

News Item

The wellness community's fight over COVID vaccine misinformation | Los Angeles Times

By Laura J. Nelson March 17, 2022

The vaccination selfie, showing a gloved hand holding a needle and a smiling face hidden behind a mask, looked like thousands of others posted to Instagram as the COVID-19 vaccine rolled out across the U.S.

But the comments it drew did not. *Sell out puppet*, sneered one user in response to Dr. Michael Greger's photo. *Burning your book tonight in my fire pit*, said a second. Another simply wrote: $\square\square$.

Greger is a prominent advocate for a plant-based diet, with a devoted following among people who believe food is the best medicine. But his statement on vaccines — that sometimes, medicine is the best medicine — put him directly at odds with many of his fans, and thrust him into the ugly, conspiratorial fight over vaccination roiling the online worlds of wellness and nutrition.

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