

‘Unbiased’ News Source? Reuters Chairman Is Top Investor and Board Member of Pfizer

Reuters openly boasts of its 'freedom from bias,' but its chairman's involvement in Pfizer's board raises the question: Is that possible?

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The chairman and former Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of international news agency and “fact checker” Reuters is also a top [investor](#) and [board member](#) of Pfizer.

James C. Smith's influential roles in both organizations “raises serious conflict of interest concerns,” the National Pulse [remarked](#), because Reuters has not only given [extensive](#) coverage to Pfizer's COVID-19 shot in particular, but it has overwhelmingly moved to “silence skeptics” of the Pfizer shots as well as other COVID-19 shots.

Smith's roles raise added concern because Reuters, considered a leading international news source and boasting a reach of billions of people, [brands](#) itself as a news agency with “integrity” and “freedom from bias.” In fact, a 2021 article [praises](#) Reuters as one of the “Top 4 Unbiased Independent World News Sources.”

The National Pulse [linked](#) to a compilation of Reuters articles mentioning Pfizer, pointing to about 22,000 over “the last year alone.” Such articles portray Pfizer in an overall positive light, and at times Reuters [aims](#) to discredit Pfizer's critics. The Pulse observed that articles mentioning Pfizer heavily outweigh those mentioning Moderna, which numbered about 8,200.

What gives Smith's conflict of interest even greater weight is Reuters' self-appointed role as “fact checker” of news. A [survey](#) of Reuters' more recent fact checks shows the majority are dedicated to defending COVID-19 shots against questioning of their safety or efficacy, or of the motives behind their production and promotion.

For example, one recent “fact check” [claims](#) that “there is no evidence currently that

COVID-19 vaccines are linked to an increase in sportspeople collapsing or dying due to heart issues such as myocarditis.” It made this claim despite its acknowledgement that “several studies do indeed suggest a link between myocarditis and the Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna vaccines.”

Former Pfizer vice president Dr. Michael Yeadon has [documented](#) at least two dozen recent incidents of athletes collapsing, suffering injury, or dying, mostly from heart issues, noting that the rate of such occurrences has spiked in recent weeks.

However, more often than not, [reports](#) from people [suffering](#) injury after COVID-19 vaccination testify that doctors have either [claimed](#) their symptoms aren’t real or have dismissed out of hand the possibility of any link of those symptoms to COVID-19 jabs.

Other examples of such COVID jab-defending articles include “No evidence that Pfizer’s COVID-19 vaccine causes Alzheimer’s disease;” and “No evidence to support claim by ex-Pfizer scientist on COVID-19 vaccine safety in children,” referring to Dr. Yeadon’s declaration that “COVID-19 vaccines are ‘50 times more likely’ to kill children than COVID-19 itself.”

One would be hard pressed to find a Reuters “fact check” that admits any criticism of Pfizer COVID-19 shots, or COVID-19 shots in general, into its final analysis.

It is noteworthy that Smith also serves on the board of the [World Economic Forum \(WEF\)](#)’s Partnering Against Corruption Initiative and is a member of WEF’s International Business Advisory Boards of British American Business and the Atlantic Council.

Smith remains chairman of Reuters after having retired as president and CEO in February 2020, Pfizer’s website [notes](#).

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