

# Bioethicist challenges Bachmann on vaccine claim

September 16 2011

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Republican presidential candidate Rep. Michele Bachmann , R-Minn., waves as she arrives for a Republican Presidential debate Monday, Sept. 12, 2011, in Tampa, Fla. (AP Photo/Chris O'Meara)

(AP) -- A prominent bioethicist has offered \$10,000 to charity if Republican presidential candidate Michele Bachmann can prove her claim that a vaccination caused mental retardation.

Arthur Caplan of the University of Pennsylvania challenged Bachmann on Thursday over her comments regarding the [human papillomavirus vaccine](#).

The topic of HPV inoculation came up Monday during a GOP debate. Afterward, Bachmann linked the vaccine to retardation, a claim vehemently disputed by medical experts.

Caplan says if Bachmann can identify a verified vaccine victim in one week, he will donate \$10,000 to a charity of her choice. If not, Caplan says Bachmann should donate \$10,000 to a pro-vaccine group.

University of Minnesota [bioethicist](#) Steven Miles made a similar offer for \$1,000.

Caplan says Bachmann hasn't responded. Her campaign spokeswoman didn't immediately return a request for comment.

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Citation: Bioethicist challenges Bachmann on vaccine claim (2011, September 16) retrieved 9 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2011-09-bioethicist-bachmann-vaccine.html>

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