

Dr. Peter Hotez has devoted his career to making vaccines more widely available. He routinely gets attacked for it.

**By Jeneen Interlandi**

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June 2, 2019

Peter Hotez is no stranger to vitriol. An outspoken proponent of vaccines in a state with one of the most vocal anti-vaccine lobbies in the country, Dr. Hotez, dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine at the Baylor College of Medicine in Texas, has been harassed at lectures, threatened online and blamed for his daughter's autism.

In early May, he took to Twitter to lament a report from the Texas health department showing a 14 percent increase in the number of parents seeking vaccine exemptions in the state. In response, State Representative Jonathan Stickland accused Dr. Hotez of being in the drug industry's pocket and referred to his science as self-serving "sorcery."

"It's one thing to have emotional parents or angry activists coming after you," Dr. Hotez says. "It's really quite another to get it from elected officials."

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