September CCSS

Responses to Unanswered Q&A from the Presenters

**S01**- None provided

**S02**- None provided

**S03**- None provided

**S04**- None provided

**S05**- None provided

**S06**- Mr. Gillon

Q: Could you comment on the lack of FDA authority on supplements - many of which are produced by companies in Utah - and which have periodically been linked to adverse effects and mortality, also the non-requirement of homeopathic "medicine"?

A: WHY? Why does the supplement industry want to block the FDA from looking at the products that it is selling to people in this nation? I am not a religious person, but when such issues as this arise I can hear in my mind's ear BB King singing <https://genius.com/Bb-king-old-time-religion-lyrics>. I don't get the supplement industry's problem if their wish is to sell products that are safe and effective?

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… there have been warnings of the deadly risks of kratom, a botanical substance that has been marketed as a safe treatment for opioid withdrawal “… more and more businesses promote unproven remedies under the guise of dietary supplements that are not regulated like drugs.

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Chris Beekman, whose company sells the dietary supplement Opiate Detox Pro, does not understand what all the fuss is about. “If it works, it works," Mr. Beekman, the owner of NutraCore Health Products, said in an interview. "If it doesn’t, it doesn’t." His customers, addicts trying to shake a dependence on opioids, can always get their money back, he said.

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Opiate Detox Pro’s label says, "Opioid addiction ease," and the company’s website claims, "Our ingredients are the most effective on the market for treating withdrawal symptoms."

Mr. Beekman said he did not have scientific evidence to prove that the product worked, and would not be conducting research to buttress the company’s claims.

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“It’s just not going to happen," he said, citing what he called the prohibitive cost of scientific studies and clinical trials.”

See: FDA Investigates Multistate Outbreak of Salmonella Infections Linked to Products Reported to Contain Kratom <https://www.fda.gov/Food/RecallsOutbreaksEmergencies/Outbreaks/ucm597265.htm>

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The U.S. Food and Drug Administration along with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state and local officials are investigating a multistate outbreak of Salmonella infections linked to products reportedly containing kratom.

April 19, 2018 Update:

On April 6, 2018, in response to a mandatory recall order from the FDA after several of its kratom products were found to contain Salmonella, Triangle Pharmanaturals, LLC of Las Vegas, NV initiated a recall of such products. As of April 19, 2018, the firm is recalling all kratom powder products it manufactured, processed, packed and/or held from April 4, 2017 to present. This recall now includes at least 26 different products. <https://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm604880.htm>

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And if one doesn't understand why I tend not to trust industry--particularly that linked to drugs devices and supplements, see: "In which wretched part of the world? A glimpse into western drug- and device-makers (and others) behaving badly," Indian Journal of Medical Ethics, Vol X No 3, July-September 2013 <https://doi.org/10.20529/ijme.2013.051> . Disclosure: I wrote the material as a response to a colleague in India in an exchange in which he was complaining about corruption in his homeland and I responded that if he wanted to learn how corruption was really done, all he had to do was to look at the track records here in the States and across the pond in Europe. Turned out, he had my comments published over my name as a journal article in India.

Q: Have you seen or read anything with the ongoing research of COVID-19 that you have found significant?

A: Each new study and every new report seem(s) to provide new pieces of information about the novel coronavirus (CoV), the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus - 2 (SARS-CoV-2), which results in the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

A report via Reuters about work done in Japan, "Japan supercomputer shows humidity affects aerosol spread of coronavirus” gives a hint about indoor risks in the coming winter spent within enclosed environs. [https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-japan-supercompute/japan-supercomputer-shows-humidity-affects-aerosol-spread-of-coronavirus-idUSKBN26Z0PI](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-japan-supercompute/japan-supercomputer-shows-humidity-affects-aerosol-spread-of-coronavirus-idUSKBN26Z0PI%20)

See also: FORTUNE, 14 October 2020, "A key COVID metric has surprisingly reversed course," which points, inter alia, to Journal of the American Planning Association, 18 June 2020, "Does Density Aggravate the COVID-19 Pandemic? Early Findings and Lessons for Planners." On sharing the report, a long-time friend wondered, "Does this make sense? It seems to contradict itself." Well, yes, it does make sense. The foundational issue with the spread of COVID-19 is the contact-or-not between infected persons/things and other persons. Those who pay attention to protections, such as masks and social distancing when it is absolutely necessary to be in the company of others, are less likely to get infected or be infected by others when those protections are in place. The study is suggesting, I think, that regional population densities are less important than physical contacts between the virus itself and other persons. That makes sense: For decades we have known that physicians, nurses and other healthcare folks who use basics--such as face masks, hand sanitizers and the like--are FAR less likely to transmit possible infections to patients and others--even in surgical environs.

Science matters, folks.

And so when Anthony Fauci, MD, sets out the information--and I see the report of him speaking and/or of information released over his signature--THEN I think the information significant. Disclosure: Like Dr. Fauci, I have a Sicilian connection in my bloodline.--actually mine is only in the maternal line where his is both maternal and paternal--and so I share an appreciation that when one's Sicilian Mom speaks, one pays attention and acts--period! Further--and more to the point--like Dr. Fauci, I come to my thinking out of an education by the Jesuits (his was grades 9-12 and undergrad school; mine: 8-12, undergrad and law school), and was trained by the Jesuits that I was free to think and say whatever I thought proper--but I darned well better be willing and able to support that thinking and speech right then and there.

My sources are not political rantings and/or misrepresentations spread on so-called "social networks such as halftwit and phakebook and their ilk.

One might notice that I put absolutely NO trust in such systems.

When one considers:

• the un-informed and unconsented use of "689,003"--the authors' own report of numbers--persons in the work that then was published in PNAS--2014-06-17--Experimental evidence of massive-scale emotional contagion through social networks";

• the response of the system's creator in the early days after he set the system into place---see (CAUTION -- These news reports may considered not safe for work (NSfW): BUS-INS--2010-05-13--"Well These New Zuckerberg IMs Wont Help Facebooks Privacy Problems," and THE-REGIS--2010-05-14--"Facebook founder called trusting users dumb f\*\*\*,"

one might understand why.

**S07**:

Q: Where can I access the Handbook you mentioned?

A: <https://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nmcphc/Documents/health-promotion-wellness/general-tools-and-programs/hp-toolbox/DRES-Handbook-FNL.pdf>

This resource can be downloaded to any phone, includes hyperlinks for easy navigation throughout the resource, and does not require Wi-Fi or cell service to reference once downloaded.

Q: How long is maternity leave for Service Members after birth, and can maternity leave be extended for any special circumstances that may arise?

A: Regarding the maternity leave for USN and USMC; (non chargeable) maternity leave for the person who gives birth and is the primary caregiver is up to 12 weeks. Commands can allow Sailors and Marines can add their personal leave to the end of their maternity leave (that would be charged leave).

We do not have a policy to extend maternity leave for special circumstances. This has come up every so often for families who have a kid or kids who need to spend several month in the NICU after birth. The times I’ve been aware of this issue, commands have been able to adjust the sailor’s work schedule to help them take leave after the baby is discharged from NICU.

**S08**: None provided