

## Open Letter: Global mass poisoning

Sir Venki Ramakrishnan  
President of the Royal Society of London

Dear Sir Venki

### **Open Letter to the Royal Society: Where have all our insects and birds gone?** **(<https://tinyurl.com/yahhorbd>)**

I quote from the Royal Society's Founding Charters of the 1660s: *"The Royal Society is a Fellowship of many of the world's most eminent scientists and is the oldest scientific academy in continuous existence. The Society's fundamental purpose, reflected in its founding Charters of the 1660s, is to recognise, promote, and support excellence in science and to encourage the development and use of science for the benefit of humanity. The Society has played a part in some of the most fundamental, significant, and life-changing discoveries in scientific history and Royal Society scientists continue to make outstanding contributions to science in many research areas.*

*The very first 'learned society' meeting on 28 November 1660 followed a lecture at Gresham College by Christopher Wren. Joined by other leading polymaths including Robert Boyle and John Wilkins, the group soon received royal approval, and from 1663 it would be known as 'The Royal Society of London for Improving Natural Knowledge'.*

*The Royal Society's motto 'Nullius in verba' is taken to mean 'take nobody's word for it'. It is an expression of the determination of Fellows to withstand the domination of authority and to verify all statements by an appeal to facts determined by experiment."*

**Some 350 years later, The Royal Society of London has thrown its hand in with the Agrochemical Industry, has received funding from them and accepted their word that GM Crops are safe. The scientists who founded The Royal Society (Wren, Boyle, Wilkins and Newton) would turn in their graves.**

**Our small nature reserve in South Wales (and the surrounding area) was poisoned by Roundup sprayed outside the reserve; but the regulators claimed it wasn't ecotoxic**

To prove that Roundup **did** destroy biodiversity I sent our two photo-journals from 2010 to Bernhard Url, Executive Director of EFSA, Michael Fluh, former Head of Pesticides and Biocides at the European Commission, Geert Dancet, Executive Director of the European Chemicals Agency and Dr Mark Porter, former Chairman of the BMA. I had asked them all for acknowledgements. **Only Geert Dancet replied.** However, he said he couldn't take them into account. ECHA only looks at harmonised classification not at the effects of the use of a chemical. ***"ECHA's Committee for Risk Assessment (RAC) agrees to maintain the current harmonised classification of glyphosate as a substance causing serious eye damage and being toxic to aquatic life with long-lasting effects. RAC concluded that the available scientific evidence did not meet the criteria to classify glyphosate as a carcinogen, as a mutagen or as toxic for reproduction."***

**It must have been a tricky situation for the BMA.** The Government had already said it was voting with EFSA, that glyphosate was not a carcinogen. The BMA must have received funding from the agrochemical and pharmaceutical corporations: AstraZeneca is Syngenta's parent company. So they hit upon a solution – not to acknowledge my photo-journals and to lock my email address out of their system, which they did! It was the same with **Jeremy Farrar FRS** Director of the Wellcome Trust. I wrote to him and **Dame Sally Davies FRS** and asked them stop blaming vets and doctors for the apocalyptic threat antibiotic resistant bacteria to tell them that

glyphosate was patented as an antibiotic in 2010. In 2017 a paper from New Zealand showed that herbicides glyphosate, dicamba and 2-4 D change antibiotic responses to pathogenic bacteria.(page 44)

**However I did send this book to Sir David Attenborough FRS: a first-hand description of the effects of GM Roundup Ready corn on biodiversity (page 3)**

Childs, C. *Apocalyptic Planet. Field Guide to the Future of the Earth.*

Chapter 6 Species Vanish: Page 185. Grundy County, Iowa was where Craig Childs spent a long weekend in a monoculture of GM-Roundup® Ready Corn looking for wildlife.

Page 187: "In this cornfield, I had come to a different kind of planetary evolution. I listened and heard nothing, no bird, no click of an insect ... Page 188: Mr Owen was the farmer who had given us permission to backpack across his cornfields. He grew a combination of DuPont and Monsanto stock. We were in DuPont now. It didn't look any different to me."

Robert Krulwich's blog commented on Craig Child's description: "Corn farmers champion corn. Anything that might eat corn, hurt corn, bother corn, is killed. Their corn is bred to fight pests. The ground is sprayed. The stalks are sprayed again. So, Craig wondered, "What will I find?" The answer amazed me. He found almost nothing. There were no bees. The air, the ground, seemed vacant. He found one ant "so small you couldn't pin it to a specimen board." A little later, crawling to a different row, he found one mushroom, "the size of an apple seed." Then, later, a cobweb spider eating a crane fly (only one). A single red mite "the size of a dust mote hurrying across the barren earth," some grasshoppers, and that's it." Though he crawled and crawled, he found nothing else. "It felt like another planet entirely," he said, a world denuded.

"Yet, 100 years ago, these same fields, these prairies, were home to 300 species of plants, 60 mammals, 300 birds, hundreds and hundreds of insects. This soil was the richest, the loamiest in the state. And now, in these patches, there is almost literally nothing but one kind of living thing. We've erased everything else. There's something strange about a farm that intentionally creates a biological desert to produce food for one species: us. It's efficient, yes. But it's so efficient that the ants are missing, the bees are missing, and even the birds stay away. Something's not right here. Our cornfields are too quiet."

Page 192: Childs said: "I chose Iowa for a mass-extinction analogue because it is the most thorough picture of genetic exhaustion, the many organs of what was once tallgrass prairie removed and replaced with this."

**Dr Brian John's (GM Free Cymru) Open Letter to your predecessor Sir Paul Nurse**

21/12/2012:

"Why do you see it as part of your job to promote the interests of the GM industry? That industry, whose sole interest in feeding the world is linked to its own desire for total control of both the seed supply and the agrichemical supply, needs no help from anybody - and anybody who has eyes to see must realise that corporations like Monsanto, Bayer and Syngenta fully deserve their black reputations. Do you really think that these corporations are good at science? They are indubitably good at technology, but they have absolutely no understanding of scientific ethics and they have long histories of involvement in scientific fraud, bribery, the vilification of independent scientists, and other deeply unpleasant activities. They have not the slightest idea what the Precautionary Principle is, and they are actively seeking to dismantle the regulatory system that (whatever its shortcomings may be) does try to protect public safety. You may not count these corporations among your friends, but if you are promoting GMOs you are also promoting their interests - and it would be disingenuous of you to pretend otherwise."

**"The Royal Society is a self-governing Fellowship of distinguished scientists drawn from all areas of science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine."**

There are 1,646 Fellows, 177 in Health and Health Sciences and 225 in sciences related to Ecology. Why have none of these eminent Fellows noticed that Britain and the US are close to becoming biological deserts and that human health is rapidly deteriorating?

### **US Scientists sound the alarm over global mass poisoning (page 43)**

**Editorial: Regulating toxic chemicals for public and environmental health:** Lisa Gross and Linda Birnbaum.

*“By the time President Gerald Ford signed the United States Toxic Substances Control Act in the fall of 1976, tens of thousands of synthetic chemicals had entered world markets with no evidence of their safety... Ford’s signing statement described a law giving the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) broad regulatory authority to require toxicity testing and reporting to determine whether the chemicals posed risks.” “If a chemical is found to present a danger to health or the environment,” Ford promised, “appropriate regulatory action can be taken before it is too late to undo the damage.”*

*“That’s not what happened. The 60,000-plus chemicals already in commerce were grandfathered into the law on the assumption that they were safe. And the EPA faced numerous hurdles, including pushback from the chemical industry that undermined its ability to implement the law.”*

### **Ecological Armageddon after dramatic plunge in insect numbers 18/10/2017 (Page 6)**

More than 75 percent decline over 27 years in total flying insect biomass in protected areas in Germany.

### **Massive declines in Monarch Butterfly numbers due to Roundup (Page 9)**

The NRDC Report in February 2015: *“Recently, though, a dramatic change in farming practices—the widespread cultivation of genetically engineered, glyphosate-resistant Roundup Ready corn and soybeans—has triggered a precipitous decline of common milkweed, and thus of monarchs. Glyphosate, sold by Monsanto under the name of Roundup, is one of the very few herbicides that is effective on milkweed. Unlike many other weedkillers, once absorbed it is translocated (moved internally) to root tissue, where it kills milkweed at the root and so prevents regeneration. Glyphosate is particularly lethal to milkweed when used in conjunction with Roundup Ready crops. It is applied more frequently, at higher rates, and later in the season—during milkweed’s most vulnerable flowering stage of growth—than when used with traditional crops. The increasingly common practice of growing Roundup Ready crops continuously on the same fields means that milkweed is exposed to glyphosate every year, with no opportunity to recover.”*

### **Question posed in the House of Lords about the reported toxicity of formulants**

In December 2017, the European Commission voted to renew the license for the active substance glyphosate, but said that individual Member States would be responsible for assessing formulants such as Roundup.

On 22/01/2018 The Countess of Mar questioned Lord Gardiner in the House of Lords about the recent paper about the toxicity of formulants.

*“To ask Her Majesty’s Government what assessment they have made of the findings of Defarge et al in Toxicity of formulants and heavy metals in glyphosate-based herbicides and other pesticides published in Toxicology Reports, volume 5, about the use of so-called inert ingredients in those chemical formulations.”*

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble (Con)** (The Defra spokesperson in the HOL)

*“...Following that decision (of the European Commission) the UK and other Member States will review the product authorisations of all herbicides containing glyphosate. This review will take account of the relevant data on the properties of the products, as well as the properties of glyphosate as the active substance. Product authorisations will only be renewed if the assessment of the scientific evidence concludes that the formulated product will not harm people or pose unacceptable risks to the environment.”*

### **Agrochemical Industry funds UK Corporate Media to not mention pesticides**

<https://www.opendemocracy.net/james-cusick-crina-boros/how-gm-giant-bought-control-of-what-millions-of-londoners-read>

*“The Evening Standard’s lucrative deal with Swiss chemical giant Syngenta shows how commercial giants pay for news – with readers left in the dark. London’s Evening Standard, the city’s flagship free newspaper read by millions of commuters every week, struck a lucrative deal that helped to varnish the reputation of one of the world’s largest agribusiness companies – with readers unaware that the firm was paying for positive coverage, openDemocracy can reveal today. “*

George Osborne is the Editor-in-Chief of *The London Evening Standard* and is willing to accept money from Syngenta for promoting their products. His close colleague David Cameron did just that. He and the Defra Minister Lord de Mauley hid the **Open Letter from America from 60 million US citizens** warning about **disastrous effects on health and the environment of GM crops and Roundup. Page 21** Lord de Mauley’s reply contained the usual platitudes: *“The UK government regards safety as paramount and we will only agree to the planting of GM crops or the marketing of GM foods if it is clear that people and the environment will not be harmed.”*

### **Fellows or organisations have knowingly or unknowingly helped the pesticides industry**

**Sir John Krebs FRS:** In 2000, on the day it was announced that he was becoming the first head of the FSA, Krebs publicly endorsed GM food in a radio interview, saying all GM products approved for sale in the UK *'were as safe as their non-GM counterparts'*. Appearing on BBC TV in August 2000, Krebs announced that consumers who were buying organic food were *'not getting value for money, in my opinion and in the opinion of the FSA, if they think they are buying extra nutritional quality or extra nutritional safety, because we don't have the evidence.'* The number of active ingredients applied by farmers to onions and leeks has risen **18-fold** from 5.3 in 1975 to 30.8 in 2014 (page 24) In Britain, unless we eat organic food, the ordinary food we eat is poisoned by many pesticides. So, for example, the NHS is failing because the NHS staff **and** the patients are being poisoned.

**Sir Robert May FRS:** *“The Royal Society of London under May continued to aggressively campaign for GM crops, closely allying itself with the controversial lobby group, [Sense About Science \(SAS\)](#) in the process.”*

**The late Sir Richard Doll FRS** was found after his death to have been paid by Monsanto for 20 years to deny that PCBs and Agent Orange caused cancer. He wrote 3 times to bully Douglas Gowan, the pollution expert who was investigating Monsanto’s pollution at Brofiscin Quarry near Cardiff, and tell him that there was no evidence that PCBs caused cancer and Gowan didn’t know what he was talking about (page 41 Monsanto’s activities in Wales).

**Sir Richard Peto FRS**, the Oxford-based epidemiologist who worked closely with him, said the allegations came from those who wanted to damage Sir Richard's reputation for their own reasons. Sir Richard had always been open about his links with industry and gave all his fees to Green College, Oxford the postgraduate institution he founded.

**Sir Richard Doll colluded with Monsanto in Wales to contribute to the worst global environmental disaster (apart from Bhopal) that has never been made public.**

### **Monsanto employed Total Intelligence Solutions to protect the Corporation's name**

Spooky Business: Corporate Espionage Against Nonprofit Organizations Published on 20/11/2013. Page 33 gives information about the biotech giant, Monsanto: According to internal Total Intelligence communications, biotech giant Monsanto—the world's largest supplier of genetically modified seeds—hired the firm in 2008–09. Black wrote that Wilson "*understands that we can span collection from internet, to reach out, to boots on the ground on legit basis protecting the Monsanto [brand] name.... Ahead of the curve info and insight/heads up is what he is looking for.*" Black added that Total Intelligence "*would develop into acting as intel arm of Monsanto.*" Black also noted that Monsanto was concerned about animal rights activists and that they discussed how Blackwater "*could have our person(s) actually join [activist] group(s) legally.*" Black wrote that initial payments to Total Intelligence would be paid out of Monsanto's "generous protection budget" but would eventually become a line item in the company's annual budget. He estimated the potential payments to Total Intelligence at between \$100,000 and \$500,000. According to documents, Monsanto paid Total Intelligence \$127,000 in 2008 and \$105,000 in 2009."

<http://www.corporatepolicy.org/spookybusiness.pdf>

**Dr Brian John** of GM-Free Cymru wrote 26/01/2011 to Sir Paul Nurse: "*For more than a decade now, scientists working in the GM field have mounted vicious personal attacks (sometimes politically rather than scientifically motivated) upon serious scientists who have had the temerity to discover 'uncomfortable things about GM crops and foods.'* This trend started with the vitriolic treatment meted out (with the Royal Society in the vanguard) on [Arpad Pusztai](#) and Stanley Ewen a decade ago, and continued with the crucifixion of [Ignacio Chapela](#) and [David Quist](#), [Angelika Hilbeck](#), [Mae-wan Ho](#), [Judy Carman](#), [Gilles-Eric Séralini](#), [Andrès Carrasco](#), [Manuela Malatesta](#), [Christian Velot](#), [Irina Ermakova](#) and many others."

**Sir Peter Lachmann FRS.** "*Lachmann was one of the Fellows of the Royal Society who were key players in the attacks on Dr [Arpad Pusztai](#) from the time he went public with doubts about the safety of GM foods. In February 1999, for instance, Lachmann was among the nineteen Fellows of the Royal Society who condemned Pusztai, in all but name, in a letter published in the national press.<sup>[1]</sup> Lachmann's most notorious intervention in the GM debate occurred in 1999 in the run up to the Lancet's publication of Dr [Arpad Pusztai](#)'s paper showing adverse effects on rats fed on GM potatoes. The Lancet's editor Richard Horton, received a phone call from someone [The Guardian](#) newspaper identified as Lachmann. Lachmann was said to have been highly aggressive. He is said to have called Horton 'immoral' for publishing something that he knew to be 'untrue'. Towards the end of the conversation Horton says his caller told him that if he published Pusztai's paper, this would 'have implications for his personal position' as editor. News of the threat against Horton, which Lachmann denied, made the front-page of [The Guardian](#) in November 1999.*"

### **Science Media Centre sponsored by corporations and had a corporate agenda**

The Science Media Centre is sponsored by corporations. If something contentious came up such as Prof Gilles-Eric Seralini's research showing that rats fed GM corn and Roundup sustained liver and kidney damage and they developed sex-linked tumours starting at 4 months (Monsanto only studied GM crops for 90 days) they would invite so-called 'experts' to analyse the studies. Some had conflicts of interest, such as **Jonathan Jones FRS** who had worked with Monsanto. Many were lobbyists and some of them were Fellows of the Royal College. **David Spiegelhalter FRS**: Winton Professor of the Public Understanding of Risk at the University of Cambridge **is a statistician**, not an expert on GMOs.

Open letter about GM to the Rt. Hon. Tony Blair on 30/10/2003 had 114 signatures **28 had been elected FRS** and many had conflicts of interest.

### **Rothamsted Research and chemical farming**

When UK Rothamsted was founded in 1843, it was an enormous tragedy that the philanthropist John Bennet Laws, owner of the Rothamsted Estate appointed a **chemist** as his scientific collaborator. This set the pattern for farming in the UK: to rely totally on the agrochemical industry and the input of chemicals. The herbicide 2, 4-D was developed during World War II at British Rothamsted Experimental Station (at the same time as in the US) by Judah Hirsch Quastel and sold commercially in 1946. In 2015 2, 4-D was classified by IARC as a 2B type carcinogen and in 2017 a paper showed that 2, 4-D changed antibiotic responses to pathogenic bacteria. Now US scientists have announced global mass poisoning with chemicals: page 43

### **What is the Oxford Martin Commission (OMC) for Future Generations?**

It claimed to be: "*A diverse group of highly respected global leaders has called for a radical shake-up in politics and business to deliver progress on climate change, reduce economic inequality, improve corporate practices and address the chronic burden of disease.*" Since 2005 the chronic burden of disease has increased and the death rate has increased to an all time high in peacetime: page 43. **Sir John Beddington FRS** is Senior Adviser and Professor of Natural Resources Management to the OMC. When he was Chief Scientific Adviser to the UK government he pledged to get GM crops into the UK to 'feed the world'. Their Report: Now for the Long Term: The Report of the Oxford Martin Commission for Future Generations published in October 2013 **failed to mention pesticides**.

### **Declines in educational attainment in Britain over recent years**

In December 2018 the European Commission renewed the license for the active ingredient, glyphosate, for 5 years. They said it was up to the individual Member States to assess glyphosate formulations (in fact glyphosate is never used alone).

<https://countercurrents.org/2018/02/02/tearing-facade-legitimacy-industrial-agriculture-agrochemical-industry/>

### **Letter from six Ministers of countries in Europe to European Commission: re: glyphosate exit plan**

The letter states: "*The renewal of the [authorization of glyphosate for 5 years](#) was voted during the appeal committee of November 27th. While taking note of this vote, we, Ministers of Environment or Agriculture of France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Slovenia, Malta and Greece underline our concerns about the risks associated with the use of products*

containing this substance. As a matter of fact, a [European citizen's initiative](#) signed by more than one million people called for a ban of this substance. The European Parliament has expressed its support for the adoption of necessary measures to phase out the active substance glyphosate in the European Union by 15 December 2022 at the latest. The European Parliament also asked for the extension of specific restrictions of use of glyphosate for weeding and pre-harvest desiccation. We wish to recall that our countries are in favor of the ban of these uses, which are the main sources of residues that can be found in food."

### **Germany's coalition announces it is going to ban GMO's and glyphosate 7/02/2018**

If Theresa May makes a trade agreement with the US, Europe will not accept our food or crops.

### **Why was Patrick Vallance from GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) elected FRS in 2017?**

The election to the Royal Society was in preparation for his appointment as Chief Scientific Officer for the UK Government in March 2018, 'to guide the UK through Brexit'. The former Editor of the *New England Journal of Medicine* Marcia Angell reported in 2008 that "over the past two decades the pharmaceutical industry has gained unprecedented control over its own products. Drug companies now finance most clinical research over prescription drugs and there is mounting evidence they often skew the research they sponsor to make their drugs look better and safer."

On 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2012, GSK pleaded guilty to criminal charges and agreed to a \$3 billion settlement of the largest health-care fraud case in the U.S. and the largest payment by a drug company. The settlement is related to the company's illegal promotion of prescription drugs, its failure to report safety data, bribing doctors, and promoting medicines for uses for which they were not licensed.

### **The Natural Environment Research Council closed the wildlife research stations: in 2012 Globolakes, a satellite monitoring system for monitoring lakes from space, was launched**

In 2006, under Tony Blair, the Wildlife Research Stations were closed by **Lord David Sainsbury FRS (2008)** (Department of Trade and Industry) and the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), '*in order to balance NERC's budget*'. Nearly 200 field scientists were to be thrown on the scrap heap. There was a massive outcry from the scientific, environmental and biological communities. The so-called 'Public Consultation' by NERC elicited 1,327 'stakeholder' responses to the proposal, of which 99% questioned the wisdom and expense of the closure. Through the family trust: The Gatsby Foundation, Baron Sainsbury has funded his personal project to feed the world: GM crops and foods. **In 2011** Baron Sainsbury was appointed Chancellor of Cambridge University for having invested so much money in facilities for research into GM crops and for introducing STEMNET (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Network). This is a network, one part of which is to support the teaching of physical science in schools (11-19), which includes the science of GMOs.

**The science behind GMOs is fraudulent: Steve Druker challenges the Royal Society to read his book and debate: they never do: page 22**

**What the corporate media failed to tell the British public**

**In 2009 Dr Arpad Pusztai and Dr Susan Bardocz were awarded the Stuttgart Peace Prize** *“Both have made an essential contribution to a broader understanding of the dangers of genetic manipulation. It honours their courage and scientific integrity as well as their undaunted insistence of the public’s right to know.”* **The British public is still ignorant of the truth.**

**In 2015 Prof Gilles Eric Seralini was awarded Whistle blower of the Year** in recognition of his work on the toxic effects of Roundup herbicide administered at a low environmentally relevant dose over a long-term period. Afterwards the research was attacked in a vehement campaign in the chemical industry and by the industry-funded UK Science Media Centre.

### **The net is closing in on Monsanto**

**The UN warns about the dangers of pesticides particularly for young children:**  
page 25

**UN Rapporteur: Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food: Pesticides are “global human rights concern” and UN experts urge new treaty:** page 27

**The International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague is extending its remit to include ecocide:** page 27

**Chemical damage to the brains of our children, neurobehavioral effects and cancers**

**Declines in educational attainment in Britain over recent years:** page 27

**The International Monsanto Tribunal with regard to ecocide: (Oct 2016)** page 36

**The Verdict of the five judges, Advisory Opinion and the development of International Law (April 2017)** page 37

### **Lawsuits against Monsanto and the Monsanto Papers: page 39**

Attorneys Baum Hedlund have filed 59 lawsuits against Monsanto Co. are pending in U.S. District Court in San Francisco filed by people alleging that exposure to Roundup herbicide caused them or their loved ones to develop non-Hodgkin lymphoma, and that Monsanto covered up the risks. Other cancers have been linked to Roundup as well: **Bone, Colon Cancer, Kidney Cancer, Liver Cancer, Melanoma, Pancreatic Cancer and Thyroid Cancer**

### **Since 1939, mustard gas, PCBs, dioxins, vinyl chlorides, naphthalene, Agent Orange, Roundup have been manufactured and their toxic waste dumped in Wales, as far away from London as possible.**

Roundup is still being sprayed on the citizens of Swansea because according to the HSE and CRD ‘it is still legal.’ Very soon members of the Royal Society of London will start to experience our toxic legacy of chemicals in Wales...if they haven’t already.

Alzheimer’s disease, Dementia, Depression, suicides, Autism, ADHD Bipolar, Diabetes (Type 2) Multiple sclerosis, Motor-neurone Disease, Obesity, Stroke, Hypertension, Cataracts & eye diseases, Inflammatory bowel disease, Birth defects, Colitis, Crohn’s disease, Coeliac disease, Hypercholesterolaemia, Allergies, asthma, Atopic dermatitis, Miscarriage/ infertility, Renal disease/failure, Liver abnormalities, Gluten intolerance, Pancreatic abnormalities, Autoimmune diseases, Arthritis and an increasing number of aggressive cancers.

**Open Letter: Where have all our insects and birds gone?** This should be sent to the 1,646 Fellows. They should examine their consciences. Then decide what should be done to inform British citizens who have a right to know that global mass poisoning with chemicals is why they are so sick and getting progressively sicker.

[ <https://tinyurl.com/yahhorbd> ]

Yours sincerely

Rosemary Mason MB ChB FRCA  
14/02/2018