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1. New piece from the TWITTER FILES.

How the pharmaceutical industry lobbied social media to shape content around vaccine policy.

The push included direct pressure from Pfizer partner BioNTech to censor activists demanding low-cost generic vaccines for low-income countries.

2. In 2020, it was clear that the pandemic would require rapid innovation. Early on, there was a push to make the solution equitable: an international partnership to share ideas, technology, new forms of medicine to rapidly solve this crisis.



New agreement under C-TAP aims to improve global access to COVID-19 testing t... Geneva – A new, open, transparent sublicence agreement between the Medicines Patent Pool (MPP) on behalf of C-TAP, and South African pharmaceutical company Biotech Africa will... https://medicinespatentpool.org/news-publications-post/new-agreement-under-c-tap-aims-to-improv...

3. But global drug giants saw the crisis as an opportunity for unprecedented profit. Behind closed doors, pharma launched a massive lobbying blitz to crush any effort to share patents/IP for new covid-related medicine, including therapeutics and vaccines.

4. BIO, the lobby group that represents biopharma, including Moderna & Pfizer, wrote to the newly elected Biden admin, demanding the U.S. gov sanction any country attempting to violate patent rights and create generic low cost covid medicine or vaccines.



Drug Lobby Asks Biden to Punish Foreign Countries Pushing for Low-Cost Vacci... Big Pharma is fighting for tight control over Covid-19 vaccine production, limiting availability worldwide while reaping billions. https://theintercept.com/2021/03/03/vaccine-coronavirus-big-pharma-biden/

5. That brings us to Twitter. The global lobbying blitz includes direct pressure on social media. BioNTech, which developed Pfizer's vaccine, reached out to Twitter to request that Twitter directly censor users tweeting at them to ask for generic low cost vaccines.

Von: Jasmina Alatovic < Biointech.de>
Date: Sa, 12. Dez. 2020 un recent of a
To: Nina Morschhauur**
Co: Natasha Cherifi < Biointech.de>
Liebe Frau Morschhäuser,
Das BSI hat am Freitagabend, 11.12.2020 einen Hinweis über eine Online-Kampagne gegen Impfstoffhersteller erhalten. Für Montag, 14.12.2020 rufen Aktivisten im Namen einer "gerechten"COVID-19 Impfstoffverteilung zu Online- Kampagnen auf.
Im Rahmen der Online-Kampagnen wird etwa dazu aufgerufen, BioNTech und unsere Geschäftsführer über soziale Medien zu kontaktieren.
Könnten Sie uns helfen, unseren BioNTech Twitter Account am Sonntag für zwei Tage zu "verstecken", sodass Kommentare etc. nicht mehr möglich sind?
Viele Grüße
Jasmina Alatovic
Jasmina Alatovic Director External Communications Tel.: Mob Fax
BIONTECH
Anschrift: BioNTech SE An der Goldgrube 12 55131 Mainz Germany
in 🔽
Sitz der Gesellschaft: BioNTech SE, An der Goldgrube 12, 55131 Mainz, Germany Amtsgericht Mainz HRB 48720 • UStIdNr. DE 263 382 495 • EoriNr. DE 1070347 Vorstand: Prof. Dr. Ugur Sahin • Sean Marett • Dr. Sierk Poetting • Ryan Richardson • PD Dr. Özlem Türeci
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6. Twitter's reps responded quickly to the pharma request, which was also backed by the German government. A lobbyist in Europe asked the content moderation team to monitor the accounts of Pfizer, AstraZeneca & of activist hashtags like #peoplesvaccine

Nina Morschhaeuser	December 13, 2020 at 3:59
[Ask for support GET&SI] Campaign targeting Biontec, Pfizer, AstraZeneca announced for 14 Dec	
To: GETSupport, Site Integrity, Ip-crew, Cc:	& 4 more Deta
Hi TwS, SI and LP	
(+Nick & Katy as relevant for their markets)	
We got contacted by Biontech as well as the German Federal Office for Information Security for an online campaign targeting the pharmaceutical companies deve December starting at 9AM CET	loping the COVID-19 vaccine is announced for tomorrow, Monday 1
Expected hashtags include #JoinCTAP and	
#PeoplesVaccine	
Could you support us and have an eye on the relevant hashtags and the following accounts	
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@pfizer @pfizer_de	
@pfizer_de	
@pfizer_de @moderna_tx	r accounts" are to be expected.
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@pfizer_de @moderna_tx @AstraZeneca The authorities are warning about "serious consequences" of the action, i.e. posts and a flood of comments "that may violate TOS" as well as the "takeover of use Especially the personal accounts of the management of the vaccine manufacturers are said to be targeted. Accordingly, fake accounts could also be set up.	

7. The potential "fake accounts" that Twitter monitored for protesting Pfizer? These were real people. Here's one the Twitter team flagged for potential terms of use violations. I talked to Terry, a 74 year old retired bricklayer in the UK on the phone.



8. It's not clear what actions Twitter ultimately took on this particular request. Several Twitter employees noted in subsequent messages that none of this activism constituted abuse. But the company continued monitoring tweets.

9. In a separate push, Pfizer & Moderna's lobbying group, BIO, fully funded a special content moderation campaign designed by a contractor called Public Good Projects, which worked w/Twitter to set content moderation rules around covid "misinformation."

10. BIO provided \$1,275,000 to the campaign, part of which is revealed through tax forms. The PGP campaign, called "Stronger," helped Twitter create content moderation bots, select which public health accounts got verification, helped crowdsource content takedowns.

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11. Many of the tweets the BIO-funded campaign focused on were truly unhinged misinfo, like claims that vaccines include microchips. But others Stronger lobbied Twitter on were more of a grey area, like vaccine passports & vaccine mandates, policies that coerce vaccination.



"if a vaccinated person and an unvaccinated person have roughly the same capacity to carry, shed and transmit the virus, particularly in its Delta form, what difference does implementing a vaccination passport actually make to the spread of the virus?" zerohedge.com/geopolitical/s... 10:04 AM · Aug 29, 2021

•••

432 Retweets 31 Quote Tweets 1,121 Likes

Stephanie Seneff @stephanieseneff

12. The Moderna/Pfizer-funded campaign included direct regular emails with lists of tweets to takedown & others to verify. Here's an example of those types of emails that went straight to Twitter's lobbyists and content moderators. Many focused on @zerohedge, which was suspended.

-	PGP Misinfo Report & Verification Request		
	To: .	Todd O'Boyle,	
Hi all,			
Please s	ee attached for this week's misinfo report along with our batch verification request.		
0 F	k, we saw: eople opposed to vaccines are capitalizing on the NYT article about the CDC withholding vaccine informat ut are using the news to further prove the CDC is untrustworthy. nother heavily trending article details a German health insurance company official who says their reports ficial reports of adverse events and that official reports may be severely undercounted. This article is diffiny ny side effect, not just serious side effects.	of healthcare visits for vacc	ine side effects do not match
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13. Notably, this massive push to censor and label covid misinfo never applied to drug companies. When big pharma wildly exaggerated the risks of creating low-cost generic

covid vaccines, Stronger did nothing. The rules applied only to critics of industry.



14. Here is my reported piece w/more detail. I was given some access to Twitter emails. I signed/agreed to nothing, Twitter had no input into anything I did or wrote. The searches were carried out by a Twitter attorney, so what I saw could be limited.



Covid-19 Drugmakers Pressured Twitter to Censor Activists Pushing for Generic ... The social media pressure campaign was just a part of the pharmaceutical industry's successful lobbying blitz to retain patents — and make record profits. https://theintercept.com/2023/01/16/twitter-covid-vaccine-pharma/

15. Thanks @davidzweig and @lwoodhouse for help, and look for more Twitter reporting from @mtaibbi, @ShellenbergerMD, @bariweiss/@TheFP and others. You can find me on Substack here



Creating a Substack



I'm starting a Substack. For now, this is a platform for me to provide further context for my reporting, as well as original source documents, research tips, and analysis. I'm interested in...



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