

## Shaun Barcavage - NP

Good morning, everyone:

My name is Shaun Barcavage and I am a 51 year old research Nurse Practitioner who WAS a vibrant, funny, compassionate and healthy nurse and human prior to December 29, 2020 – The day my life fundamentally changed. I am the descendant of hard-working coal miners and was proudly born in the coal region of Pennsylvania.

I am speaking today as private citizen and not on behalf of any organization or institution. This is my personal truth, my story.

1. As we are living in a hyper-polarized world, let me start off by clarifying that I'm a highly educated nurse. Always number 1 in the class! I am pro-patient, pro-science, and have been fiercely pro-vaccine my entire life.
2. However, like many, I was a bit hesitant about the vaccine. My concerns were the new platform, the new spike protein vector, the fact that we relied more on long-term in vitro studies, versus the minimal long term safety data in humans. But I also understood the need to control the pandemic.
3. As a researcher, I fully understand reactions occur and that they are real. In drug research, no matter how much time, effort and testing are done, no medication or vaccine is reaction free. I get this!
4. But in this rollout, there were many things that came to light quickly once I fell into the adverse reaction side!

First let me briefly share my reaction story:

5. Almost immediately after dose 1, I developed paresthesia along my right arm, face, eye and ear. This took 10 days to subside.
  - a. A neurologist at the time, armed with little information about the vaccines, advised me to proceed to 2nd dose.
6. Dose 2 on January 19, 2021, literally set me into a tail spin. Within 4 days I developed:
  - i. Debilitating tinnitus,
  - ii. Right facial nerve tingling/numbness,
  - iii. Throat tightness and tingly,
  - iv. Tachycardia,
  - v. Wildly fluctuating blood pressures
  - vi. Severe right sided headaches and brain fog

- b. I was told by my neurologist to “wait it out, it will likely subside” ... but things did not subside and only worsened over time. I ended up in the ED on Jan 30, 2021. And despite my experience in research and offering up the possibility of a reaction, it was dismissed again by a physician equipped with no knowledge about these vaccine reactions. I was sent home with ibuprofen.

Things continued to progress and I developed:

- i. Positional tachycardia – an inability to stand longer than 10 minutes without feeling nauseas and faint
  - ii. Severe intractable insomnia
  - iii. Muscle twitches and tremors
  - iv. Adrenal dumps that would burn my stomach and muscles.
7. I pursued numerous consults desperate to find help and sadly faced so many missed opportunities for early interventions and things continued to worsen
  8. I literally exploded in full body neuropathies including stinging and burning in hands, prickling sensations all over body and even stinging in the throat and tongue.
  9. But even as a nurse practitioner I was confronted with a medical system uninformed, fearful, skeptical, and deep in denial.
  10. I sought expert care major research hospitals across the country:
    - a. As a researcher I methodically tracked and logged my symptoms.
    - b. I’m seasoned enough in research to know how to determine reaction relationship and causality to a drug
    - c. Not a single doctor logged my symptoms into VAERs to date. So, imagine how many more have gone unreported. One physician asked me to log it myself because he didn’t want to be contacted to do the paperwork.
    - d. And yet presenting with quite unusual findings, not one was interested to research me or present my case. As a researcher myself, I found this quite odd.
  11. As a nurse I knew I had to push for objective testing to be understood. Physicians don’t deal well with subjective symptoms and normal labs. In the end:
    - a. A tilt table test showed my autonomic dysfunction.
    - b. And a skin biopsy was consistent with the development of small fiber neuropathy.
  12. The goal of speaking here today is to emphasize a few points:
    - a. 1. If we mandate experimental vaccines that are given broad freedom from liability, we must ethically mandate manufacturers and government institutions to set up

active system to field, investigate and advise on reactions. Reactions are a part of science, we need to face them, not hide them.

- b. 2. When research is conducted, the data should not be buried by politics -research ethics requires that information to be brought to light to help save others from harm.
- c. 3. This event instantly catapulted me into new side research I never fully realized. It showed me a new world that now seems clouded by money and politics rather than safety. There is overt imbalance toward fueling self-reinforcing studies and little to no research into side effects or recognition of opposing data.
- d. 4. We are also now in a dangerous world where if one speaks their truth, you can be easily dismissed by the media as spreading misinformation or quickly lumped in with the anti-vaccine movement. Despite my efforts to reaching out to the media to tell my story in an effort to help the injured, I have not been contacted once to even see if what I am saying is true!
- e. 5. Research should remain adherent to ethical principles and people should be given full-informed consent.
- f. 7. The vaccine injury program should not have been moved into own separate more complex program - where even lawyers admit it is nearly impossible to win a case. This only adds suspicion to the vaccine safety.
- g. 8. Big pharma's grip on our FDA and medical institutions needs urgent and immediate reform.
  - i. We only need to look at what happened this week on prescription drug prices. Politics, Lobbyist and donor money are driving the science and research rather than objective data.
  - ii. We have former FDA commissioners working for the two primary vaccine companies.
  - iii. While we desperately want Safe and Effective Vaccines, we equally an effective and safe government working for the people and not the donors.
- h. 9. We need urgent research on vaccine side effects and expedited release of any studies already conducted.
- i. 10. I never imagined I'd be in the one with a severe reaction. I can tell you this: It is a lonely and scary place to be. Especially when the system has failed to set up protections and is ill-equipped and ill-informed to help you.

13. In closing, what I want you to know is that I was never the “activist type” of person, but fear and despair have changed me. This experience has shattered my life in so many ways:
- a. The 24/7 tinnitus has robbed me of every moment of silence and peace. It is now a challenge to watch TV, read a book, to sleep or even take a nap.
  - b. The yet unknown and unresearched causes of my nerve damage, the burning, stinging prickling pains everywhere have left me in a state of fear for my life.
  - c. Some days standing to take a shower for more than 5 mins is a struggle.
  - d. And the impact on my medical career, which I love and worked so hard for, is immeasurable.
  - e. The not knowing what is wrong with me and where it could go is terrifying.

“There are far too many silent sufferers.

Not because they don't yearn to reach out, but because they've tried and found no one who cares.”

Richelle E. Goodrich