

Coincidence or else ?

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The Weekend Australian Magazine of June 6 - 7, 2020 has published an interview with **Jane Halton** entitled “***Guiding Light. Meet The Australian Spearheading the Global Race To Develop - And Fairly Distribute - A Coronavirus Vaccine***” by a journalist, **Megan Lehmann**.

Who is Jane Halton?

For the last 33 years – a public servant working in different capacities: Jane Halton was the head of the Department of Health between January 2002 and June 2014 and the head of the Department of Finance from 2014 to 2016. She joined the board of ANZ Bank in October 2016. She is also a former World Health Organisation director and chair of the OECD's health committee (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development - a group of 34 member countries that discuss and develop economic and social policy). Currently, Jane Halton is chair of the Council on the Aging, and in March 2020 she was appointed to the executive board of the Australian [National COVID-19 Coordination Commission](#) set up by Scott Morrison. She also chairs the Gates-backed global [Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations](#) (CEPI), a public health coalition, an alliance of public and philanthropic funding that launched at Davos in 2017 and that is now leading the global race to develop and fairly distribute a coronavirus vaccine.

The subject of the interview is, among others, a meeting of world leaders from business, government, security and public health, for example, Centre for Disease Control heads from China and the USA; senior figures from the UN Foundation, the World Bank Group and the World Economic Forum. The meeting commenced on October 18, 2019 in New York City. Jane Halton was one of 16 world experts discussing “pathogens and plagues and panic in the streets”.

The participants observed and discussed “a high level simulation” of a new virus that had spread from animals to humans causing a deadly respiratory disease that would lead to 65 million deaths in 18 months and to a collapse of the global economy.

A scenario that would start developing in another 10 weeks when “China alerted the world to a virus outbreak in Wuhan and nine more before the World Health Organisation officially declared a pandemic”.

The question is: did the organisers know about the imminent pandemic? And who were the organisers?

The event was organised by the World Economic Forum in partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the John Hopkins Centre for Health Security, whose one of the four funders is also the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. And it was a high-level simulation of a “severe, highly transmissible intercontinental outbreak” in order to discuss world-wide preparedness and response to such an event. “The fictional virus was called CAPS (Coronavirus Accelerated Pulmonary Syndrome); it emerged from pigs, not bats, and first appeared in South America. Otherwise it tracked closely Covid-19”.

Was it a coincidence or else...? I leave the question for the readers to figure it out.

I would also encourage the readers to go to the source and read the article in its entirety as it contains a lot of other interesting information. Among others, “vaccine development is typically measured in years, not months; the quickest development of a vaccine in history was four years, for mumps in the 1950s”.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/author/Megan%20Lehmann>