGP76](https://pic.twitter.com/NELDtnGP76)

— Dr. Simon Goddek (@goddeketal) [June 18, 2023](#)

10/ Holding a PhD in biotechnology and having worked in academia for over 10 years, I'm done with science. One reason for this is individuals like Hotez, who produce propaganda videos like this one. I've now become a citizen journalist to combat this corruption. Follow me! [pic.twitter.com/oRXJn75qnw](https://pic.twitter.com/oRXJn75qnw)

— Dr. Simon Goddek (@goddeketal) [June 18, 2023](#)

In apparent reply, Dr. Hotez appeared on Mehdi Hasan's show on MSNBC. He dropped this thread afterward:

1/n Many thanks [@mehdirhasan](#) [@MehdiHasanShow](#) for hosting me this evening I explained the problems of "debating" science on Joe Rogan with RFK Jr and there are several. [pic.twitter.com/40MnuXL62Y](https://pic.twitter.com/40MnuXL62Y)

— Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD (@PeterHotez) [June 19, 2023](#)

3/n I said maybe there are exceptions but generally science is conducted through peer-review and manuscript submissions or presentations at scientific conferences and meetings in front of colleagues for suggestions or in some cases concerns.

— Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD (@PeterHotez) [June 19, 2023](#)

5/n he tends to move the goalposts on his specific concerns about vaccines. For instance even in the autism space it was MMR, then thimerosal, then spacing vaccines, then alum, then something called "chronic illness" and now the stakes are higher..

— Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD (@PeterHotez) [June 19, 2023](#)

7/n so antivaccine activism is now a lethal societal force. I would be willing to come on Joe Rogan and speak to him to solve problems as I've done X2 before, or do something with Elon on Twitter. Possibly that might be useful

— Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD (@PeterHotez) [June 19, 2023](#)

Here's part of the clip <https://t.co/4AOZfWxD9W>

— Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD (@PeterHotez) [June 19, 2023](#)

Yesterday morning he dropped another thread, touting a new book he has written.

To understand how the antivaccine movement became a well-financed, organized, lethal force during the pandemic and it's immediate aftermath, my latest book out soon [@JHUPress @JohnsHopkins](#): The Deadly Rise of Anti-science: A Scientist's Warning <https://t.co/2Bm25ohgCf>

— Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD (@PeterHotez) [June 19, 2023](#)

More to come as we head into the last half of fall

— Prof Peter Hotez MD PhD (@PeterHotez) [June 19, 2023](#)

Separately, Elon Musk actually jumped into the conversation on Saturday, provoking this sequence:

He's afraid of a public debate, because he knows he's wrong

— Elon Musk (@elonmusk) [June 17, 2023](#)

First of all, I am generally pro vaccine. I have been vaccinated against pretty much everything, as have my kids.

Second, I think there is tremendous promise in synthetic mRNA. It is like medicine going from analog to digital.

That said, the world obviously went crazy with... [pic.twitter.com/IQkqY8uvgI](https://pic.twitter.com/IQkqY8uvgI)

— Elon Musk (@elonmusk) [June 18, 2023](#)

Exactly. Two of my kids are on the spectrum and they got it from me, not vaccines. It was obvious from when they were babies, but thankfully improved to some degree over time.

— Elon Musk (@elonmusk) [June 18, 2023](#)

There is a strong link between vaccination and autism! You just have to look at unvaccinated Americans versus vaccinated ones!!

Please, just read this one study/watch this one interview: <https://t.co/KN6ld2BIS2pic.twitter.com/S60GCFu8OF>

— Sense Receptor (@SenseReceptor) [June 18, 2023](#)

With regard to that last: among his other titles, Dr. Hotez once wrote a book disputing the vaccine-autism link. He might want to address this [press release](#), from nearly nine years ago, from the author of a study on that subject. He admitted that, ten years earlier, he had omitted data suggesting that African American males, who had received the Measles-Mumps-Rubella vaccine at 36 months or younger, were at increased risk of autism.

That's close to Andrew Wakefield's original premise. Thus far only the MMR vaccine has an apparent increased risk of an Autism Spectrum Disorder in its recipients.

## A reply

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Dr. Hotez is a disappointment to your editor, who is a fellow Yale man. He might have done better to take some courses in History of Science in Medicine, a thriving department then. Then he might have learned that the history of medicine is replete with example after example of imperious authorities insisting that their science was settled, and quashing innovators whose discoveries disrupted and thereby *unsettled* that science.

CNAV offers two examples. [William Harvey](#) (15787-fl. 1618-1657), besides being the King's Own Physician, contributed to our modern understanding of blood circulation. Before then, the medical establishment insisted that human blood flowed more like *ichor*, the transporting substance found in insects. Harvey proved that the human body had not only arteries (carrying blood out from the heart) but also veins (carrying blood back to the heart).

[Ignaz Semmelweis](#) (1818-1865), the "Savior of Mothers," tried to encourage his fellow physicians to wash their hands before attending births. This was especially important in his day, as many doctors practiced both pathology and obstetrics. So they were attending births with their hands still dirty from handling the bodily fluids of the dead. For his pains the medical establishment shut him up in an insane asylum, where guards beat him, doused him with cold water, and gave him castor oil. After two weeks of this abuse, he died. He would therefore never live to see future generations of doctors vindicate him by the simple expedient of washing the hands between procedures.

## Fast forward

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Today Peter Jay Hotez behaves exactly as did those detractors who shut Ignaz Semmelweiss up in that mental institution. As one supposedly schooled in the first principle of the Hippocratic Oath, he should know better. Then again, your editor's former profession watered down that Oath after the Supreme Court handed down its most infamous decision: *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113 (1973).

Medical science can never be settled, any more than any other kind of science. Any doctor who so suggests, is a tyrant. And to paraphrase Thomas Jefferson, a doctor whose bedside manner is thus marked by every attitude that might define a tyrant, is not fit to attend or advise a free person. He is even less fit to advise a country of free people.

Playing *Capo di tutti i capi di stato maggiore di tutti gli ospedali americani* didn't help the career or reputation of Anthony S. Fauci, M.D. Dr. Hotez should learn from his example. At Baylor, at least some of your editor's professors tried to teach us not to affect tyrannical attitudes. To see this attitude come from a full professor at BCM is a further disappointment.