Review of: "mRNA: vaccine or gene therapy? The safety issues of regulation"

Gijs A. Kleter

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Presumably, this is meant to become an opinion article for which a balanced view or neutral language would not be strictly required. It expresses vague concerns over safety matters that might have been overlooked while a clear hypothesis is lacking. Perhaps it would be useful to take note of the following details:

1. The part under the heading of “regulatory status” would merit from the addition of actual data on regulations within the jurisdictions considered (EU, USA).
2. What are the *specific* safety issues that the author is particularly concerned about and that might be overlooked if mRNA vaccines were not to be evaluated as if they were gene therapy products?
3. Unlike what is stated, the possibility for integration of DNA from a veterinary DNA plasmid vaccine into the genome of a food-producing animal host has been considered in the EU, for example, see https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/4689.
4. For mRNA, it could be argued that it would need reverse transcription into DNA and to overcome many additional hurdles before this theoretically could be incorporated into the host genome and eventually be passed on to following generations. See, for example, https://www.mdpi.com/1467-3045/44/4/113.