

My name is Wafik El-Deiry. I am a physician-scientist and cancer researcher with more than 30 years of experience studying the tumor suppressor protein p53, one of the most important cancer-related pathways in human biology.

My work has focused on how cancers develop when normal tumor suppressor mechanisms fail, including discoveries involving p53 controlled genes that became foundational in cancer biology and oncology research. I have also studied how viruses and other biologic processes can disrupt normal cellular defenses against cancer development.

When the COVID pandemic began, I wanted to help by applying our expertise in cancer biology, immunology, and approved treatments to better understand and treat COVID.

It has long been understood that certain viruses can contribute to cancer development by disrupting tumor suppressor pathways, including p53, one of the body's most important cancer-protective mechanisms.

Early in the pandemic, I became concerned that SARS-CoV-2 or components associated with it might similarly interfere with these protective cellular mechanisms, making this an important area for scientific investigation.

Early in the pandemic, I expressed uncertainty on social media about the natural origins of the COVID virus. This is when I first started to experience the repercussions of speaking out against the mainstream narrative.

What I didn't expect were the attacks on science itself.

By July 2020, my laboratory published findings showing that a class of cancer drugs known as MEK inhibitors suppressed ACE2, the receptor SARS-CoV-2 uses to infect human cells.

By April 2024, we reported findings suggesting that spike protein associated with COVID-19 infection or COVID-19 vaccination could reduce the ability of p53 to activate genes involved in cancer suppression.

Our laboratory had developed a substantial research program examining biologic factors associated with COVID-19 infection and vaccination.

Based on these findings, we emphasized that effective vaccines against viruses such as COVID should strengthen immunity against infection without interfering with the body's natural tumor-suppressor defenses.

These concerns were raised through normal scientific channels, yet the response was not open scientific engagement, but escalating attacks.

Instead of contributing to scientific dialogue, the findings triggered attacks on both the research and the researchers involved.

Much of this occurred through an online platform known as PubPeer, originally created about a decade ago to identify fraud and scientific misconduct. Unfortunately, the platform increasingly became weaponized against researchers whose findings challenged prevailing narratives.

The platform permits anonymous accusations without meaningful accountability. There is no disclosure of conflicts of interest and no statute of limitations or citizenship requirements. These attacks are public, amplified through social media, and can continue indefinitely regardless of whether wrongdoing is ever established.

This is precisely what happened to us. Although we corrected minor errors where appropriate, none altered the underlying results or conclusions of our work. Nevertheless, our publications became the subject of sustained public attacks that functioned to damage reputations and undermine scientific credibility.

Recently, I was informed that important publications from my laboratory could not be included in grant applications while unresolved allegations remained active, despite no findings of fraud or misconduct.

Despite these ongoing attacks, by July 2025, I agreed to serve on Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices' ACIP Working Group on COVID Immunizations. As an expert in cancer biology and pharmaceutical products, I conducted an extensive review of the literature on COVID-19 vaccination and cancer.

By the fall of 2025, I had identified nearly 70 publications describing more than 300 reported cancer cases from 27 countries following one or more COVID mRNA vaccine injections.

Reported cancers occurred near injection sites, within the head and neck region, and elsewhere throughout the body across multiple cancer types. In some reported cases, spike protein was identified within tumor tissue.

Our findings were published in January 2026. Shortly afterward, I was contacted directly by former Japanese minister Kazuhiro Haraguchi, who reported developing diffuse large B-cell lymphoma that later metastasized to his tonsils, where biopsy findings reportedly identified spike protein.

These observations warrant serious scientific investigation.

The attacks on my publications intensified and continue to the present day despite no findings of fraud, misconduct, or wrongdoing after years of investigation.

Both our paper and the journal itself became targets of attacks through PubPeer and related online campaigns.

I remain, in effect, guilty until proven innocent.

Patients deserve informed consent. Scientists deserve the freedom to investigate legitimate scientific concerns without fear of reputational destruction, institutional retaliation, or professional ruin.