

## Editorial

Professionals Should Take Caution: They  
Go Very Wrong Too Frequently

Emmanuel Oluwatobi SALAWU

## ABSTRACT [ENGLISH/ANGLAIS]

Nil

**Keywords:** Professionals, caution, MMR, medical, construction, engineering, road, gutters, concrete, iron rod

## RÉSUMÉ [FRANÇAIS/FRENCH]

Nil

**Mots-clés:** Professionnels, la prudence, MMR, médicaux, construction, génie routier, gouttières, béton, barre de fer

## Affiliations:

Departments of Physiology Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, College of  
Medicine, Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomoso, NIGERIA;  
and  
School of Public Health, SRM University, Kattankulathur, Tamil Nadu, INDIA\* Email Address for Correspondence/ Adresse de courriel pour la  
correspondance: [seocatholic@gmail.com](mailto:seocatholic@gmail.com)

Accepted/Accepté: February, 2011

Full Citation: SALAWU Emmanuel Oluwatobi, Professionals Should Take  
Caution: They Go Very Wrong Too Frequently. World Journal of Young  
Researchers 2011;1:1-3

This editorial briefly revisits some very ugly situations when some professionals had grossly disappointed their immediate clients and/or the general population at large. It has been summarized and made to contain one instance from the medical field and some others from the fields of construction and engineering, and also implicitly point to similar situations in the field of education and learning, and so many others fields.

The publication of Andrew et al. [1] in Lancet on 28 February 1998 (retracted on 2 February 2010) presents a vital example of situations when for some sets of unacceptable reasons, professionals err. Since this lancet scandal (resulting from Wakefield et al.-MMR-Autism's fraudulent research/article) has recently received lots of attention and have generated many literatures, will not be critically discussed in this editorial. Readers who are interested in the details of the information on what many had called Wakefield et al.-MMR-Autism's fraudulent research/article are hereby directed to the articles by Deer [2], and Greenhalgh [3]. But to summarize the Wakefield et al.-MMR-Autism's scenario the following had been extracted from Wikipedia.

*"Claims of a connection between the vaccine and autism were raised in a 1998 paper in The Lancet, a respected British medical journal.[1] Investigation by Sunday Times journalist Brian Deer discovered that the lead author of the*

*article, Andrew Wakefield, had multiple undeclared conflicts of interest,[4][5] had manipulated evidence,[6] and had broken other ethical codes. The Lancet paper was retracted, and Wakefield was found guilty by the General Medical Council of serious professional misconduct in May 2010 and was struck off the Medical Register, meaning he could no longer practice as a doctor in the UK.[7] The research was declared fraudulent in 2011 by the BMJ.[8]"*

Extracted from Wikipedia [9]

Most definitely, we can not expect that this type of deceitful research is limited to the notorious Wakefield et al.-MMR-Autism's scenario. In fact many of such (or even worst) acts from the many of the so-called professionals are still hidden and many fraudulent research are yet to be revealed as being fraudulent. Feigenbaum and Levy [10] statement "In a world where researchers prefer their experiments to have a particular outcome, scientific fraud and research bias are alternative methods to implement such preferences" made things a lot clearer and reveals the main reason why many professionals (in this case, researchers) intentionally decide to go so wrong.

Considering the premises in engineering and more importantly constructions, one would find disgusting number of instances when professionals have gone unbelievably too wrong. For now we limit the focus to

some constructions within some universities in some South-East Asian Countries. It is heart-breaking to find that many Universities that are said to be highly ranked in engineering courses and architecture still mess up in terms of their construction works. Normally one most likely expect that such higher institutions would have followed the most appropriate multi-attribute analysis [11] (with special attention to cost benefit analysis) in reaching the decision as regards which project has high priority and thus worth embarking on. Therefore, it is safe to assume that these higher institutions embark on only those projects that top their scale of preference and which they are confident that have the required human and non-human resources for. Alas, many of these projects end up in building some structures which are eyesores and are neither highly functional nor possess the necessary aesthetic properties.

Some of such ill-constructed structures are very obvious in a particular highly popular University in India. In that University important precautions and many construction rules are grossly overlooked. Even though, that University has got the so called powerful Departments of Architecture and Civil Engineering, they still keep failing in major ways in their construction works. The most alarming aspect in which that University go wrong is seen in its approach to road (and gutter) construction. You will be surprised to find many of the roads and drainages within that University to have been poorly constructed such that the roads are at lower levels compared to the gutters, and most often there would be no linkage between the road surface water and the gutter and this causes lots of problems (for example, following rainfall). Eventually, these gutters have only very little or no functions, and the roads in that University campus become flooded following any slight rainfall. [The question one would ask is "Of what importance is a road-side gutter which does not drain the road's surface water?"]

That University has got a lot of experienced professionals from its Works Department and many Professors from its Departments of Architecture and Civil Engineering involved in its construction works, and the University always spends lots of money on paying the huge salaries to these professionals as well as on purchasing quality materials for these constructions, but still the end results of the construction works are often non-functional-and-non-aesthetic, and sometimes hazardous structures. Both the immediate client (in this

case, the University) and the general population at large who use these constructed structures must always find it highly unacceptable that these professionals (in this case, the experienced construction workers, architects, and civil engineers) too frequently go wrong in their constructions and keeps making highly disappointing errors.

Some other very important aspects where these professionals fail in their constructions include the aspect which involves concrete reinforcement. Even though the great importance and extreme need for high quality concrete is of paramount importance in virtually all constructions, but still some of the projects being carried out/supervised by the professional and construction specialists in that same University. For example, I had seen them many times using rusted iron rods in concrete reinforcement in some of their new constructions. And most often they had obtained those rusted iron rods from collapsed or demolished structures. Furthermore, the construction workers are often very careless while casting the concretes, and they often fail to properly position the reinforcement materials in the appropriate central part of concretes being cast. All these acts and negligence considerably lower the quality and durability of the structures being constructed and pose considerable risk of early collapsing.

Other instances where professionals err are not far fetched, and these wrong actions are not limited to the instances discussed above or to only the professions from the fields previously discussed. Rather, similar incorrect acts are found in the practices of professionals from all fields, ranging from the education professionals to the legal professionals, and even from the security and law enforcement professionals to the management professionals.

Truthfully, it is understandable that what eventually happens when professionals (intentionally) go very wrong is not a puzzle. [In fact, things do not go fine and the worst happens whenever various professionals intentionally go very wrong.] The worst outcomes mainly result due to the fact that the clients of such professionals (and sometimes, the entire population) would in many cases have trusted the professionals without reservations, and would often follows their recommendations to letters, finally it would be too late when they find out that the constructed structures which they are good is not, or when they finally find out

that they had actually followed wrong recommendations. Some convincing examples of such situations are those of the Wakefield et al.-MMR-Autism's scenario, and series of building collapse that result from poor construction.

Finally we encourage the professionals to be a lot more careful (and sacrifice their selfish interests for the satisfaction of their clients and, sometimes, the general population) while discharging their professional duties and advise them to be a lot more diligent in their duties, and always remember their professional oaths (if they have one) and abide by their promises.

## REFERENCES

- [1] Wakefield A, Murch S, Anthony A, Linnell J, Casson DM, Malik M, Berelowitz M et al.. Ileal-lymphoid-nodular hyperplasia, non-specific colitis, and pervasive developmental disorder in children. *Lancet* 1998;351(9103):637-41.
- [2] Deer B. How the case against the MMR vaccine was fixed *BMJ* 2011;342:c5347.
- [3] Greenhalgh T. Why did the Lancet take so long? *BMJ* 2010; 340:c644.
- [4] Deer B. Revealed: MMR research scandal. *The Sunday Times* (London) 2004-02-22. Last Accessed: September 2007.
- [5] Berger A. Dispatches. MMR: What They Didn't Tell You. *BMJ* 2004;329(7477):1293.
- [6] Deer B. MMR doctor Andrew Wakefield fixed data on autism. *Sunday Times*(London) 2009-02-08). Last Accessed: February 2009.
- [7] Nick Triggle. MMR doctor struck off register. *BBC Online* 24 May 2010. Last Accessed: May 2010.
- [8] Godlee F, Smith J, Marcovitch H. Wakefield's article linking MMR vaccine and autism was fraudulent". *BMJ* 2011;342:c7452.
- [9] MMR vaccine controversy. *Wikipedia*, 2010. Accessed from: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MMR\\_vaccine\\_controversy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MMR_vaccine_controversy) . Last Accessed: February 2011.
- [10] Feigenbaum S, Levy DM. The technological obsolescence of scientific fraud. *Rationality and Society* 1996;8(3):261-76.
- [11] Kazimieras ZE, Ilias R, Turskis Z. Multi-attribute decision-making methods for assessment Of quality in bridges and road construction: State-of-the-art surveys. *The Baltic Journal of Road and Bridge Engineering* 2008;3(3):152-60.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT / SOURCE OF SUPPORT

Nil

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflict of interest was declared by the authors.

## How to Submit Manuscripts

Since we use very fast review system, and since we are dedicated to publishing submitted articles with few weeks of submission, then the easiest and most reliable way of submitting a manuscript for publication in any of the journals from the publisher Research, Reviews and Publications (also known as Research | Reviews | Publications) is by sending an electronic copy of the well formatted manuscript as an email attachment to [rrpjournals@gmail.com](mailto:rrpjournals@gmail.com) .

Submissions are often acknowledged within 6 to 24 hours of submission and the review process normally starts within few hours later, except in the rare cases where we are unable to find the appropriate reviewer on time.

Manuscripts are hardly rejected without first sending them for review, except in the cases where the manuscripts are poorly formatted and the author(s) have not followed the instructions for manuscript preparation which is available on the page of Instruction for Authors in website and can be accessed through <http://www.rrpjournals.com/InstructionsForAuthors.html> .

Research | Reviews | Publications and its journals have so many unique features such as rapid and quality publication of excellent articles, bilingual publication, some of which are available at <http://www.rrpjournals.com/uniqueess.html> .