

Capturing Institutional & Sovereignty Concern

Research Oversight, Representation, and Public Trust in U.S. Health Research

The article published in *JMIR Public Health and Surveillance* analyzes U.S. VAERS data and presents findings positioned as representative of United States public health research. While the authors are affiliated with U.S. institutions, the composition of the research team and its scholarly network reflects the increasingly globalized nature of American biomedical research.

This raises broader questions relevant to public trust and research sovereignty:

- To what extent does U.S.-based health research reflect domestic scientific leadership versus globally networked academic communities?
- How do institutions ensure transparency in funding, affiliations, and external collaborations in sensitive public health domains?
- Are oversight mechanisms sufficiently robust to address modern research security concerns in an era of geopolitical competition?

These questions do not challenge the individual qualifications of the authors, nor do they imply wrongdoing. Rather, they highlight a structural issue: U.S. public health research operates within a highly internationalized academic ecosystem. While this fosters innovation and collaboration, it also requires clear accountability, disclosure standards, and communication strategies to maintain public confidence.

In areas such as vaccine safety — where public perception and national policy are deeply intertwined — heightened transparency regarding funding, affiliations, and methodological rigor is especially important.

Public trust depends not only on scientific validity, but also on institutional integrity and national accountability in research leadership.

American-English Authors?

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