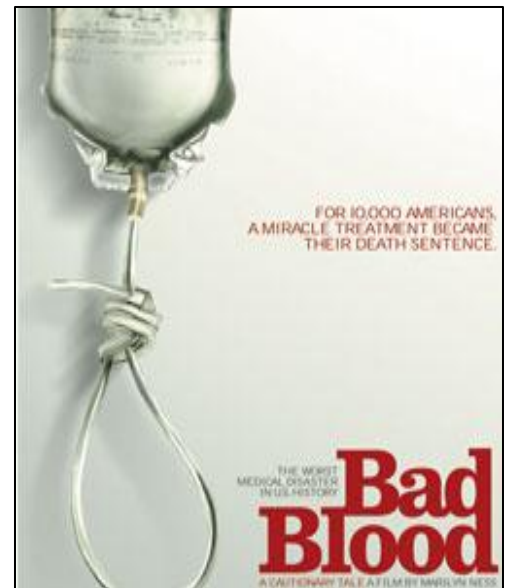


Purifying an Image: Baxter Healthcare, Pharmaceutical Fraud & Blood Money



**A shocking
expose of
the
corporation
behind the Irish
Blood Transfusion
Scandal.**



Alan Markey
Baxter Healthcare Ireland
7 Deansgrange Business Park
Blackrock
Co. Dublin

Re: GREAT PLACE TO WORK-2011 Best Workplaces Ireland, Irish Independent Feb, 2011

Cc. Judge Alison Lindsay; cc. Jane Burgermeister; cc. Robert L. Parkinson, Jr. CEO & President, Baxter International; cc. Christopher Bona, Baxter Director of Global Bioscience Communications; cc. Pat Gallagher, General Manager of Baxter Manufacturing Ireland; cc. Erin Gardiner, Baxter Spokesman; cc. Dr Andrew Wakefield; cc. Rhona Blake, Fleishman-Hillard Saunders; cc. Deborah Spak, Baxter spokeswoman; Attorneys General of every state Baxter ripped off; cc. Lloyd Gorman, IDA Ireland; cc. Jerry O'Connor, Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment; cc. Mark Murphy, Irish Kidney Association; cc. Brendan Cuddy, Manufacturing and Quality Compliance, European Medicines Agency; cc. Petrina Vousden, Hacks- *Irish Independent, Times, Daily Mail, Examiner, UK; Telegraph, Guardian, Observer, Express, Private Eye* and many more; cc Ben Goldacre, *Big Pharma Sales Rep*; cc. John Ryan, CEO *Great Place to Work, Ireland*, , Several Mayo Gombeen politicians etc..

Dear Mr Markey

From perusing and reading your jubilant result in the '2011 Best workplaces in Ireland' list I was thrilled at your success and wanted to share in your overwhelming jubilation. I was so overjoyed for your magnificent accomplishment that I decided to find out for myself what kind of company Baxter really is and why being on the Baxter payroll could be such a fantastic experience. As an avid environmentalist with a hawk's eye on corporate mischief, I wanted to find out if as you say, "*at Baxter we have a very customer-centric philosophy called the **Baxter Way***" and "*as a company Baxter complies with all national and international best practice...Baxter has a Code of Conduct, which sets out the highest standards of business ethics and compliance*", was indeed truthful. I must say I was devastated at what I found out, the truth rocked me to my boots. What I discovered was truly shocking. I have found out that your company, Baxter International, Inc. (HQ in Deerfield, Illinois) and its subsidiary Baxter Healthcare Corporation, are one of the world's worst Pharmaceutical companies; routinely fined for fraud, deception, rogue marketing, contaminated products-to name but a few of the scandalous practices that you rogues are engaged in (1,2,3,4,5,6,7). Once I recovered from my initial shock I decided that I had to let as many people as possible know what you scoundrels get up to.

Incredible as it sounds, Baxter has had 40 Class I drug recalls just since 2003, not counting the four this year (6). (The FDA's public records on recalls only go back to 2003; for earlier recalls, you have to file a Freedom of Information Act request). At least one warning such as a March 25, 2005 letter regarding Baxter's haemodialysis devices says that the FDA had received reports of four deaths which were related to the use of their products (7). But four deaths is miniscule, compared to a 2001 report, where the FDA said it was investigating over 50 patient deaths worldwide that were linked to Baxter dialyzers (8).

What is it about your pharmaceutical company, Mr Markey, with such a long history of blunders, mistakes, and documented lack of safety and poor quality controls? From dozens of recalls of products that caused deaths and injuries, to at least 11 different guilty pleas to fraud and illegal sales activity, to more than 200 lawsuits - many of them stemming from selling AIDS-tainted blood to haemophiliacs - **to more than \$1.3 billion in criminal fines and civil penalties** (9-12), Baxter over the years has racked up a record that makes The Mob look like angels.

It's no wonder why, in 1999, Baxter was named by *Corporate Crime Reporter* as one of the "Top 100 Corporate Criminals of the Decade!" (13)

Baxter earned its **No. 87** spot on AllBusiness.com's Top 100 Corporate Criminals of the 1990s list thanks to its guilty plea to dealing with the Arab League (12). The conspiracy lasted nine years, federal officials said - but it was just one of many "mistakes" Baxter would become acquainted with.

Baxter also take 6th place in Dr Joseph Mercola's 'The 6 Top Thugs of the Medical World... As Ranked by "Top 100 Corporate Criminals" List' (14)

Being one of the worst pharmaceutical companies in an industry where crime is the order of the day is really some coup, notwithstanding the fact that pharmaceutical companies cause the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people each and every year and over 2 million further adverse, hospitalised reactions to drugs annually (15,16). You guys should be up in front of the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity. Oh wait... YOU ARE! (5).

In 2004 Mexico's Federal Competition Commission voted 4 to 1 to fine 6 companies \$11.6 million for conspiring to raise prices of meds sold to a social-services agency. Those fined include Eli Lilly, Laboratorios Cryopharma, Probiomed, Fresenius Kabi Mexico, **Baxter** and Laboratorios Pisa (17). The meds involved were insulin and injectable saline solutions. Each drugmaker was fined \$1.7 million and several Baxter hot shots who 'directly participated' in the schemes were also fined \$1.6 million each (17). Over the border Baxter has been involved in prolonged litigation after being accused of fraudulently overcharging Medicaid, the US health programme that provides a safety net for the nations' poorest families. In 2006 the State of South Carolina's Attorney General sued Baxter for fraudulently manipulating the prices of Medicaid and State Health Plan prescription drug claims and overcharging South Carolina taxpayers over \$40 million dollars (18). However, 'The Palmetto State' wasn't the only one to find its healthcare systems ripped-off by Baxter; they were named in the AWP (average wholesale price) federal court multi-district litigation proceedings in Boston, Massachusetts (19,20). The District Court of Massachusetts charged that '*Baxter has been investigated by the United States Department of Justice, Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General, the Attorneys General of several states, and the Committee on Commerce of the House of Representatives. These investigations confirm that Baxter has engaged in a deliberate scheme to inflate AWP's for many or most of its drugs. A Baxter document made public as a result of the congressional investigation entitled, "Confidential – Baxter Internal Use Only," acknowledged that: "Increasing AWP's was a large part of our negotiations with the large homecare companies."*' (19). Baxter also settled price-fixing allegation cases in the amount of \$8.5 million with Texas after being caught with their hand in the cookie jar (21). In May 2009, Baxter was one of six pharmaceutical manufacturers that agreed to pay a whopping \$89m in fines to the state of Alabama (21). In February this year Baxter paid out \$1.1m to Wisconsin (23,24) after they tried unsuccessfully to weasel their way out of court proceedings by arrogantly claiming 'Baxter is not subject to personal jurisdiction in Wisconsin.' The court document states "*this is an evasive motion that merely plays games with Wisconsin and with the Court. However, as of this writing, Baxter has neither agreed nor refused to agree to such a stipulation. So this unnecessary motion merely adds to this Court's pile of work....In short, Baxter's motion to dismiss is a shell game. Baxter belongs in this lawsuit, whether through Baxter International or through the appropriate subsidiaries...Of course, in the alternative, Baxter might spare everyone this game of hide-and seek by executing an appropriate stipulation.*" (24).

In Alaska, Baxter agreed to pay compensation to settle a court claim for yet more smoke and mirrors (25). The company is also facing court action in Mississippi and the State of Kentucky recently successfully sued Baxter for \$2 million after the drugmaker inflated their prices by a whopping 1300% (26). Jack Conway, the Kentucky Attorney General, said: "*All of this could have been easily avoided if Baxter... had done what the law requires: report truthful prices.*" (26). Illinois has also recovered \$6.8m from Baxter and the greenbacks from Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan's settlement have been deposited into the State of Illinois' General Revenue Fund for use in paying Medicaid bills for Illinois' neediest patients. "*This is the second settlement this month with a drug company that has engaged in unfair conduct,*" said Madigan. "*I am pleased that these two settlements alone have recovered \$14 million in revenue for the State of Illinois.*" (27). In total Baxter have been named as defendants in over a dozen state cases alleging AWP fraud with the Attorney General of Pennsylvania

recently slapping a \$13 million fine on Baxter after they and other narcotics giants swindled \$2,360,996 from the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare; \$1,920,048 from PACE (the Pharmaceutical Assistance Contract for the Elderly, run by the Pennsylvania Department of Aging); and \$959,753 from PEBTF (the Pennsylvania Employees Benefit Trust Fund (28,29). In Louisiana Baxter billed Medicaid \$928 for \$1.71 worth of saline solution -- a 54,000% mark-up -- for more than 10 years before a Louisiana state lawsuit caught the deception last year (30,31). Baxter also charged the same amount for sugar water -- dextrose solution, an intravenous medication used to treat hypoglycemia. Cost to the company was just \$2.25 wholesale, and so, a 41,000% mark-up! (32). It worked because the companies exploited a statute that shuts out Medicaid and Medicare programs from finding out the true market price of medications. The law also prevents health insurance agencies from negotiating lower drug prices and mandates they must accept the wholesale price reported to them. *"The defendants' fraudulent pricing and marketing of their prescription drugs have impacted elderly, disabled and poor Louisiana citizens covered by the state's Medicaid program, by causing the [agency] to pay grossly excessive prices,"* the complaint states (32). It accused Baxter officers, directors, agents, employees and representatives of authorizing and carrying out the deception (32). *'Each family of Defendants in this case has been sued for the same or similar Medicaid drug pricing fraud scheme in one or more of at least twenty other states.'* (32)

Defendant	Multi-source Drug	RedBook AWP	DOJ Determined Actual AWP	Percentage Spread
Baxter*	Dextrose	\$ 928.51	\$ 2.25	41,167%
Baxter*	Sodium Chloride	\$ 928.51	\$ 1.71	54,199%

State of Louisiana, Parish of East Baton Rouge 19th District Versus BAXTER INTERNATIONAL, INC.; BAXTER HEALTHCARE & OTHERS, Court Document No. 594164 p.12 (32)

California sued 39 drug cartels including Baxter last year, accusing them of cheating the state of hundreds of millions of dollars by fleecing Medi-Cal for medicines (33,34). Attorney General Bill Lockyer charged that the drug makers swindled the state's Medi-Cal system for at least the past decade. Mr. Lockyer said the drug manufacturers charged Medi-Cal as much as 10 times the price for some drugs as they charged others, like private pharmacies and hospitals. Medi-Cal is the state's version of the federal Medicaid program for the poor, which is jointly financed by the states and the federal government. Drug costs account for about \$4 billion of Medi-Cal's \$34 billion annual budget. *"We're dragging these drug companies into the court of law because they're gouging the public on basic life necessities,"* Mr. Lockyer said at a news conference. *"This scheme has cost California taxpayers potentially hundreds of millions of dollars and is jeopardizing the public health by diverting money away from patient care."* (33). In scenes reminiscent of 'Hawaii Five-O' Baxter were fined \$400,000 after they overcharged The Aloha State nearly 500% for basic meds (35-37). *"Hawaii's Medicaid program and Medicare consumers have been overcharged by the drug companies' use of a pervasive scheme to manipulate the average wholesale prices,"* Hawaii's AG Mark Bennett revealed. *"We believe that this scheme is deceptive and illegal and has cost the state government and Medicare consumers millions of dollars."* (37). *'Hawaii's senior citizens and residents with disabilities who participate in the Medicare program have also paid substantially higher prices for their prescription drug co-payments,'* the rap sheet reads (37). Book 'em Bennett!

FDA top-gun Mary Malarkey also took time out of harassing homeopaths and hounding herbalists to warn Parkinson's nefarious company that *"we are very concerned by your continued violative promotion of your products....these claims are misleading...We request that Baxter immediately cease the dissemination of violative promotional materials for Aralast NP...since we have cited you for similar violations in the recent past."* (7). Shameful eh?


Caremark, Baxter's home-infusion subsidiary, was one of the companies involved in an extensive wave of fraud which occurred during the late 1980s and early 1990s (38). It was accused of paying kickbacks to doctors (38). In 1995 Caremark paid, at the time, the third highest ever criminal settlement in US history of \$161 million (39). Baxter had however ditched Caremark in 1992, dodging any publicity (40). A \$3.3 billion lawsuit was filed against Caremark by 23 healthcare insurers in the U.S. District Court in Chicago (40). In January 2004 Caremark received Civil Investigative Demands from the Office of the State of Washington Attorney General

'seeking information, pursuant to consumer protection statutes, relating to business practices conducted by Caremark Rx, Inc., & Caremark Inc. separately, as pharmacy benefit managers...that Attorneys General in 18 other states also will issue civil investigative demands, or administrative subpoenas...administrative subpoena focuses on "consumer protection statutes and business practices relating to Caremark" (40,41). As of my finger poised on the print button, Baxter is already a defendant in six civil lawsuits seeking damages from the company and, in a filing with the US Securities and Exchange Commission, it warned that it may face more lawsuits and claims in the United States and elsewhere (42,43).

Big Pharma ~ Big Fraud!

These aren't just mistakes or misinterpretations that could happen to anyone. Big Pharma goes out of its way to steal from the government and pickpocket the people. The feds have recovered \$9 billion from all companies — including defence contractors — who filed false reimbursement claims with the government in the last two years. Of that, more than \$5 billion came from healthcare fraud (44). Since 1986, the US Department of Justice has recovered a staggering \$27 billion (44). Drug company execs even have a nickname for the AWP system: "Ain't What's Paid." "It took us 12 years — to the end of fiscal year 1998 — to recover \$2 billion in civil fraud cases brought under the whistleblower provisions," said Acting Assistant Attorney General David W. Ogden for the Civil Division. "We have reached the \$3 billion mark just 16 months later." (44).

In the 'OMFG moment of the century', in 2009 Baxter International Inc. were caught shipping live avian flu viruses mixed with vaccine material to medical distributors in 18 countries (45). The "mistake", if you can call it that, was discovered by alert workers in a lab in Austria. The World Health Organization was alerted and panic spread throughout the vaccine community as health experts asked the obvious question: How could this have happened? Seasonal flu vaccines manufactured by Baxter International had "accidentally" been contaminated with the deadly avian flu virus called H5N1 (45). The fact that Baxter mixed the deadly H5N1 virus with a mix of H3N2 seasonal flu viruses is the smoking gun. The contaminated vaccine was shipped to numerous distributors in Austria, Germany, Slovenia, and the Czech Republic. *Not by bioterrorist commandos, but by Baxter!* (45). The contamination came to light when the subcontractor in the Czech Republic inoculated some unsuspecting ferrets with the Kool-aid. The poor ferrets then promptly kicked the bucket. Ferrets shouldn't die from exposure to human H3N2 flu viruses. "It was live," Baxter Spokesman Christopher Bona fessed up in an email (46). How could Baxter have let this happen? Was it intentional as some people believe? Even the respected Dr. Mercola has his suspicions. A pandemic would certainly trigger a worldwide demand for the avian flu vaccine. Baxter, eager to get the ball rolling, had actually filed a patent a year prior describing a method to produce vaccines in multiple species using "several different antigens such as influenza A and influenza B in particular selected from of one or more of the human H1N1, H2N2, H3N2, H5N1, H7N7, H1N2, H9N2, H7N2, H7N3, H10N7 subtypes, of the pig flu H1N1, H1N2, H3N1 and H3N2 subtypes, of the dog or horse flu H7N7, H3N8 subtypes or of the avian H5N1, H7N2, H1N7, H7N3, H13N6, H5N9, H11N6, H3N8..... You get the idea. (US patent: US 2009/0060950) (47). **Convenient or what!**

		US 20090060950A1
(19) United States		
(12) Patent Application Publication	(10) Pub. No.: US 2009/0060950 A1	
Kistner et al.	(43) Pub. Date: Mar. 5, 2009	
(54) METHOD FOR PRODUCING VIRAL VACCINES	Related U.S. Application Data	
(75) Inventors: Otfried Kistner, Vienna (AT); Christa Tauer, Vienna (AT); Noel Barrett, Klosterneuburg/Weidling (AT); Wolfgang Mundt, Vienna (AT)	(60) Provisional application No. 60/966,724, filed on Aug. 28, 2007.	Publication Classification
Correspondence Address: BAXTER HEALTHCARE CORPORATION ONE BAXTER PARKWAY, DE2-2E	(51) Int. Cl. A61K 39/145 (2006.01) A61K 39/12 (2006.01) A61P 31/16 (2006.01)	(52) U.S. Cl. 424/209.1; 424/204.1

US Patent Application Publication Pub. No. 2009/0060950 A1 (47)

If a pandemic occurred...well, you can do the sums in terms of profits to be made. Good news for BAX:NYSE shareholders, not so good for everyone else. The other possibility is that Baxter was not following its own stringent biosafety protocol to prevent cross-contamination of infectious materials. This protocol, called Biosafety Level 3 (BSL3), if followed, makes it virtually impossible for a situation like this to occur. People familiar with biosecurity rules are dismayed by evidence that human H3N2 and avian H5N1 viruses somehow co-mingled in the Orth-Donau facility. That is a dangerous practice that should not be allowed to happen, a number of experts insisted. Such monumental screw-ups are totally impossible at that level. Many safety systems would have needed to be sabotaged, many key personnel would have needed to be bribed. It simply can't be done without direction from the inside. They did not send out the wrong vial - they produced dozens of gallons of biological-weapon agent (genetically engineered live H5N1 / Bird flu virus), then sent it out as a 'vaccine' (44). On June 10, respected Austrian journalist Jane Burgermeister filed sweeping criminal charges with the FBI in addition to earlier ones on April 8 with the Vienna State Prosecutor's Office against Baxter AG, Baxter International and Avir Green Hill Biotechnology AG, "for manufacturing, disseminating, and releasing a biological weapon of mass destruction on Austrian soil between December 2008 and February 2009 with the intention of causing a global bird flu pandemic virus and of intending to profit from that same pandemic in an act that violates laws on international organised crime and genocide." (48). By combining human influenza H3N2 with bird flu H5N1 virus in its BSL-3 lab, "*Baxter produced a highly dangerous biological weapon with a 63% mortality rate. The H5N1 virus is restricted in its human-to-human transmissibility, especially because it is less airborne.*" However, when combined with seasonal flu viruses which are easily transmitted by air, a new hybrid flu virus is created which is unknown to the human immune system and which will have a severe impact on an unprotected population. A deadly virus of this kind could spread around the world in a short time and infect millions and even billions of people." Baxter (via Avir) "*distributed 72 kilos of contaminated live bird flu vaccines using false concealment and false labels to 16 laboratories in Austria and other countries at the end of January/beginning of February, potentially infecting at least 36-37 laboratory staff, who (were) treated preventively for bird flu and ordinary flu.*" (40,48). As Medical Director of the Natural Solutions Foundation, Dr. Rima Laibow warns about dangerous, toxic drugs and vaccines. On March 6, 2009, she posted a "Pandemic Flu Emergency Action eAlert on her healthfreedomusa.org web site stating: "World media, outside America, are reporting that Baxter Pharmaceuticals has admitted that it 'accidentally' contaminated various vaccine batches with Avian Flu viruses. These batches were shipped to 18 countries. Clearly, either stupidity and incompetence (are to blame) or intentional contamination of flu vaccine lots was at work." Laibow sees a "manipulated disaster of unprecedented magnitude precipitated by unprecedented avarice and greed," and adds that "Baxter International Inc. is no stranger to recalls and lethal contaminations. Its record includes producing faulty infusion and volumetric pumps, HIV-2 tainted Albumin Buminat 5 percent, faulty dialysis machine tubing and blood-cleaning filters, and various other products that should make everyone leery of its soon-to-be-released Swine Flu vaccine." (49).

It seems it's either 'Baxter's Way' or the highway!

But surely someone inside the lab had a bit of decency and tried to blow the whistle on Baxter's sinister plan for mankind? An Israeli Professor named Moshe Bar-Joseph, a microbiologist who once worked for Mossad, whom mainstream news outlets wanted us to believe was a nutcase and a terrorist, was arrested for threatening to bomb the White House. An amazing fact about his arrest, 'the Westwood standoff', was that he seemed to be immune to the 5 cans of tear gas and 5 gallons of law-enforcement grade pepper spray they pumped into his face. Utilising his Mossad training he very calmly remained in his car, as the video footage of his arrest shows (50). Professor Moshe had called into a live radio show by Dr. A. True Ott, broadcast on Republic Broadcasting claiming to be a microbiologist who wanted to supply evidence to a States Attorney regarding tainted H1N1 Swine flu vaccines being produced by Baxter BioPharma Solutions. He said that Baxter's Ukrainian lab was in fact producing a bioweapon disguised as a vaccine. He claimed that 'the vaccine contained an adjuvant (additive) designed to weaken the immune system, and replicated RNA from the virus responsible for the 1918 pandemic Spanish flu, causing global sickness and mass death.' Sources, and common sense tell us that Bar-Joseph made no threat against the President or the White House. He did not mention any bomb or attack. He then proceeded to inform the White House he intended to go public with this information. When he noticed men

in suits in front of his house and feared that the FBI was about to detain him, he packed some belongings into his car and, him being a dual Israeli citizen, tried to reach the Israeli consulate located in close proximity to the federal building where the standoff took place. The FBI and the bomb squad prevented him from reaching it. So who is this man? Some conspiracy loon? His extensive profile on *biomedexperts.com* says he is a distinguished plant disease expert with extensive peer-reviewed publications to his name involving the genetic manipulation of virii (51). Photographic evidence that Moshe is who he says he is can be found here (52). The amazing part about Moshe's claim was the location where Moshe said the biological weapon was being produced. Moshe claimed that Baxter's laboratory in the Ukraine of all places was creating this biological weapon. All of this came out in the beginning of August, which was more than 2 months before the contaminated vaccine narrowly missed the fan. For Moshe to correctly name the country where a new epidemic would be unleashed, requires either inside information, or an incredible coincidence as anyone with a basic knowledge of statistics can confirm. Nothing has been seen or heard from the poor guy since. This page with Baxter's contact information for its Ukraine office confirms that Baxter has a presence in the Ukraine (53). The fact that this man managed to predict an outbreak of highly lethal influenza in a place where we would least expect it, 2 months before it actually occurred, lends credence to his claim that Baxter International is responsible for the outbreak and shows that top microbiologists can pose a problem to the people running the show. In the last 4 years exactly 81 microbiologists and scientists have met violent or suspicious deaths (54). That's right, count them-81.

There should be an investigation into Baxter's contamination of 72 kilos of vaccine material supplied by the World Health Organization (WHO). *But who will investigate the WHO?* Quacks from Baxter, Novartis and GlaxoSmithKline sit on the World Health Organization's vaccine advisory board that recommends millions roll up their sleeves every year (55-60). A look at the advisory board of the World Health Organisation's Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization reveals a who's who in the drug world, with kingpins Dr. Neil Ferguson, Professor Malik Peiris, Dr. Arnold Monto and 'Dr Flu' Prof. Albert Osterhaus all receiving funding from Baxter and other such notable characters as Novartis, Pfizer, Sanofi-Pasteur, Roche and Merck, Sharpe & Dohme while Professor Maria Zambon at the UK Health Protection Agency Centre for Infection has also pocketed a few shillings from Sanofi, Novartis, CSL, Baxter and GSK (48). There is also something noteworthy about the fact that in 2008 the WHO had changed its definition of pandemic (61). The old definition was a new virus, which went around quickly, for which you didn't have immunity, and which created a high morbidity and mortality rate. Now the last two have been dropped, and that's how swine flu has been categorized as a pandemic. Conveniently enough, the WHO published the new Pandemic definition in April 2009 just in time to allow WHO, on advice of SAGE and others like Albert "Dr Flu" Osterhaus and David Salisbury, to declare the mild cases of flu dubbed H1N1 Influenza A to be declared Pandemic Emergency (62). Even more, the meetings of the 'independent' scientists of SAGE are attended by 'observers' who include the very vaccine producers GlaxoSmithKline, Novartis, Baxter et al. (61,62). One might ask why if SAGE are supposed to be the world's leading experts on flu and vaccines, why they would ask the vaccine makers to sit in. Answers on a postcard. The WHO and public health officials, virologists and the pharmaceutical companies were onto a nice little money spinner. And there was a lot of money involved, and influence, and careers, and entire institutions! And all it took was one of these influenza viruses to mutate to start the machine grinding and the cash rolling into Baxter's greasy tills. Ker-CHING!

Should a company that was so careless in handling an infectious agent that nearly killed billions of people be allowed to remain in business? Baxter knew full well that their vaccine was lethal, because the year before a similar vaccine was tested on a few hundred homeless Polish people - dozens died as a result (63). The human race can't afford mistakes of this magnitude. Criminal Acts should bring Criminal Charges! (64). Not surprisingly, Baxter has said little on the subject. Christopher Bona, Baxter's Director of Global Bioscience Communications said the cross-contamination occurred as "the result of a combination of just the process itself, (and) technical and human error in this procedure." He declined to say more because he did "not want to reveal proprietary secrets about their production process" (65). Proprietary bullshit more like! (*If anyone wants to steal that kind of production process, they should roll up their sleeve and get first in line for one of Baxter's contaminated vaccines*). The Big Pharma fiends learned from the 1976 Swine Flu vaccination victims' hard won court victories that vaccine manufactures need to be legally exempt from liability during a declared pandemic. The UK & Irish governments have been forced to accept legal liability for the swine flu vaccine amid concerns it

could trigger life-threatening side-effects among the population at large. Ministers have taken on all the risk for the 60 million doses they have ordered from GlaxoSmithKline and Baxter, after both firms said they would refuse to produce it unless legally protected (66). Insurance companies won't touch them!

It seems that its business as usual at Big Pharma as a Baxter manufacturing plant in Mayo, Ireland was closed recently due to more contamination (67); however, Mark Murphy of the Irish Kidney Association feels patients depending on Baxter products couldn't be in better hands. After endotoxins were discovered in two storage tanks, Murray uttered off the following words, "The issuing of the EMA statements is more likely to cause more problems than the endotoxins themselves...it's such a minimal risk that the agency issuing this and worrying patients unduly is possibly not the right practice. Its safety gone mad," grumbled Murphy (67). Honestly, you couldn't make this up! Murray, in awe of Baxter is possibly not aware of their appalling record in Ireland although with drug companies throwing money at consumer advocacy groups being standard practice in what passes for modern healthcare (68), no doubt his charity has a cosy relationship with Baxter- it is if links on both websites are anything to go by. A better look at this man's integrity can be gleaned from his latest statement regarding the opting out of compulsory organ donor schemes. Murphy feels that 'compulsory organ donation is unworkable'. It is, if they have their organs ravaged by some of Baxter's finest contaminated contraband (45-46). Besides, it never stopped pharmaceutical companies actually pilfering the organs of dead kids in hospitals not too long ago (69). Enough said.

In the 1970s the miracle drug for haemophiliacs was Hemofil, the concentrated clotting agent also known as Factor VIII. The company who produced the wonder drug was Baxter (then Baxter-Travenol) Healthcare Corporation (70,71), one of several major pharmaceuticals competing for the lucrative market to treat Haemophiliacs. In order to produce their Factor VIII and Factor IX clotting agents, copious amounts of plasma was required, sourced in the blood of other people. Quantity, as opposed to quality, was the driving force behind their collection of plasma. Continental Pharma Cryosan shipped massive amounts of plasma to Baxter-Travenol in Belgium, the European affiliate of the California-based Hyland Division of Baxter Healthcare Inc. (72-74). Over 11 million IUs of Travenol's Hemofil and Interhem Factor VIII were imported into Ireland and the United Kingdom between 1980-81 alone (73). Even though it had been established that the risk of hepatitis from non-voluntary (paid) donations was ten times higher than that from voluntary donations, Baxter-Travenol continued to collect blood by whatever means possible. This meant collecting blood in prisons, from the homosexual community, from drug addicts (74) and from backstreet dealers (74). In 1975, ITV's World in Action team flew to the United States and spent many weeks criss-crossing the country to research and film a programme they planned to call Blood Money (75). By the time Hemofil hit the market, the US was deep in recession. Unemployment was rife and the blood collection centres were magnets for the unemployed and the down and outs. In one centre in Baltimore, filmed by World in Action, queues formed from dawn. Many of the donors were obvious alcoholics or drug addicts (75).

In August 1983, Continental Pharma-Cryosan was exposed as having bought suspect plasma collected from prisoners at the Cummins Unit in The Federal Penitentiary at Grady, Arkansas (72,76). It had also been nabbed after importing blood taken from Russian cadavers and relabeling it as from Swedish volunteers (72,76). The company also peddled blood taken from Haitian slums (72). What was also emerging at that time was knowledge that a new, deadlier form of Hepatitis, later to be known as Hepatitis C, was slowly making its way through the commercial donor population and into the blood supply. It also emerged that the US Bureau of Biologics had issued 13 warnings to Travenol about contravention of regulations at its blood centres and that one centre had been temporarily closed down (76). Ten years later, the World in Action crew which had documented Baxter-Travenol's dubious collection methods returned to the US and to the booming blood business. By now, British and Irish haemophiliacs were not just suffering from Hep C but were also dying from HIV and full-blown Aids. Word about Travenol's shady, and potentially lethal, blood collection methods had reached the ears of Dr Jack O'Riordan, the national director of the Irish Blood Transfusion Service Board (BTSB). Travenol was seeking a licence from the Department of Health to market it here and O'Riordan, distrustful of Travenol and their collection of blood from "skid-row types" urged the Department to refuse the licence. O'Riordan felt so strongly about it that he addressed international conferences on the subject and opposed the granting of a licence to the pharmaceutical company, Baxter-Travenol, for Hemofil, the concentrate it made from such blood (77-80). Yet just two months later, coinciding with a letter to him from Baxter-Travenol, O'Riordan would change his mind. The company was offering the BTSB a potentially lucrative deal if the BTSB would exclusively hawk

Baxter's wares and O'Riordan was to be well rewarded (77-80). There were no further memos or discussion about Travenol's blood collection policy. The license was granted in 1974. The Company sponsored travel for O'Riordan and arranged a University diploma in Britain on his behalf and many swish conventions for the good Dr to attend in Sin City, Las Vegas (77-80). The Lindsay tribunal uncovered a particularly cosy relationship between Baxter-Travenol and O'Riordan (77-80). By 1978, the BTSB had sold its premises on Leeson Street and moved into a larger site with a bigger lease (77-80) while O'Riordan went to meet his maker in 1998.

By 1987, 105 Irish Haemophiliacs had been infected with HIV (79). In total 200 Irish haemophiliacs were infected with HIV and Hepatitis C in total, including many young children (81). There's some virtuous ethics Markey. Indeed. Many haemophiliacs went on to infect their spouses with Hepatitis C and HIV. Yet Baxter still continued to peddle AIDS contaminated clotting factors after the problem was discovered in 1984 (10-12, 82,83) as did their partner in crime Bayer Pharmaceutical (10-12,82,83), who've since found a simpler way of population control-killing off the honeybees.

Japan saw thousands of haemophiliacs contract HIV after receiving contaminated Baxter blood; in 1996 Baxter were ordered to pay \$432,000 to each of the 1,800 Japanese haemophiliacs who were infected with HIV through Baxter's infected blood (10,12,84,85). Canada announced a \$1 billion compensation package for 5,500 people who contracted Hepatitis C from tainted blood (88-90). Estimates range from 6,000 to 10,000 haemophiliacs including thousands of children in the United States becoming infected with HIV and Baxter International would shell out \$128 million (87). In total Baxter settled compensation suits for hundreds of million dollars with haemophiliacs in 22 countries who were victims, infected with HIV or Hepatitis C having been infused with Baxter's tainted blood plasma products in the 1980s (10,11,63-65, 84-90).

Not really Baxter's finest hour, eh?

'Drug companies are certainly not best known for their sterling moral values.' Dr Joseph Mercola

Obviously not having learned their lesson, in 2008 Baxter's heparin, an anti-coagulant, was linked to numerous deaths in the United States (91). An investigation into the 2008 heparin scandal revealed that Baxter had contracted the sourcing of heparin to Scientific Protein Laboratories which in turn outsourced it to Changzhou Scientific Protein Laboratories, their China based branch (91). *China, of all places!* Changzhou SPL was itself registered as a chemical company and not a drugs manufacturer and had never been inspected by the FDA. It took months for the FDA, the Chinese State Food and Drugs Administration (SFDA) which is only slightly more inept than its American counterpart, and Baxter International to track the source of contamination to Changzhou, a city of 3.5 million on the Yangtze River. The delay was perhaps understandable, given the manufacturing process. The raw material for Baxter's heparin comes from China's many small pig farms (92). To be precise, it's derived from the mucous membranes of the intestines of slaughtered pigs; the membranes are mixed together and cooked, often in unregulated family workplaces (91,92). *It takes about 3,500 pigs' intestines to produce 2.2 pounds of raw Heparin* (92). Just what the doctor ordered! By the time the source of the contaminant was pinpointed, many more patients in the United States had experienced severe reactions, and as many as 200 had died (91). In addition to monitoring drug trials abroad, which it's fairly crap at, the FDA is responsible for inspecting drug-manufacturing plants in other countries, which it's also pretty bad at. It later turned out that the FDA *had* indeed inspected a Chinese plant—but it was the wrong one; the federal watchdogs had confused the names! (91). As you do. Joyce Ann Osteen of Illinois has launched a class action lawsuit against Baxter (93) claiming the company is substituting 'safer' ingredients - cooked, dried pig intestines - with more dangerous ones. Figure that one out. She claims the company began substituting a more dangerous ingredient to "reap greater profits as a result of utilizing cheap component parts." The FDA made an announcement on March 19 that the mysterious contaminant in Heparin was an inexpensive, unapproved ingredient altered to mimic the real ingredient, Osteen claims. "As of April 8, there have been 103 reported deaths in patients who received Heparin since Jan. 1, 2007. Of those deaths, 91 were reported after Jan. 1, 2008," the suit states (93). "On or about July 30, 2008, the FDA conclusively linked the deaths of patients infused with Heparin to specific lots made by Baxter." (93).

Not very 'customer-centric' eh?

Contamination Continues at Baxter Healthcare as head honcho Bob Parkinson disclosed to analysts that he recently received warning letters from the FDA concerning problems at two plants in Puerto Rico (94). No bother to Bad Bob, who rakes in an average of \$16million a year (95). 'Clearly, I'm not happy to have to communicate that we got a warning letter,' he told his fellow disaster capitalists, 'Our aspiration is zero defects here. We are better than we were, but we have to get better.' (95). My guess is his true disappointment was Baxter shares plunging \$1.55, down 3% to \$49.35 in that afternoon's trading on the New York Stock Exchange (96).

Unaware of Baxter's callous record in Ireland, recently accepting 200,000 notes from Baxter on behalf of the Western Health Board was Mayo General Hospital's General Manager Tony Canavan. Should one of Baxter's deadly vaccines, or tainted blood ever be unleashed on the unsuspecting public Canavan will no doubt need the spare cash- to build a few new wards. I suspect Director of Nursing Geraldine Murray might have her work cut out too-dealing with the fallout from cases of Guillen Barre Syndrome, auto-immune diseases, narcolepsy (*in the news a lot lately*) and others caused by the aluminium hydroxide, aluminium phosphate, ammonium sulphate, amphotericin B, animal tissues: pig blood, horse blood, rabbit brain, dog kidney, monkey kidney, chick embryo, chicken egg, duck egg, calf (bovine) serum, betapropiolactone foetal bovine serum, formaldehyde, formalin, gelatine, glycerol human diploid cells (originating from human aborted foetal tissue), hydrolysed gelatine, mercury thimerosal (thimerosal, Merthiolate(r)), monosodium glutamate (MSG), neomycin, neomycin sulphate, phenol red indicator phenoxyethanol (antifreeze), potassium diphosphate, potassium monophosphate, polymyxin B, polysorbate 20, polysorbate 80 porcine (pig) pancreatic hydrolysate of casein, residual MRC5 proteins, sorbitol tri(n)butylphosphate, VERO cells, monkey kidney cells and washed sheep red blood cells found in flu vaccines (97).

In one of the worst displays of hypocrisy ever seen, two Baxter employees of Baxter Healthcare Castlebar recently presented a local DJ with a cheque for €500 for the Seven Day In A Row Croagh Patrick Challenge in aid of Irish Autism Action (98). Cause the deaths of hundreds of haemophiliacs, create a bioweapon, and be fraudsters (17-37), swindlers (17-37), charlatans (24), thieves (17-34) and murderers (1-105!) and then cleanse your image and all is 'forgotten'. Of all the charities that would sell their soul to the Devil, I never thought Irish Autism Action would.

Back to your article Alan, and to refute your response to the question, 'As a leader how do you encourage ethical behaviour?' I feel I must expose the holes in your argument and blow the whistle on what Baxter get up to. You don't work in a highly regulated industry as you ludicrously claim; you work in an industry in which you and other pharmaceutical companies regularly bribe the FDA, EMA, MHRA and other so called regulatory agencies (42,43,101-103). Baxter is currently being investigated by the United States Justice Department and the Securities and Exchange Commission for bribing government officials (42) and classy sounding law firm 'Bernstein Liebhard & Lifshitz' have recently flexed their legal muscle against you after you defrauded investors (43). Personally I think anyone that invests in Baxter deserves to lose every cent they have! The Manufacturing and Quality Compliance Officer at the European Medicines Agency, Brendan Cuddy previously worked for Elan Pharmaceuticals-they recently found themselves in hot water for 'off-label' or rogue marketing when they were caught trying to bribe neurologists to prescribe their weight loss drug Zonegran for a myriad of other disorders (99). Leaked internal memos from Elan revealed that its sales reps trained doctors to give Zonegran to children by hiding it in apple sauce, and doctors who reached their quota of drugged up kids were given lavish holidays to Bermuda and Florida (99). Well for some. For these sickening crimes Elan were fined \$203 million (99). Why apple sauce and not chocolate sauce is anyone's guess, but this is a curious case of the fox holding the keys to the chicken coop. No such trickery with Prof. Michael Fitzgerald, who proudly admits to drugging children (100). Cuddy has represented the EMA at several lavish conferences attended by big-hitters Pfizer and GlaxoSmithKline. Pfizer were last year handed the second largest fine in corporate history-\$2.3 Billion for fraudulently promoting Bextra, and \$50 million for murdering and crippling Nigerian kids in a drug trial while GlaxoSmithKline are a byword for fraud having been successfully sued for defrauding dozens of US States and then there was the Seroxat and Paxil Scandals-GSK covered up the testing phase, tragically dozens of teenagers committed suicide on Seroxat. Disgracefully the EMA has refused to prosecute GSK, and the EMA which is responsible for the safety and efficacy of medicines licensed in Europe, only released the trial findings, running

to almost 130,000 pages, in February after the European ombudsman ruled that it was guilty of maladministration. (107). Scientists, from the Nordic Cochrane Centre in Denmark decided to investigate two obesity drugs, Orlistat and Sibutramine, and requested the unpublished trial data from the EMA in June 2007. "Anti-obesity pills are controversial," they said. "People have died from cardiac and pulmonary complications or have experienced psychiatric disturbances, including suicidal events." Sibutramine was withdrawn from the market in January 2010 following evidence that it increased the risk of heart attacks and strokes. Another obesity drug, Rimonabant, was also withdrawn. Orlistat is the only one that remains on the market. But the EMA refused access to the data, citing commercial confidentiality.

In June 2010, the European ombudsman, Nikiforos Diamandouros, criticized the EMA's refusal to grant access to the trials and said it was guilty of maladministration. The EMA responded in November, saying it would widen public access to trial reports and other documents. But it did not release the data on the obesity pills to the researchers until 1 February 2011, over four years later.

After leaving Elan, Brendan Cuddy himself then went on to work at the EMA without a recommended 'cooling off' period. Perhaps this is more a case of the lunatics taking over, nay, running the asylum with the very folks entrusted in keeping these drug companies in check actually 'trying' to regulate them to working *for* them and so on and so forth. This 'revolving door' policy is epidemic amongst all regulatory bodies and ensures potentially loyal staff at said regulatory agencies will be well looked after once they go to work for companies at Big Pharma, Big Chemical, Big Food etc. Further evidence of the collusion between the regulators and the pharmaceutical industry reared its ugly head back in June 2010 when the UK Seroxat litigation's defendants, GlaxoSmithKline, had hired the services of Rashmi Shah to be called as an expert witness for them. Shah had a long stint at the MHRA, working there between 1987 and 2004. Cuddy certainly waltzed through the revolving door backwards with a cheeky grin on his face. It wasn't until 2005 that the MHRA decided to impose any sort of regulations on its staff receiving backhanders from drug companies (101,102) while the EMA didn't follow suit until 2010 (103). Sadly one of the half decent remaining regulators, the Centre for Disease Control now seems to be the *Centre for Deceit Control*, having gotten in on the act and the former head of the CDC, Dr. Julie Gerberding, was recently offered a position as the president of Merck's vaccine division. Merck were infamous for their drug Vioxx which killed 250,000+. Merck sent out a hit-list of doctors who spoke out about these deaths- they were to be 'neutralised' or discredited (108).

Meanwhile back on the ranch, Pat Barry, who's a big hitter in the pharmaceutical world (apparently), seems to be all enthusiastic about bringing these and other snake-oil salesmen down to his new pharmaceutical theme park, 'The Global Pharmaceutical Centre of Excellence' in Tralee. Now there's a grandiose title. He and his team of cohorts have been approaching these racketeers, cap in hand, and begging them to jump on board.

Personally? I wouldn't let Baxter disinfect my kitchen sink!

Fraud. Kickbacks. Price-setting, bribery and illegal sales activities, including a felony count of assisting the Arab League in acquiring documents on Israeli business activities. Add in all the doctored and back-dated documents, federal and civil lawsuits, and billions of dollars in government sanctions, fines, and penalties – not to mention the deaths – and you'd think it was the script for a thriller global action movie.

But no, it's just Baxter and Big Pharma at their deceitful best, dancing all the way to the bank while continuing to defraud the world of billions of dollars, and endangering the lives of ordinary people.

When I set out to investigate Baxter, the world's 17th largest pharmaceutical company, I had no idea of the hornet's nest I would be kicking. I certainly never thought this missive would run to 16 pages long! Baxter has no standards of business ethics-if they did then they wouldn't have been named as one of the worst corporations of the 1990s? But maybe I have Baxter all wrong, maybe they don't sell people tainted products (89-94), shoddy equipment (6,8) and dangerous meds(10,12,45,46,88), maybe, just maybe you actually are unaware of your beloved corporation's lousy rotten corrupt practices, even in Ireland? However, I doubt that but if you're still reading then I'm sure you are pretty aware by now. I have included some references below, for your perusal. Actually, each factual statement above is meticulously referenced-I know you guys like to flex your legal muscle every now and then with briefs from Mayer-Brown, whose other notable client list includes such likeable chaps

as BASF, Dow Chemical, Monsanto and other Agent Orange manufacturers (104). I would include more but I have to think of all the ink and the rainforest and I got fed up digging up more and more dirt on you felons a while back. *After going to print a Baxter lawyer was caught on tape trying to bribe a key witness in an on-going corruption case in Mexico (106). Jorge Henin Fernandez was caught unashamedly trying to pay hush money to a witness to leave the country. hilariously, Baxter tries to portray themselves as leading the field against medical corruption.*

Many scandals have rocked this great little country; pervert priests, Rome Rule, corrupt politicians and the sorry saga of the Irish Blood transfusion scandal, and equally as many tribunals have been set up to investigate them. In typical tribunal-esque fashion, justice Irish style has seen these criminals portrayed as ‘cute hoors’ and ‘great lads’, ‘men of the people’, who were there to regale their dim-witted admirers in the gallery with tales of fast money and even faster horses, and none who tarnished the office of legislator has received so much as a slap on the wrist or peered out through steel bars. However, Irish haemophiliacs who had waited nearly two decades for their day in court, and armed with overwhelming, insurmountable evidence of wrongdoing and misconduct on the part of the IBTSB and the international corporations who imported the blood, and waiting for what they believed would finally be justice, had their hopes cruelly shattered as the Irish Tribunal would rear its spineless head once again. Their last hope Judge Alison Lindsay, in unarguably the worst Irish Tribunal outcome ever (and that’s saying something), had published a ‘*bizarre document...a massive, 600 page affair, its conclusions hard to find... no executive summary, no index and the layout... follows no consistent pattern. Judge Alison Lindsay, the tribunal's sole member is only occasionally clear and crisp in her findings...Judge Lindsay refused to include an investigation of the US drug companies which supplied infected products within the scope of the tribunal*’. (105).

“As far as I am concerned, my son was murdered. Someone should be made responsible.” (105).

Joe Healy, whose son, Gerard, died nearly 13 years ago of Aids as a result of being given contaminated blood products. Judge Lindsay has declined to send her report to the DPP, as did the minister for health (105).

Now it’s on to send this to every journalist who has covered a Baxter story, those hacks who shamefully ignored it, others who have been bought off like Brian Deer, business editors who should know the human costs behind the dividends and every medical professional who has taken some of **Baxter’s Blood Money**. Unlike ‘Justice’ Alison Lindsay I won’t bottle it, I **will** tell the truth and rest assured Messrs’ Parkinson and Markey **I will expose your crooked corporation.**

Yours Truly
Damien M, PharmaWatch

“I will use treatments to help the sick. I will never use it to injure them or wrong them. I will not give poison to anyone.” **The Hippocratic Oath**

Just found one more story on you **HYPOCRITE Baxterds.**

'Of all the tribunals, Lindsay was the one the public had most reason to feel guilty about: the long delayed post mortem on how more than half a community including John Berry, pictured below had been sentenced to death by the State. A man with four children gave evidence on crutches and using a pseudonym. He had Hepatitis A, B and C and full-blown AIDS. His daughter, 'Barbara', said that, as well as her father, three of her cousins and an uncle had developed HIV from blood products. A dozen years later, the public listened to the shocking litany of stories as sufferer after sufferer took the witness stand at the tribunal.... bleak nether world of fear, isolation and social stigma... a place where they were lied to, forced to fight usually in vain for their rights, where they were abandoned and humiliated and driven underground,...meeting secretly in anonymous hotels in their efforts to fight back, shunned as plague carriers. Even encroaching death brought no promise of release. Some people died terrified that their bodies would be consigned to labelled body bags.' In the mortuary of a Dublin hospital, security guards were placed around a man's coffin to prevent his loved ones from touching him... Towards the end of his life, 'Stephen' carried a morphine pump to alleviate his pain.' One time he asked: "Dad, why am I getting so many infections?" His parents never told him he had HIV...After 15 years of fighting to be heard, the State is still turning a partially deaf ear to the people it infected. It has refused, through the forum of the tribunal, to investigate the international pharmaceutical companies whose products largely caused the sickness and death. (One of them, Travenol, flew the BTSB's director, Dr Jack O'Riordan, to Las Vegas as its representative at the American Association of Blood Banks in 1979.) ... 'Gary's' brother, 'Fintan', was the first haemophiliac to die of AIDS in 1986. His younger brother, 'Cathal', was diagnosed with Hepatitis C at the age of 13. He attempted suicide three times and was finally found dead from an overdose. The boys' mother, a reformed alcoholic, started drinking again. She died at the age of 49. Nobody has been as much as docked an hour's pay for what happened. Instead, Dr Terry Walsh, whose actions were extensively criticised in the report of the Finlay Tribunal, was given an #86,000 golden handshake in 1995 along with an annual pension for life...In France, a government health minister, Laurent Fabius, was charged with manslaughter for failing to disclose that blood supplies had been infected.

The Irish Independent. 'And they never even said sorry'. Justine McCarthy. Saturday 24th November 2001

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