

Chapter 29:

Interview with **Mario Lamo-Jiménez**



Ty: Mario, you were one of the first ones, or the first one, in Colombia, where you're from, to write an article about Gardasil, correct?

Mario: Yes, that's right. That was in 2013. I saw an article in the newspaper, that I was writing for, a blog, and they say the Ministry of Health was going to vaccinate three-and-a-half million girls against the HPV virus, with the Gardasil vaccine.

I was living in California for 20 years and I had some information about vaccines. So, when I saw the headline in the newspaper, I wrote an article for the same newspaper. All the dangers of the vaccine because it was known that it had side effects, along with the world where it was applied.

I wrote the article, it was the first article known about the vaccine, and also, they hadn't started the vaccination campaign officially at that point. The reaction of the paper was, can you prove what you're saying there?

And they said I had to submit another article with more quotes, with sources. So, I submitted a 50-page article that was supporting what I had said in the 3-page article. But they said, "no, we cannot publish this because we are going to be sued by Merck, and you're going to be sued by Merck." So, they censored the article and they closed the blog. That was the reaction.

Ty: Wow, so Merck, the producer of the Gardasil vaccine, they said that they would sue if they publish—

Mario: The newspaper said that Merck was going to sue me and the paper. That was their threat.

Ty: Even though you had a 50-page article that you had documented sources that proved that Gardasil has harmed, they wouldn't publish it.

Mario: No, they wouldn't publish it because it was even more hard hitting than the one I had published before. So, they censored the first article. But I published the article on my own website. I started writing articles for different journalistic sources in Colombia. So the word started to spread out and people started to know that this campaign that was going to start had problems.

One thing that happened in Colombia, is that before they started with the vaccination campaign, they had like a pilot campaign in two places. They selected a very poor neighborhood, working class in Bogota, and outrageously, they went to a little town in the plains of Colombia, where there's oil production, and there's a lot of sex workers. So they tried the vaccine with the doctors of the sex workers.

So, they were basically experimenting with them, thinking this like a population that doesn't matter, if something goes wrong, it doesn't matter. And they have done that like—their trials, they did in India, there were deaths in India, so that's how they started.

They started because they were marketing it this like sex prevention vaccine. But then they changed completely their tune. They said when they started the mass vaccination in Colombia, they said, "this is for cervical cancer." And that's how this started.

Ty: So, it began as a vaccine that help prevent STDs, sexually transmitted diseases, and then it kind of morphed into this is to prevent cervical cancer?

Mario: Yes, that is where it started, and then, I was contacted by some radio station in Colombia to give an interview. Because nobody else knew about what's going on. So, I gave an interview, and they told me, "Can you bring experts to participate in this from other countries?"

So, I was in touch with [indiscernible 00:04:32] and I'm invited here to participate in the program, in the radio program. So, she came to the program and gave this interview and people knew more about what was going on. So that's how we started the relationship with the associations, organizations here in the States because there was no information in Colombia.

And then, a few months later when they fully started the vaccination campaign, then what I have said in the article started to happen. That was the side effects. And we started to have one girl sick in one place, another here.

It was not like a very massive thing. It was just like one girl got sick. Nothing special. But then, a year later, there was a town in Colombia, there is a town called Carmen de Bolivar. And Carmen de Bolivar is a very interesting town because it's a very close, ethnic population.

It is like native population that hasn't mixed very much with whites or blacks. It's like the original population. And they went to that town and they have a massive vaccination at the schools, and then the girls started to fail—the vaccinated girls. The numbers grew every day. When I started writing, it was 70, then 125, then 400, until there were 700 girls affected by the vaccine.

What happened to them is they started to faint and that's part of the effects of the vaccine and that's been documented. There's not enough blood circulation and they lose consciousness, and they were taken to the hospital. And the government response was this is not related to the vaccine.

This is a case of mass hysteria. That's the first answer. Without having conducted any tests, without anything. It was like something that they had ready in their script. And then, they said, "Well, the parents had a big demonstration.

I think it's one of the first demonstrations in the world where people were demonstrating against a vaccine. So they carry signs, they took to the streets, and so the government had to send representatives from the Ministry of Health to talk to them.

And they made many promises. Yes, we're going to study what's going on, we will offer you whatever help you need. So they commissioned a study about Carmen de Bolivar through the National Institute of Health. And they had like 3 months to produce the study. And after 3 months instead of producing this study, they started filtrating to the press like headlines from the study. "No connection with the vaccine, this is a case of mass hysteria."

Ty: So, they basically took PR to the streets and they let people know, even though that's not what the study had shown, they just started publishing that there is no connection, that this is mass hysteria. They made it into the public's mind in Colombia that there was no relationship.

Mario: Yes, that was actually the response. And they didn't publish the study, so I have to write a letter to that National Institute of Health and have a right of petition. I tell them I need to see this study, because it wasn't published anywhere. One week later I got a response, I got the study, and they put the study in the website.

The story was a whitewash. It didn't contain any substance, it has just statistics that didn't prove anything. They didn't interview the girls, they didn't conduct any tests, they didn't talk to any outside experts. It was like it was pre-planned. That's the story that they put to the

public. The vaccine is perfectly alright and the girls are crazy.

But at the same time, many other girls were watching what was happening to Carmen de Bolivar that was in the news. One of the girls I interviewed told me, “My grandmother was watching the news and she said maybe this is what is happening to you?” So they were relating things, they were correlating things. And yes, the girl was affected by the vaccine.

Ty: As you mentioned before, the side effects were known. Many of the side effects were actually published in the literature. You wrote an article—I’m just going to try to summarize where we are at this point. You wrote an article that documented the adverse reactions to the Gardasil vaccine all over the world and the Colombian newspaper said no.

We can’t publish it. Then you documented it with 50 more pages, they said no, you’re going to get sued. Then they introduced the vaccine to Colombia and they had a mass outbreak in Carmen de Bolivar, and 700 girls in that outbreak. Not outbreak, you had 700 girls that had extremely adverse reactions to the vaccine—some of them fainting, loss of consciousness are on the insert. That’s what it may cause. But when the girls related their plight to the authorities, they said “you’re crazy.”

Mario: Yes, that’s exactly what happened. And, many started receiving psychiatric drugs, for example. The clip that I’ve shown you is one of the girls that they said—from Carmen de Bolivar, they said “you’re crazy, we’re going to take you to a psychiatric hospital,” and then she tries to kill herself.

And by then, girls start to die. We have four deaths already, and one of these deaths is a girl that committed suicide because she couldn’t bear the illness that she was suffering. Now, the thing to bear in mind is that no one knew what was happening to the girls in other parts of the country.

In Carmen de Bolivar, they say it’s the vaccine, but individual girls that live, for example, in a city like Medellin they were having exactly the same symptoms. They had bleeding, they had muscle weakness. They had early menopause.

They were fainting. And they couldn’t think what was affecting them. Then when the news came out, people started spreading the word, and they read the articles that I started to write and other people were reproducing in other websites. I started receiving calls from mothers, from victims, and I got a call from a lawyer who was a female, her name is Monica Elgrio, and she had an affected daughter.

And she told me, “I need to learn everything there is to learn about the vaccine.” And I sent her information. She’s now leading an organization of victims that is called Asociacion Reconstruyendo Esperanza, it is like, Rebuilding Hope Association, and she’s suing the government right now and this is going to high court.

And the high court asked to bring scientific proof that there is a relationship between the vaccine and the symptoms. And if this goes ahead, it will be the first country in the world where somebody brought a scientific proof and was accepted by the court.

The proof is out there, the problem is that they don’t want to accept it. The Minister of Health in Colombia, his response was the World Health Organization says the vaccine is perfectly safe. So whatever you’re complaining about, it doesn’t exist. That’s the response from the Minister of Health.

And also, he tweets, that's the way he responds. He never answers a letter or anything. Tweets. And in one of the tweets, he says, "Everybody that is talking false things about the vaccine will be taken to court." He was threatening the victims, the journalists, because they couldn't accept that the vaccine was the cause of the side effects. So they not only didn't accept that, but they're threatening people with taking them to court.

And, also because there was not informed consent, and there was like a—there is in Colombia what is called the National Academy of Medicine, and they form a group, a study group, to do recommendations to the government about the vaccine.

And the recommendation was you have to study the immune system of the people you're going to vaccinate to see if they have autoimmune diseases, or if they have had adverse reactions to vaccines before. You have to change the protocol. It's very important. You cannot vaccinate in an indiscriminate way because you're going to get many people that might have a genetic-based position to react to this vaccine.

They never screen anybody, even though in the literature from Merck if you have any adverse reactions to vaccines, you have to watch out, be careful. They didn't. In this town, Carmen de Bolivar, they even vaccinate pregnant girls. That's against any right way to do it and it's in the literature of the manufacturer. So, it shows the indiscriminate way in which they just vaccinated these girls in this town.

Ty: And people are individuals, so when you mass vaccinate, without looking at individuals own immune system, if they have autoimmune disease or whatever, it's just a herd mentality that everybody gets the same vaccine when you don't look at the individual nature.

One of the things that you said earlier, it's irritating to me is that they were threatening, they were harassing these girls. They were calling them names. These girls had been vaccine injured from the Gardasil vaccine. And instead of being concerned to help them recover, they threaten them, they call them names.

One of the girls you said committed suicide. It's heartbreaking. I saw the video, you showed me the video of these girls and the little girl that was crying because of all of the anguish that she goes through now because of the vaccine.

But it seems that we live in a world where instead of having compassion for people who have been injured, in order to save money from potential lawsuits, they will just blame the victim.

Mario: Yes, they blame the victim and it's very extreme, because for example one of the girls I interviewed and I did a documentary about her family, and she presented her case. Her mother filmed her for 37 minutes, and she's an incredible girl.

Just 13, but she could recall every detail of her ordeal since she had found how the vaccine affected her and all her hospitalizations and what's happening then, and she tells for example one anecdote of what happened to her.

She's at the hospital, she's in a wheelchair, and the doctors meet and say, "she is faking it. She doesn't have any illness." And they call the mother and tell them we have some news for you, the doctors. "Your girl is crazy."

So, the mother who has been in the hospital for weeks and weeks, who is very tired, who is desperate, faints. She falls to the ground and then the nurse comes and tells the girl that is in the wheelchair, "Do you see what you just did to your mother?"

“She fainted because of you and you are making her ill too.” So, that’s the way that they were treated at the hospitals. It’s absolutely criminal, and when the courts ordered, for example for Carmen de Bolivar, they needed to receive treatment because of the lawsuit of this lawyer that they needed to have a specific test done, then that was going to the ministry of health.

They had to do it. And they said, “No, we’re not going to do it. It’s not our responsibility. It’s the responsibility of the health care providers like the Blue Shield here in the States.” They are called EPS in Colombia.

So, they never did anything. Whatever the court order that they have to offer to these girls, they didn’t do it. So, because they don’t want to say that there is a relationship with the vaccine and they go to a high extreme to do that because, for example, all the medical professionals—lots of them are afraid to speak about this issue.

One of the girls that I interviewed went to an immunologist, and she was paying, she was middle class, her family was paying, and she had a diagnosis of transverse myelitis. But the doctors said, “This is for you. I wouldn’t say that in public. I won’t say it because I can get in trouble.”

So, that’s the mentality that there is right now about the vaccine. Doctors, very few are willing to talk. Most of them don’t want to say anything and the point we are now is like, suppose that cancer didn’t exist, and all of a sudden people start getting cancer.

But they don’t have a name for it, and each individual has to discover what his illness is, pay for the tests, get treatment, and besides when you tell them that you have this disease, they tell them, “No, cancer doesn’t exist. You’re crazy is your problem.”

That’s at the extreme that we are in Colombia, but now, we have a symposium where Doctor Yehuda Shoenfeld came to Bogota in 2014 and it was after Carmen de Bolivar. So, I had the opportunity to ask him, “Do you think that this is mass hysteria, what happened in Carmen de Bolivar?”

He says, “I don’t know all the details of the case, I’ve been here for a couple of days, but I can tell you this. I injected mice with Gardasil and they got depressed, and mice don’t talk to each other.” He said, “I wouldn’t vaccinate my own daughter.”

And he is like a leading expert in immunology in Israel, and he doesn’t have conflict of interest. What happened, the government selects the people that are going to talk to defend their position. So, they called this woman that worked for Merck, although she wasn’t disclose that. She didn’t disclose that when she gives interview. Her name is Nubia Munoz.

And she was a researcher for Merck, participated in the sole aspect of the developing of the vaccine, and was a candidate to the Nobel prize. She’s a Colombian. And she’s the person that when they need somebody to discredit the victims or the people that are showing what is happening with the vaccine, she comes out and says, “This was proved that the vaccine was perfectly safe. There’s nothing to do. We have to continue with the vaccination campaign.”

Now, the important issue is that after what happened in Carmen de Bolivar, after the organization of victims got together, we have a website where we publish information, we exchange information with Chile, Argentina, Brazil, the United States. After that, vaccination went down in Colombia to about 5 percent.

And I think it's one of the lowest vaccination rates in the world right now. I think that was done because of all the war that was done with the victims, with the associations, with the mass media, but independent mass media, alternative mass media using YouTube, Twitter, Facebook, because the papers didn't want to publish anything about this issue.

Now when there is a big scandal, vaccination is down, the paper I was writing for has like a TV channel and they had a special about vaccination and the side effects. Three years later, when all of this has happened, they couldn't stay in perpetual denial. So that's the situation right now.

Ty: So, Mario for you, that must be at least some affirmation that you were on the right track. It's a little bit late for the girls that have been injured but at least in Colombia, the rates of vaccination have gone down and less of these young ladies or even men are being damaged.

Mario: Yes, that was like a really high point when we found out that their campaign was down to 5 percent because people were aware of something that they weren't aware before. And it is that this vaccine had these side effects and also we were trying to enlighten the people, telling them there's other ways to prevent cervical cancer.

And giving them facts and numbers and showing that how this might end up in cancer in one percent of the population and why do you have to vaccinate 100 percent of the population for this?

And also, they were screening for example for—if the girls were not getting infected with HPV, then the rate of cancer might go up instead of helping and besides, there's no conclusive study that says this prevents cancer because they're expecting to have results in 20 years.

It's an act to know if this prevented anything. It's an act of faith. An act of faith while people are getting sick. What I'm imposing is to have the precautionary principle apply to Colombia. If the harm is higher than the good that the vaccine is doing, they have to stop the vaccine. And that's what we're trying to do in court right now.

Ty: Well that's great that you've seen some fruition of your work that you've done down there. Last question for you. You'd mentioned that in Colombia in 2013, that there was a mandatory law. A law that mandated the Gardasil vaccine. Is that still in effect now in Colombia?

Mario: Yes, there was a law that went to congress, and it was put there, believe it or not, by a political party that is also a religious group. They said that was a right for the girls to have this vaccine and that had to be in the vaccination program. But before the law was taken to congress, the government commissioned a study to the National University of Colombia, to see what was the cost benefit of the vaccine.

To see if it was something that should be implemented. The study came and the National University said is we give you thumbs down. The cost effectiveness of the vaccine is not good enough to have this massive campaign.

So, what happened here is that then, the courts sue the Ministry of Health at that point, it was another minister, and say "you have to do the study again." So they send the same study to the same people with the same facts, and they produced a completely different study. Yes, it's cost effective. So, they were like just changing the study to what they wanted to do.

So, this law then went to congress and it says, law 1626, 2013, the law says the vaccine, Gardasil, is free and mandatory. That's what the headline says. Then when you go to the

fine print, they didn't have anything to sustain that it was mandatory.

But they were pushing the vaccine all over the place, mandatory or not. They just went to schools, they told them it's vaccination day, you have to get vaccinated. And they were getting all the girls that they could get. And they have like a quota and I saw that because I went to small towns, and I asked, "How is the vaccination campaign conducted here?"

And they told me, "We have a list. We have to have 200 vaccinated girls here, and if we don't comply with that we're in trouble." So, what they did is they vaccinated 180 and they went to the streets to look for kids, for girls, so they have the quota and they have to present the quota.

That's the way. Without information, I asked little girls. "So, you were vaccinated, did you get information what the vaccine was for?" "No, they just told us to come and get the vaccine. That was it."

It was the most inhuman thing because the girls weren't told what the vaccine was about, the parents weren't informed about the vaccine. Nobody was informed about the side effects. And the government spend the first year and after the same amount, \$100 million.

And that's a lot of money that was used for something that didn't prevent anything, that wasn't public health, there was no epidemic of human papillomavirus that was wrecking everything around. It was just an outside decision that was implemented in Colombia. And everything is run through the World Health Organization, and the Pan American Health Organization that is part of the United Nations.

And Colombia used the vaccine from the Pan American Health Organization. So, that's like—it's their business, they're running that business. Nothing that happens in Colombia. If they're going to do a contract, buying anything, they have to give money to somebody or the contract don't happen.

So, there's a high level of corruption, they defended their position that they didn't do any wrong and they continue with their propaganda to get girls vaccinated. But now people, really after the side effects that they saw, they don't believe in the vaccine anymore. Very, very few people.

Interviewer 2: Congratulations on that because I think that you were instrumental in getting that truth out to the people of Colombia. So, final comment. We see again that money, that business is driving these decisions. You mentioned that if anything comes up in Colombia.

I don't know if it's still the case today but in the past, any anti-vaccination news comes up, they send somebody, a lady that's getting money from Merck to defend the vaccine that Merck produces. So, it's just corruption at the highest level with money driving the decisions.

Mario: Yes, and they don't say there is a conflict of interest. They never say that.

Ty: But there's huge conflicts of interest, isn't there?

Mario: Yes, that's the whole issue. The people that are paying for that are the girls that are victims of the vaccine right now and there is like they're destroying communities like in the case of Carmen de Bolivar because of the fertile girls that were going to be creating a generation.

They might be menopausal right now and also creating big hardships for families. The

families that have the money they have to pay for everything. Even middle class girl that has a wheelchair, she has to rent the wheelchair.

The government isn't paying for anything. So, it's a hardship for the family. So, this is destroying individuals, families, and communities. This is causing great hardship for the country, for the families, for everybody, without them acknowledging anything.

Ty: Mario, thank you for sharing. Keep up the great work of educating the public.

Mario: Thank you very much.

Ty: Appreciate it.

[End of transcript]