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Vaccine advocate and pharmaceutical industry insider **Dr. Peter Hotez**, long a proponent of the COVID-19 vaccine, said he favors deploying police and military powers against “anti-vaxers,” whom he blamed for causing hundreds of thousands of deaths during the pandemic.

During an **interview** July 5 at the **Simposio Internacional de Actualización en Pediatría** (International Symposium of Pediatric Updates) in Cartagena, Colombia, Hotez suggested organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the **U.S. Department of Homeland Security** and NATO should target “anti-vaccine aggression.”

Hotez said:


“What I’ve said to the Biden administration is, the health sector can’t solve this on its own. We’re going to have to bring in **Homeland Security**, the Commerce Department, **Justice Department** to help us understand how to do this.

I’ve said the same with — I met with Dr. Tedros [director general of the WHO] last month ... to say, I don’t know that the **World Health Organization** can solve this on our own. We need the other United Nations agencies. NATO. This is a security problem because it’s no longer a theoretical construct or some arcane academic exercise. Two hundred thousand Americans died because of anti-vaccine aggression, anti-science aggression.

“And so, this is now a lethal force ... and now I feel as a pediatric vaccine scientist ... it’s important, just as important for me to make new vaccines, to save lives. The other side of saving lives is countering this anti-vaccine aggression.”

**Paul D. Thacker**    
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Dr. Peter Hotez about using Homeland Security and NATO to fight anti-vaccine aggression, anti-science aggression: "I've said to the Biden administration: "The health sector can't solve this on its own, we're going to have to bring in Homeland Security, Commerce Department,..."

4:15 AM · Jul 25, 2024 

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The full interview was available on **YouTube** until Wednesday evening, when it was removed. **The Defender** obtained a video recording of the full interview.

Hotez is dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine at Baylor University College of Medicine and director of the Center for Vaccine Development at **Texas Children's Hospital**, one of the sponsors of the symposium, which was organized by the **Colombian Pediatric Society**.

Aside from being a vaccine proponent and developer — he helped develop the **Corbevax COVID-19 vaccine** which was administered in India and has received at least \$30 million in **vaccine development grants** from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation — Hotez has

crusaded against so-called “misinformation” about vaccines.

In March, The Hill reported that Hotez has found a “parallel career” **fighting misinformation.**”

Hotez “finds his efforts to combat misinformation to be ‘meaningful,’” and says “pushing back on the anti-vaccine movement is just as important as developing vaccines,” The Hill wrote.

Hotez also holds six **patents on the hookworm (helminth) vaccine**, and has several listed patent applications as well, including those for SARS-CoV2 vaccines.

## The Vaccine Safety Project

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“Peter has cashed in significantly on the COVID-19 pandemic and gets a lot of money when shots go into arms,” said Brian Hooker, Chief Scientific Officer for **Children’s Health Defense** (CHD).

In his July 5 interview, Hotez called for more stringent action against “anti-vaxers,” whom he connected to entities such as the Russian government, and called for medical schools to educate new doctors about anti-vaccine sentiment.

“‘Anti-science’ and ‘anti-vaxxer’ are propaganda terms Hotez uses to establish a power dynamic over anyone who disagrees with him,” said cardiologist **Dr. Peter McCullough**.

“Now Hotez is calling for a security state to enforce his propaganda instead of engaging in much needed dialogue over vaccine safety with a critical appraisal of short- and long-term side effects from the routine **childhood vaccine schedule**, including the **COVID-19** shots,” McCullough added.

According to **Harvey Risch, M.D., Ph.D.**, professor emeritus and senior research scientist in epidemiology (chronic diseases) at the Yale School of Public Health:

“Hotez has spent his entire career developing vaccines which have not achieved success in commercial use. His demands to impose public health martial law are reminiscent of the ‘Comité de salut public’ — **Committee of Public Safety** — that Robespierre used to murder his political opponents [during the French Revolution].”

For **Francis Boyle, J.D., Ph.D.**, professor of international law at the University of Illinois, Hotez's suggestions are a call to violate established international human rights law.

"Coercing vaccines upon human beings without their informed and voluntary consent violates the **Nuremberg Code on Medical Experimentation**, which is a crime against humanity," Boyle said. "What we see at work here with Hotez is the Nazi mentality that pervades so many vaccinologists like him. Hotez is revealing his true colors."

Independent journalist Paul D. Thacker has **investigated Hotez** for his site, **The Disinformation Chronicle**. He said, "This crackpot idea that we should deploy military forces to deal with moms worried about vaccine side effects and children ... doesn't that speak for itself?"



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**Dr. Sukharit Bhakdi**, a microbiologist, questioned Hotez's scientific credentials:

"Simple fact: Hotez is not a real scientist. He has never published any research article based on true scientific research. His publications transmit his personal opinions and beliefs. He has not conducted a single valid vaccine trial and has zero data to back his claims.

"He has been on the globalist team together with [Dr. Anthony] Fauci et al. and is now turning to violence to silence all dissenters. This very fact disqualifies him as a physician."

"His evolution over the course of the pandemic is curious as he has become more and more shrill as time goes on," Hooker said. "It seems he is trying to extend his 15 minutes of fame by 'jumping the shark' and inciting gestapo-like measures against 'anti-vaxers' and 'science deniers.' His definition of science is very 'Fauci-esque' indeed."

### **Claim that unvaccinated caused 'hundreds of thousands' of deaths 'an obvious untruth'**

During his July 5 interview, Hotez asserted that the unvaccinated were responsible for hundreds of thousands of deaths during the COVID-19 pandemic. He said:

"There's anti-vaccine activity in every country, and each has its own unique national flavor. But the part that I'm worried about now is something very dark and accelerating in the United States.

"And the most dramatic evidence for that is what happened during the COVID pandemic ... My estimate is 200,000 Americans died needlessly because they refused COVID vaccines in 2021, 2022."

Hotez did not provide evidence supporting this figure, but it was similar to claims made by **Dr. Anthony Fauci** during **Congressional testimony** last month. Without citing evidence, Fauci said the unvaccinated are "probably responsible for an additional 200,000-300,000 deaths" in the U.S."

Risch called this claim "an obvious untruth."

"In the face of repeated major empirical CDC [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] **evidence** and CDC's public acknowledgement that the mRNA vaccines largely failed to reduce COVID transmission, Hotez absurdly claims that people choosing not to vaccinate themselves have contributed more to deaths from COVID than all of the large-scale breakthrough infections among vaccinated people," Risch said.

McCullough said, "Hotez presumes COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective as any vaccinologist would dream. Sadly, his fantasy was over before it started. The COVID-19 vaccines were **unsafe** and failed to reduce hospitalization and death in prospective randomized trials or in valid observational studies. They never stopped transmission."

"All experts, including Hotez, agreed theoretical protection from COVID-19 vaccines was just a few months, requiring frequent boosters," McCullough added.

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**Hotez calls parents who choose not to vaccinate their children 'victims'**

In his interview, Hotez called for action — including more  **censorship** — to counter what he called a “dark and accelerating” and “dangerous” anti-vaccine movement in the U.S. and globally that is “expanding and extending to childhood immunizations in the United States.”

“My worry is that this anti-vaccine movement, and it’s not misinformation or [an] infodemic, as many call it, it’s organized, it’s deliberate, it’s well-financed and it’s politically motivated ... I worry that’s now globalizing to other countries on the African continent, in Asia and even Latin America,” he added.

On the topic of childhood vaccinations, Hotez said, “Parents who choose not to vaccinate their kids are victims” of this campaign, and called for medical schools to train doctors on how to respond to parents who oppose vaccinations.

“Pediatricians need to understand what the anti-vaccine ecosystem is, how it’s organized, how it operates, and to get educated about it,” he said. “I think that’s a first step ... in our medical schools, in our pediatric residency training, in our conferences like this, being able to describe what this anti-vaccine monster looks like.”

But for journalist **Rodney Palmer**, formerly of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, the **increasing reluctance of parents to vaccinate their children** is due to mounting concerns about vaccine safety. He said:

“The rising movement questioning the safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines appears to be based on mounting evidence from **government health data collection agencies** and the **life insurance industry**.

“The fraud and cover-up of ivermectin as an effective prevention and treatment of COVID-19 caused a segment of the population to question the official guidance around vaccines — more so once they were mandated.”

Hotez blamed legacy and traditional media, as well as foreign governments, for fueling anti-vaccine sentiments.

“Fox News is now a source of anti-vaccine disinformation,” Hotez said. “If the parents are watching Fox News every night ... They are going to be coming into your practice believing disinformation.”

Turning to social media, Hotez said, “Twitter, since **Elon Musk has taken it over**, has become an anti-vaccine site dominated by anti-vaccine groups and individuals who are monetizing the internet. They’re selling fake autism cures because they say **vaccines cause autism**, which they don’t.”

Hotez continues to be **active on Twitter** — now known as X.

Adversarial foreign governments are also to blame for propagating anti-vaccine rhetoric, according to Hotez. “For instance, the Russian government, the Putin government, is spreading anti-vaccine propaganda. The goal of this is to destabilize society and to have caused people to question authority,” he said.

Hotez did not provide any information to support this claim. Russia produces the **Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine**, under the auspices of the **Russian Direct Investment Fund** and **The Gamaleya National Center of Epidemiology and Microbiology** — an arm of the **Russian federal government**.

### **Hotez calls ‘anti-vaccine movement’ a tool of the ‘far-right’**

Hotez also used the interview as an opportunity to plug his upcoming book, “**The Deadly Rise of Anti-Science: A Scientist’s Warning**.” He said the book “describes [the anti-vaccine] ecosystem and its political leanings in detail.”

According to the book’s publisher, Johns Hopkins University Press, Hotez “explains how anti-science became a major societal and lethal force” and how “the anti-vaccine movement became a tool of far-right political figures around the world.”

In 2022, Hotez **fiercely criticized** looming **Congressional hearings** into a possible **lab-leak origin** of COVID-19 and whether the National Institutes of Health (NIH) prematurely discredited the hypothesis, dismissing this as an “**outlandish conspiracy**.”

However, Hotez’s own **2012 to 2017 NIH grant** — totaling \$6.1 million — for the development of a SARS vaccine had the aim of responding to any “**accidental release from a laboratory**,” in addition to a possible zoonotic (or natural) spillover of the virus.

In a June 2023 interview with Robert F. Kennedy Jr., CHD’s chairman on leave, podcaster Joe Rogan offered to donate \$100,000 to a charity of Hotez’s choice if he agreed to **debate Kennedy**.

Hotez — with the support of several **legacy news media outlets** and the **American Medical Association** — refused Rogan’s offer. He later **claimed on social media** that a “couple of anti-vaxers” “stalked” and “taunted” him outside his home after he declined the offer to debate Kennedy.

*The Defender on occasion posts content related to Children’s Health Defense’s nonprofit mission that features Mr. Kennedy’s views on the issues CHD and The Defender regularly cover. In keeping with Federal Election Commission rules, this content does not represent an endorsement of Mr.*