

Open Letter to *Nature*: *Nature* has been colluding with the Corporation that helped the Nazis in the Holocaust

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Agrichemicals and antibiotics in combination increase antibiotic resistance evolution¹¹

Abstract: “Antibiotic resistance in our pathogens is medicine’s climate change: caused by human activity, and resulting in more extreme outcomes. Resistance emerges in microbial populations when antibiotics act on phenotypic variance within the population. This can arise from either genotypic diversity (resulting from a mutation or horizontal gene transfer), or from differences in gene expression due to environmental variation, referred to as adaptive resistance. Adaptive changes can increase fitness allowing bacteria to survive at higher concentrations of antibiotics. They can also decrease fitness, potentially leading to selection for antibiotic resistance at lower concentrations. There are opportunities for other environmental stressors to promote antibiotic resistance in ways that are hard to predict using conventional assays. Exploiting our previous observation that commonly used herbicides can increase or decrease the minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) of different antibiotics, we provide the first comprehensive test of the hypothesis that the rate of antibiotic resistance evolution under specified conditions can increase, regardless of whether a herbicide increases or decreases the antibiotic MIC. Short term evolution experiments were used for various herbicide and antibiotic combinations. We found conditions where acquired resistance arises more frequently regardless of whether the exogenous non-antibiotic agent increased or decreased antibiotic effectiveness. This is attributed to the effect of the herbicide on either MIC or the minimum selective concentration (MSC) of a paired antibiotic. The MSC is the lowest concentration of antibiotic at which the fitness of individuals varies because of the antibiotic, and is lower than MIC. Our results suggest that additional environmental factors influencing competition between bacteria could enhance the ability of antibiotics to select antibiotic resistance. Our work demonstrates that bacteria may acquire antibiotic resistance in the environment at rates substantially faster than predicted from laboratory conditions.”

In Nature in 2013 there was a somewhat similar Editorial to the 2019 one: Health is a gut issue.

“Obesity is a risk factor for cardiovascular disease, diabetes, osteoporosis and other conditions including some cancers. Other influences must be at work to determine which, if any, metabolic diseases obese individuals will suffer, and two papers in this issue of Nature look at the role one of these factors, the richness of the gut microbiome. Le Chatelier et al. analysed the gut microbial gene composition in non-obese and obese individuals and found marked differences in gene and species richness. Individuals with low richness exhibited increased adiposity, insulin resistance, dyslipidaemia and inflammation. Obese individuals with low microbial richness tended to gain more body weight than those with high microbial richness. The authors also demonstrate that analysis of just a few bacterial marker species was sufficient to distinguish between high and low bacterial richness. Cotillard et al. monitored gut microbe profiles during diet-induced weight loss and weight stabilization interventions in obese or overweight individuals. They report that increased consumption of high-fibre foods, such as fruit and vegetables, leads to an increase in bacterial richness and improves some clinical symptoms associated with obesity.¹² This finding supports previous work linking diet to the composition of gut microbe populations, and suggests that a permanent change might be achieved by appropriate diet.”

The gut microbiome; the collective genome of organisms inhabiting our body

Chatelier, E.L. et al. Richness of human gut microbiome correlates with metabolic markers *Nature* 29 August 2013; 500: 541-550.¹³

“We are facing a global metabolic health crisis provoked by an obesity epidemic.” In a multi-author study of obese and non-obese individuals, those with “low bacterial richness in the gut (23% of the

¹¹ <https://peerj.com/articles/5801/>

¹² <https://www.nature.com/articles/nature12480>

¹³ <http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v500/n7464/abs/nature12506.html>

population) are characterized by more marked overall adiposity, insulin resistance and dyslipidaemia and a more pronounced inflammatory phenotype when compared with those with high bacterial richness.” “Low richness of gut microbiota has been reported in patients with inflammatory bowel disorder”. “Also, notable diversity differences were observed between the urban US population and rural populations from two developing countries.” Current research is underway to try to find the links between Obesity, type 2 Diabetes and Cancers (The Danish newspaper: *Politiken* Sunday 6 October 2013, Københavns Universitet).

We can only absorb nutrients by courtesy of the bacteria in our gut, the gut microbiome

This is the term for the collective genome of organisms inhabiting our bodies. Glyphosate disrupts the shikimate pathway within these gut bacteria, without which we cannot survive. Glyphosate is a strong chelator of essential minerals, such as cobalt, zinc, manganese, calcium, molybdenum and sulphate. In addition, it kills off beneficial gut bacteria and allows toxic bacteria such as *Clostridium difficile* to flourish. Two key problems caused by glyphosate residues in our diet are nutritional deficiencies, especially minerals and essential amino-acids, and systemic toxicity.¹⁴

The microbiome of uncontacted Amerindians has the highest diversity of bacteria¹⁵

“We characterize the fecal, oral, and skin bacterial microbiome and resistome of members of an isolated Yanomami Amerindian village with no documented previous contact with Western people. These Yanomami harbor a microbiome with the highest diversity of bacteria and genetic functions ever reported in a human group.”

Genetically modified crops and food – a briefing¹⁶

“Many GM crops contain genes which provide resistance to commonly used antibiotics such as ampicillin. There is concern that these genes could be passed from food to bacteria in the guts of humans and animals. This has been shown to occur.

GM herbicide tolerant crops allow farmers to apply ‘broad spectrum’ weedkillers to their field, which kill all other plants. There is concern that this will continue the decline of farmland wildlife because the use of these GM crops could lead to the removal of weeds from all crops in the normal arable rotation. This will reduce the food supply for insects and birds. These concerns led English Nature to state in 1998 that the “*untested introduction of GM crops could be the final blow for such species as the skylark, corn bunting and the linnet, as the seeds and insects on which they feed disappear.*”

Nature facilitated the authorisation of GM crops even though the results from the Farm Scale Evaluations had shown they were causing losses of biodiversity

The results of the Farm Scale Evaluations of three GM crops announced on 16th October were reported across the media as “*the end of GM in the UK.*”

However, *Nature Genetics* reported on 01/10/2003: “*It seems that GM crops are here to stay, so let us hope that these requirements are met and that the developing nations that perhaps have the most to gain from this technology can start to reap its benefits.*”¹⁷

Open letter about 'GM' from UK scientists to HM Government 2003: 31 October 2003

Prof Burke told *The Times* they represented a wide cross-section of the scientific community and *The Times* said they were '114 eminent scientists'

¹⁴ <https://www.mdpi.com/1099-4300/15/4/1416>

¹⁵ <http://advances.sciencemag.org/content/1/3/e1500183.short>

¹⁶ https://friendsoftheearth.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/gm_crops_food.pdf

¹⁷ <https://www.nature.com/articles/nrg1185>

Dear Prime Minister

The results of the Farm Scale Evaluations (FSEs) of three GM crops announced on 16th October 2003 were reported across the media as "*the end of GM in the UK*". In fact, the FSEs did not assess the effects of genetically modifying the crops, but rather the impact of different types of weed control. They had little to do with genetic modification, its processes or potential.¹⁸
But GM Watch reported that the majority of scientists had conflicts of interest. 31/10/2003¹⁹

Global insect apocalypse due to intensive agriculture and pesticides²⁰

The analysis, published in the journal Biological Conservation, says intensive agriculture is the main driver of the declines, particularly the heavy use of pesticides. Urbanisation and climate change are also significant factors.

"If insect species losses cannot be halted, this will have catastrophic consequences for both the planet's ecosystems and for the survival of mankind," said Francisco Sánchez-Bayo, at the University of Sydney, Australia, who wrote the review with Kris Wyckhuys at the China Academy of Agricultural Sciences in Beijing.

The 2.5% rate of annual loss over the last 25-30 years is "shocking", Sánchez-Bayo told the Guardian: *"It is very rapid. In 10 years you will have a quarter less, in 50 years only half left and in 100 years you will have none."*

One of the biggest impacts of insect loss is on the many birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish that eat insects. *"If this food source is taken away, all these animals starve to death,"* he said. Such cascading effects have already been seen in Puerto Rico, where a recent study revealed a 98% fall in ground insects over 35 years.

The new analysis selected the 73 best studies done to date to assess the insect decline. Butterflies and moths are among the worst hit. For example, the number of widespread butterfly species fell by 58% on farmed land in England between 2000 and 2009. **The UK has suffered the biggest recorded insect falls overall**, though that is probably a result of being more intensely studied than most places. He thinks new classes of insecticides introduced in the last 20 years, including neonicotinoids and fipronil, have been particularly damaging as they are used routinely and persist in the environment: *"They sterilise the soil, killing all the grubs."* This has effects even in nature reserves nearby; the 75% insect losses recorded in Germany were in protected areas.

Bees have also been seriously affected, with only half of the bumblebee species found in Oklahoma in the US in 1949 being present in 2013. The number of honeybee colonies in the US was 6 million in 1947, but 3.5 million have been lost since.

There are more than 350,000 species of beetle and many are thought to have declined, especially dung beetles. But there are also big gaps in knowledge, with very little known about many flies, ants, aphids, shield bugs and crickets. Experts say there is no reason to think they are faring any better than the studied species.

A small number of adaptable species are increasing in number, but not nearly enough to outweigh the big losses. *"There are always some species that take advantage of vacuum left by the extinction of other species,"* said Sanchez-Bayo. In the US, the common eastern bumblebee is increasing due to its tolerance of pesticides.

Most of the studies analysed were done in western Europe and the US, with a few ranging from Australia to China and Brazil to South Africa, but very few exist elsewhere.

¹⁸ <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2003/oct/31/gm.research1>

¹⁹ <https://www.gmwatch.org/en/news/archive/2003/5134-these-are-the-scientists-who-wrote-to-blair>

²⁰ <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/feb/10/plummeting-insect-numbers-threaten-collapse-of-nature>

“The main cause of the decline is agricultural intensification,” Sánchez-Bayo said. “That means the elimination of all trees and shrubs that normally surround the fields, so there are plain, bare fields that are treated with synthetic fertilisers and pesticides.” He said the demise of insects appears to have started at the dawn of the 20th century, accelerated during the 1950s and 1960s and reached “alarming proportions” over the last two decades.

As early as 2002, governments, global regulators, GMO scientists and *Nature* knew that Roundup caused birth defects and destroyed biodiversity: why was it re-approved and the information hidden from the public?

Corporate Europe Observatory reports on: The Glyphosate Saga, & “independent scientific advice” according to Germany, the UK & France ²¹

“Germany is charged by the EU with the safety review of glyphosate: yet three scientists sitting on its scientific panel on pesticides are employees of BASF and Bayer, two major pesticides producers. Meanwhile, the UK has simply privatised its governmental Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA) outright, and France's experts in charge of assessing the safety of medicines have been shown to have been selling undeclared advisory services to pharmaceutical companies on how to best to file their market authorisation applications.

*Yet in the EU, the issues around glyphosate seem caught in a never-ending saga of delays and conflicts of interest. Glyphosate has been around since the '70s, and **was last given re-approval in the EU in 2002**. A next re-approval was scheduled for 2012. Germany is the EU rapporteur member state (RMS) for glyphosate – i.e. has been designated responsibility for assessing its safety on behalf of the EU. The European Commission caused surprise when it decided to delay glyphosate's review (due in 2012) to 2015. The German Government body dealing with the glyphosate review, the Federal Office for Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL), explained that the reason was that the European Commission and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) were overworked. The review of 39 other pesticides was also delayed. The current authorisation of glyphosate relies on old, outdated testing protocols, and almost exclusively on industry studies. According to a 2011 report by the NGO Earth Open Source, EU regulators knew decades ago that glyphosate causes malformations, something that could even be deducted from industry's own studies, but kept this away from the public.”*

Argentina: 30,000 doctors and health professionals demand ban on glyphosate²²

Union demands debate on the restructuring of agriculture around safe production methods
Following on from the conclusion of the International Agency for Research on Cancer that glyphosate is a probable carcinogen, Argentina’s union of doctors and health professionals, FESPROSA, has issued a statement throwing the support of its 30,000 members behind the decision: *“The organisation [IARC] has just released the results of a study that overturns the agribusiness model. Thus, the complaints that affected residents and scientists outside the orbit of corporations have been making for years have gained renewed momentum,”* FESPROSA said in the statement: *“In our country glyphosate is applied on more than 28 million hectares. Each year, the soil is sprayed with more than 320 million litres, which means that 13 million people are at risk of being affected, according to the Physicians Network of Sprayed Peoples (RMPF). Soy is not the only crop addicted to glyphosate: the herbicide is also used for transgenic maize and other crops. Where glyphosate falls,*

²¹ <https://corporateeurope.org/food-and-agriculture/2015/04/glyphosate-saga-independent-scientific-advice-according-germany-uk>

²² <https://www.gmwatch.org/en/news/latest-news/16087-argentina-30-000-doctors-and-health-professionals-demand-ban-on-glyphosate>

only GMOs can grow. Everything else dies. Our trade union, the Federation of Health Professionals of Argentina (FESPROSA), which represents more than 30,000 doctors and health professionals in our country, includes the Social Health Collective of Andrés Carrasco. Andrés Carrasco was a researcher at [Argentine government research institute] CONICET, who died a year ago, and showed the damage caused by glyphosate to embryos. For disseminating his research, he was attacked by the industry and the authorities at CONICET. Today, WHO vindicates him. Glyphosate does not only cause cancer. It is also associated with increased spontaneous abortions, birth defects, skin diseases, and respiratory and neurological disease."

Prof Andrés Carrasco was Monsanto's biggest threat so he had to be silenced

On 7th August 2010 Professor Andrés Carrasco, lead embryologist at the University, Buenos Aires Medical School and the Argentinean National Research Council, came to give a talk about his research to community activists and residents gathered in La Leonesa. His research showed that glyphosate, an agrochemical used on genetically modified soy and rice in Argentina, causes birth defects in animal embryos at levels far below those frequently used in agricultural spraying. A delegation of public officials and residents from the nearby community of Resistencia also came to La Leonesa to hear the talk.²³ But it never took place. As the delegation walked towards the school where the talk was to be held, it was attacked by a violent mob of approximately 100 people. Three people were seriously injured. Carrasco and a colleague shut themselves in a car and were surrounded by people beating the vehicle for two hours. Witnesses believe that a local rice producer and officials had organised the attack to protect agribusiness interests. As the police seemed reluctant to intervene, Amnesty International²⁴ subsequently called for an investigation. Just a month after the court ruling, another bombshell dropped in Argentina's GM soy republic. The provincial government of Chaco province issued a report on health statistics from La Leonesa, the town where Carrasco was due to give his talk. The report said that from 2000 to 2009 the childhood cancer rate tripled in La Leonesa and the rate of birth defects increased nearly fourfold over the entire province. The report said that these staggering increases in disease coincided with the expansion of GM soy and rice crops in the region and the corresponding rise in agrochemical use.

The Amnesty International investigation established that: "One person has since suffered from lower body paralysis after being hit on his spine, and another is undergoing neurological examinations after receiving blows to the head. The former provincial Sub-Secretary of Human Rights, Marcelo Salgado, was struck in the face and left unconscious. Dr Carrasco and his colleague shut themselves in a car, and were surrounded by people making violent threats and beating the car for two hours. Members of the community were injured and a journalist's camera equipment was damaged. Members of the community who witnessed the incident have implicated local officials in the attack, as well as a local rice-producer and his workers and security guards. They strongly believe that the violence was promoted by them, and motivated by the powerful economic interests behind local agro-industry. Despite calls to local authorities asking for help, the police were slow to respond and failed to send sufficient reinforcements to stop the violence."

Brazil's National Cancer Institute names GM crops as cause of massive pesticide use²⁵

Claire Robinson reports: *The release of GM crops in Brazil has helped make it the largest consumer of agrochemicals in the world, according to a hard-hitting new report from Brazil's National Cancer*

²³

http://www.theecologist.org/blogs_and_comments/commentators/other_comments/686959/revealed_the_glyphosate_research_the_gm_soy_lobby_doesnt_want_you_to_read.html

²⁴ <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/AMR13/005/2010/en/303e9ee6-9138-405f-97fc-ed58965b76d0/amr130052010en.html>

²⁵ <https://www.gmwatch.org/en/news/archive/2015-articles/16067>

Institute José Alencar Gomes da Silva (INCA), part of the country's Ministry of Health.

The report says that national consumption of agrochemicals is equivalent to 5.2 litres of agrochemicals per year for each inhabitant. Agrochemical sales increased from USD 2 billion in 2001 to 8.5 billion in 2011. The report names GM crops as a key cause of the trend: "Importantly, the release of transgenic seeds in Brazil was one of the factors responsible for putting the country in first place in the ranking of agrochemical consumption – since the cultivation of these modified seeds requires the use of large quantities of these products." The report continues: "The cropping pattern with the intensive use of pesticides generates major harms, including environmental pollution and poisoning of workers and the population in general. Acute pesticide poisoning is the best-known effect and affects especially those exposed in the workplace (occupational exposure). This is characterized by effects such as irritation of the skin and eyes, itching, cramps, vomiting, diarrhea, spasms, breathing difficulties, seizures and death. "Already chronic poisoning may affect the whole population, as this is due to multiple exposures to pesticides, that is, the presence of pesticide residues in food and the environment, usually at low doses. Adverse effects of chronic exposure to pesticides may appear long after the exposure, and so are difficult to correlate with the agent. Among the effects that can be associated with chronic exposure to pesticide active ingredients are infertility, impotence, abortions, malformations, neurotoxicity, hormonal disruption, effects on the immune system, and cancer."

According to the report, the most recent results of the Analytical Program on Pesticide Residues of Brazil's health agency ANVISA revealed samples with pesticide residues above the maximum permissible limit, as well as the presence of chemical substances not authorized for the food in question. It also noted the presence of pesticides that were in the process of being banned by ANVISA or that had never been registered in Brazil. Regarding sources of exposure, the report says, *"It is noteworthy that pesticide residues not only occur in fresh food, but also in many processed food products, such as cookies, chips, breads, breakfast cereals, lasagna, pizza and other ingredients that contain wheat, corn and soybeans, for example. Pesticide traces may still be present in meat and milk of animals fed with these crops, due to the process of bioaccumulation. Therefore, the concern over pesticides must not mean a reduction in the consumption of fruits and vegetables, which are key foods in healthy eating and of great importance in preventing cancer. The main focus must be on combating the use of pesticides, which contaminate all vital resources, including food, soil, water, breastmilk and air. In addition, methods of cultivation free from pesticide use can produce fruits, vegetables and legumes such as beans, with the greatest anticancer potential."*

EFSA claimed that BfR analysed all the results, but Baskut Tuncak the UN Rapporteur on Toxics said the EU's food safety watchdog copied and pasted pages of a report directly from Monsanto
The UN expert on Toxics, Baskut Tuncak wrote in the *Guardian* on 06/11/2017: The EU and glyphosate: it's time to put children's health before pesticides

"A pending decision on Monsanto's ubiquitous weedkiller is a crucial opportunity to protect our children from the toxic cocktail of pesticides polluting their food, water and play areas."

*"Our children are growing up exposed to a toxic cocktail of weedkillers, insecticides, and fungicides. It's on their food and in their water, **and it's even doused over their parks and playgrounds.** Many governments insist that our standards of protection from these pesticides are strong enough. But as a scientist and a lawyer who specialises in chemicals and their potential impact on people's fundamental rights, I beg to differ. Last month it was revealed that in recommending that glyphosate – the world's most widely-used pesticide – was safe, the EU's food safety watchdog copied and pasted pages of a report directly from Monsanto, the pesticide's manufacturer. Revelations like these are simply shocking.*

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the most ratified international human rights treaty in the world (only the US is not a party), makes it clear that states have an explicit obligation to protect children from exposure to toxic chemicals, from contaminated food and polluted water, and to ensure that every child can realise their right to the highest attainable standard of health. These and

many other rights of the child are abused by the current pesticide regime. These chemicals are everywhere and they are invisible. The only way to protect citizens, especially those disproportionately at risk from exposure, is for governments to regulate them effectively, in large part by adhering to the highest standards of scientific integrity.

Paediatricians have referred to childhood exposure to pesticides as creating a “silent pandemic” of disease and disability. Exposure in pregnancy and childhood is linked to birth defects, diabetes, and cancer. Because a child’s developing body is more sensitive to exposure than adults and takes in more of everything – relative to their size, children eat, breathe, and drink much more than adults – they are particularly vulnerable to these toxic chemicals. Increasing evidence shows that even at “low” doses of childhood exposure, irreversible health impacts can result. But, most victims cannot prove the cause of their disability or disease, limiting our ability to hold those responsible to account. In light of revelations such as the copy-and-paste scandal, a careful re-examination of the performance of states is required. The overwhelming reliance of regulators on industry-funded studies, the exclusion of independent science from assessments, and the confidentiality of studies relied upon by authorities must change.”

The European Glyphosate Task Force failed to report any scientific studies from South America

Neurotransmitter changes in the brain from exposure to Glyphosate-based herbicides

Many papers come from Latin American countries where they grow almost exclusively GM Roundup Ready Crops that Monsanto forced on them in 1996. Here are three papers. The European Glyphosate Task Force excluded scientific papers from South America in their re-assessment of glyphosate.

Behavioral impairments following repeated intranasal glyphosate-based herbicide administration in mice.²⁶

Taken together, our findings demonstrate that intranasal (IN) exposure to commercial Gly-BH produces alterations in locomotor activity, anxiety and memory in adult mice. These observations could be a consequence of alterations in neurotransmission systems comprising the GABAergic, dopaminergic, serotonergic and/or cholinergic systems.” In this research paper there are references to many papers from around the world that confirm the glyphosate-based herbicides are damaging to the development of the foetal brain and that repeated exposure is toxic to the adult human brain and may result in alterations in locomotor activity, feelings of anxiety and memory impairment.

Martínez, M. A., Ares, I., Rodríguez, J. L., Martínez, M., Martínez-Larrañaga, M. R., & Anadón, A. (2018). Neurotransmitter changes in rat brain regions following glyphosate exposure. *Environmental Research*, 161, 212-219.²⁷

Highlights:

- Glyphosate oral exposure caused neurotoxicity in rats.
- Brain regions were susceptible to changes in CNS monoamine levels.
- Glyphosate reduced 5-HT, DA, NE levels in a brain regional- and dose-related manner.
- Glyphosate altered the serotonergic, dopaminergic and noradrenergic systems.

Mechanisms underlying the neurotoxicity induced by glyphosate-based herbicide in immature rat hippocampus: Involvement of glutamate excitotoxicity.²⁸

This is why there are so many mental health and psychiatric disorders, depression, suicides, anxiety and violence among children and adults.

²⁶ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0892036217301526>

²⁷ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0013935117316730>

²⁸ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0300483X14000493>

Laws in the European Commission cannot be back dated

The EU Commission had authorised two GM Foods under the Novel Foods Regulation in 1997

Monsanto's 'Roundup Ready' soya and Novartis's 'Bt176' maize – were already on sale in the EU before the law on GM foods came into force. The new Regulation in 22/09/2003 requires a full safety assessment of any GM food and consideration by all member states before it can be sold.²⁹ But these two GM foods did not have to go through the full safety assessment because the law could not be back dated.³⁰

The European Commission denied our claim that the registration of clothianidin was illegal

One of our complaints to the European Ombudsman (1089/2012/BEH) was that clothianidin had been registered illegally, since its half-life in a range of soils was an average of 545 days with a maximum of 1386 days (Source: Footprint Database). According to the Directive on Plant Protection Products (EC) 1107/2009;³¹ Annex II, page 43, persistence in the soil, approval should not be given if the half-life in soil is greater than 120 days ('based on half-life data collected under appropriate conditions, which shall be described by the applicant').

Michael Flüh, Head of Division, Pesticides and Biocides for the European Commission (a non-scientist and definitely **not** an expert on toxicology) replied on behalf of Commissioner John Dalli: "*The allegation as regards the illegality of the registration of clothianidin is strongly rejected. The assessment of clothianidin, carried out by a Rapporteur Member State (RMS) and peer reviewed by experts from all Member States concluded that safe uses of this substance exist.*"

In 2019, a large-scale survey from Switzerland of house sparrows feathers reveals ubiquitous presence of neonicotinoids in farmlands³²

"We quantified neonicotinoids in 146 feather samples of house sparrows living on organic, integrated-production and conventional farms using UHPLC-MS/MS.

All samples were positive for neonicotinoids.

Thiacloprid was the most prevalent (99% of samples) and clothianidin attained the highest levels (up to 131.4 ppb). Feathers of birds living on conventional farms showed higher concentrations than in the other farms. Our results highlight the extent to which farmland birds are exposed to neonicotinoids, and hence the extent of contamination of our agroecosystems."

Clothianidin and Thiacloprid are manufactured by Bayer CropScience which bought Monsanto.

The EU Regulators ignored the Letter from America, from more than 60 million citizens

The Letter from America urged people in Europe not to authorise GM crops and Roundup, because of the devastating effects on human health and biodiversity.³³

Extracts: "In our country, GM crops account for about half of harvested cropland. Around 94% of the soy, 93% of corn (maize) and 96% of cotton grown is GM. The UK and the rest of the EU have yet to adopt GM crops in the way that we have, but you are currently under tremendous pressure from governments, biotech lobbyists, and large corporations to adopt what we now regard as a failing agricultural technology...Studies of animals fed GM foods and/or glyphosate, however, show worrying trends including damage to vital organs like the liver and kidneys, damage to gut tissues and gut flora, immune system disruption, reproductive abnormalities, and even tumors.³⁵...These scientific studies point to potentially serious human health problems that could not have been anticipated when our country first embraced GMOs, and yet they continue to be ignored by those

²⁹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32003R1829>

³⁰ <https://www.scribd.com/document/80300910/Genetically-Modified-Foods-Definition-Con>

³¹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:309:0001:0050:EN:PDF>

³² <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0048969719300749>

³³ www.theletterfromamerica.org

who should be protecting us. Instead our regulators rely on outdated studies and other information funded and supplied by biotech companies that, not surprisingly, dismiss all health concerns.

Through our experience we have come to understand that the genetic engineering of food has never really been about public good, or feeding the hungry, or supporting our farmers. Nor is it about consumer choice. Instead it is about private, corporate control of the food system. Americans are reaping the detrimental impacts of this risky and unproven agricultural technology. EU countries should take note: there are no benefits from GM crops great enough to offset these impacts. Officials who continue to ignore this fact are guilty of a gross dereliction of duty.

If the UK and the rest of Europe becomes the new market for genetically modified crops and food our own efforts to label and regulate GMOs will be all the more difficult, if not impossible. If our efforts fail, your attempts to keep GMOs out of Europe will also fail.

If we work together, however, we can revitalize our global food system, ensuring healthy soil, healthy fields, healthy food and healthy people.”

The European Commission and the European Food Safety Authority continued to approve GM Crops for growing and for food and feed in the EU.

This was despite grave warnings from American citizens of their experiences (Living with GMOs) and from independent organisations in Europe, such as Testbiotech (Germany), CRIIGEN (France), Corporate Europe Observatory, Earth Open Source and Pesticides Action Network.

David Cameron in the UK sent the Letter from America to Defra: they hid it from the Public

Brexit will be a unique opportunity for removing the birds and habitats directive, deregulation of pesticides and embracing new farming technology

The UK Farming Minister was interviewed by Arthur Neslen on 30/05/2016 about Brexit

He said: “*The birds and habitats directives would go. But the directives’ framework is so rigid that it is spirit-crushing.*” On pesticides, he said “*the EU’s precautionary principle needed to be reformed in favour of a US-style risk-based approach, allowing faster authorisation.*”

Defra is quoted as saying that after Brexit: “*The most promising crops suitable for introducing to England would be Roundup Ready GA21 glyphosate tolerant crops, which synergises well with herbicides already widely used in the UK. Empowering farmers to use the cutting-edge crop science innovations that are available is certainly one opportunity presented by shifting the responsibility for licencing domestically post-Brexit. Although the blanket spraying of herbicides like Roundup present challenges regarding their impact on the environment and animals, the more obvious solution would be to regulate the technique, not the actual product because it would make that possible.*”³⁴

The alleged ‘first’ glyphosate-resistant weed in Britain has just been reported by scientists from ADAS, the body that endorsed Monsanto’s suggestion of spraying pre-harvest glyphosate in 1980 *Poverty brome (Bromus sterilis L.) [sterile or barren brome, syn. Anisantha sterilis (L.) Nevski] is a problematic UK arable weed. There are currently no confirmed cases of glyphosate resistance in any weed species in the United Kingdom or in B. sterilis worldwide... This, coupled with increasing glyphosate use, highlights the need for increased vigilance and monitoring for glyphosate resistance in the United Kingdom.*³⁵

Has anyone looked at Black Grass, (*Alopecurus agrestis* L.)? Herbicide-resistant black grass, first seen in 1982 (only two years after farmers started spraying glyphosate pre-harvest) and is now found on 16,000 farms in 34 counties. This was the reason Guy Gagen gave for an increase in Roundup sprayed between 2012 and 2014. Ben Webster of the Times reported: “*Farmers have sharply*

³⁴ <https://www.politicshome.com/news/uk/foreign-affairs/brexit/opinion/dods-monitoring/95900/future-food-will-defra-embrace-gmos>

³⁵ <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/weed-science/article/first-cases-of-evolving-glyphosate-resistance-in-uk-poverty-brome-bromus-sterilis-populations/2EC536244FC205586290731EF1BE4593>

increased their use of a weedkiller that has been classified as “probably carcinogenic to humans”.³⁶ More than 1,700 tonnes of glyphosate were sprayed on crops last year, up a third on 2012, according to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). The total area sprayed with the weedkiller grew by almost 500,000 hectares to 2.1 million hectares, an area the size of Wales.” Guy Gagen said: “No farmer would be wanting to put a chemical on a crop when he doesn’t need to.” He added that spraying wheat could result in traces of glyphosate ending up in bread sold in supermarkets but the amount was well below the maximum residue level set by the EU. A Defra spokesman said: “There are extensive regulations in place so that people and the environment are protected from pesticides. The approval of glyphosate for use across Europe is being reviewed by the EU Commission.” The Soil Association, the organic food body, called last month on supermarkets to take bread containing glyphosate residue off shelves. It said the maximum residue level for glyphosate in wheat of 10 mg per kg had been set well before the finding that the herbicide was probably carcinogenic.

Report presented to UN Human Rights Council about the Right to Food

Global Agricultural Corporations are severely criticised by Hilal Elver the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food.³⁷ The Report presented to the UN human rights council on 08/03/2017 is severely critical of the global corporations that manufacture pesticides, accusing them of the “systematic denial of harms”, “aggressive, unethical marketing tactics” and heavy lobbying of governments which has “obstructed reforms and paralysed global pesticide restrictions”.

The report authored by Hilal Elver the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food and co-authored by Baskut Tuncak, the UN’s special rapporteur on toxics, says pesticides have “catastrophic impacts on the environment, human health and society as a whole”, including an estimated 200,000 deaths a year from acute poisoning. Its authors said: “It is time to create a global process to transition toward safer and healthier food and agricultural production.”

“It is a myth,” said Hilal Elver. “Using more pesticides is nothing to do with getting rid of hunger.”³⁸ According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), we are able to feed 9 billion people today. Production is definitely increasing, but the problem is poverty, inequality and distribution.” Elver said many of the pesticides are used on commodity crops, such as palm oil and soy, not the food needed by the world’s hungry people: “The corporations are not dealing with world hunger, they are dealing with more agricultural activity on large scales.”

Extracts from the Report: “excessive use of pesticides is very dangerous to human health, to the environment and it is misleading to claim they are vital to ensuring food security. Chronic exposure to pesticides has been linked to **cancer, Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s diseases, hormone disruption, developmental disorders and sterility.** Farmers and agricultural workers, communities living near plantations, indigenous communities and pregnant women and children are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure and require special protections. The experts warn that certain pesticides can persist in the environment for decades and pose a threat to the entire ecological system on which food production depends. The excessive use of pesticides contaminates soil and water sources, causing loss of biodiversity, destroying the natural enemies of pests, and reducing the nutritional value of food. The impact of such overuse also imposes staggering costs on national economies around the world. The experts say the use of neonicotinoid pesticides is particularly worrying because they are accused of being responsible for a systematic collapse in the number of bees around the world. **For example, heavy use of these insecticides has been blamed for the 50 per cent decline over 25 years in honeybee populations in both the United States and the United Kingdom of Great**

³⁶ <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/farmers-using-more-carcinogenic-weed-killer-76bl8lw95t5>

³⁷ <http://www.pan-uk.org/site/wp-content/uploads/United-Nations-Report-of-the-Special-Rapporteur-on-the-right-to-food.pdf>

³⁸ <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/mar/07/un-experts-denounce-myth-pesticides-are-necessary-to-feed-the-world>

Britain and Northern Ireland. *Such a collapse, they say, threatens the very basis of agriculture as 71% of crop species are bee-pollinated.”*

The creator of GMO potatoes reveals the dangerous truth: DNA is a dead molecule³⁹

‘Pandora’s Potatoes: The Worst GMOs’

The Ex-Director of J.R. Simplot and team leader at Monsanto, Caius Rommens, has revealed the hidden dangers of the GMO potatoes he created, in a wide ranging interview for Sustainable Pulse, on the same day that his book ‘Pandora’s Potatoes: The Worst GMOs’ was released [on Amazon](#). Here are some extracts from the interview.

How many years did you spend working on creating GM potatoes? Was this all lab-based work or did you get out to see the farms that were growing the potatoes?

“During my 26 years as a genetic engineer, I created hundreds of thousands of different GM potatoes at a direct cost of about \$50 million. I started my work at universities in Amsterdam and Berkeley, continued at Monsanto, and then worked for many years at J. R. Simplot Company, which is one of the largest potato processors in the world. I had my potatoes tested in greenhouses or the field, but I rarely left the laboratory to visit the farms or experimental stations. Indeed, I believed that my theoretical knowledge about potatoes was sufficient to improve potatoes. This was one of my biggest mistakes.”

Why have you decided to reveal information about the failings of GM potatoes after spending many years creating them?

“I dedicated many years of my life to the creation of GMO potatoes, and I initially believed that my potatoes were perfect but then I began to doubt. It again took me many years to take a step back from my work, reconsider it, and discover the mistakes. Looking back at myself and my colleagues, I believe now that we were all brainwashed; that we all brainwashed ourselves. We believed that the essence of life was a dead molecule, DNA, and that we could improve life by changing this molecule in the lab. We also assumed that theoretical knowledge was all we needed to succeed, and that a single genetic change would always have one intentional effect only. We were supposed to understand DNA and to make valuable modifications, but the fact of the matter was that we knew as little about DNA as the average American knows about the Sanskrit version of the Bhagavad Gita. We just knew enough to be dangerous, especially when combined with our bias and narrowmindedness. We focused on short-term benefits (in the laboratory) without considering the long-term deficits (in the field). It was the same kind of thinking that produced DDT, PCBs, Agent Orange, recombinant bovine growth hormone, and so on. I believe that it is important for people to understand how little genetic engineers know, how biased they are, and how wrong they can be. My story is just an example.”

Have the GM potatoes you helped create been approved by the FDA and EPA in the U.S. or indeed elsewhere in the world?

“It is amazing that the USDA and FDA approved the GM potatoes by only evaluating our own data. How can the regulatory agencies assume there is no bias? When I was at J.R. Simplot, I truly believed that my GM potatoes were perfect, just like a parent believes his or her children are perfect. I was biased and all genetic engineers are biased. It is not just an emotional bias. We need the GM crops to be approved. There is a tremendous amount of pressure to succeed, to justify our existence by

³⁹ https://sustainablepulse.com/2018/10/09/the-creator-of-gmo-potatoes-reveals-the-dangerous-truth-exclusive-interview/#.W70H-i97E_V

developing modifications that create hundreds of millions of dollars in value. We test our GM crops to confirm their safety, not to question their safety.

The regulatory petitions for deregulation are full with meaningless data but hardly include any attempts to reveal the unintended effects. For instance, the petitions describe the insertion site of the transgene, but they don't mention the numerous random mutations that occurred during the tissue culture manipulations. And the petitions provide data on compounds that are safe and don't matter, such as the regular amino acids and sugars, but hardly give any measurements on the levels of potential toxins or allergens.

The Canadian and Japanese agencies approved our GMO potatoes as well, and approvals are currently considered in China, South Korea, Taiwan, Malaysia, Singapore, Mexico, and the Philippines."

Genetically Engineered Foods: The Biggest Fraud in the History of Science⁴⁰

Governments and leading scientific institutions have systematically misrepresented the facts about GMOs and the scientific research that casts doubt on their safety

On 4 March 2015 the Organisation Beyond GM facilitated the Press Release of American public interest attorney Steven Druker's acclaimed new book, Altered Genes, Twisted Truth How the Venture to Genetically Engineer Our Food Has Subverted Science, Corrupted Government and Systematically Deceived the Public.⁴¹

His book reveals how governments and leading scientific institutions have systematically misrepresented the facts about GMOs and the scientific research that casts doubt on their safety.⁴² GM Watch reported: "The book features a foreword by the renowned primatologist Dame Jane Goodall, who will also speak at the conference, hailing it as "without doubt one of the most important books of the last 50 years."

The book's revelations come at a crucial time when the UK is considering the commercial planting of GM crops following the European Parliament's decision to allow member states to opt out of the blockade that has barred them from the EU until now. Based on the evidence presented in the book, Druker and Goodall will assert that it would be foolhardy to push forward with a technology that is unacceptably risky and should never have been allowed on the market in the first place. The book is the result of more than 15 years of intensive research and investigation by Druker, who came to prominence for initiating a lawsuit against the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Steven Druker initiated a lawsuit against the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that forced it to open its files on GM foods

Those files revealed that GM foods first achieved commercialisation in 1992 only because the FDA:

- * Covered up the extensive warnings of its own scientists about their dangers*
- * Lied about the facts*
- * And then violated federal food safety law by permitting these foods to be marketed without having been proven safe through standard testing*

"Druker's well-referenced book points out that if the FDA had actually heeded its own experts' advice, told the truth, and obeyed the law, the GM food venture would have imploded and never gained traction anywhere." There were extensive media resources⁴³ but the launch failed to be

⁴⁰ Altered Genes, Twisted Truth: Steven M Druker. How the Venture to Genetically Engineer Our Food Has Subverted Science, Corrupted Government and Systematically Deceived the Public. 2015 Clear River Press. page 384

⁴¹ <http://beyond-gm.org/new-book-exposes-systematic-government-and-scientific-fraud-over-gm-food/>

⁴² <http://www.gmwatch.org/index.php/news/archive/2015-articles/15973>

⁴³ <http://beyond-gm.org/altered-genes-twisted-truth-media-resources/>

reported in the newspapers. It is not surprising since many august bodies, scientific journals and philanthropists in the UK & US are supporting GM.⁴⁴

Druker challenges UK Royal Society over misleading statements made about GM foods

Open Letter to the UK Royal Society can be read here.⁴⁵

Extracts: *“Because clarifying the facts about GM foods is crucial for developing an intelligent, science-based policy on the future of agriculture, and because the Royal Society has significantly contributed to the confusion that currently surrounds this issue, it is imperative that remedial action be promptly initiated. This is especially so considering that:*

- *The European Commission is about to approve substantial regulatory changes in regard to GM crops.*
- *The UK is seriously considering allowing them to be commercially planted.*
- *The Society and other proponents of GM foods have inculcated the widespread illusion that there is an overwhelming scientific consensus that the safety of these products has been established through rigorous testing...”*

Unless you promptly take these steps, it will demonstrate that your commitment to promoting GM foods is stronger than your commitment to honoring the truth and upholding the integrity of science. FURTHER, whether or not you own up to your irresponsible actions and take the steps specified above, I challenge you to read my book and specifically list any inaccurate statements of fact that you find in it, accompanied by an explanation of why the statement is erroneous and a reference to the evidence that corroborates your assertion.”

Journalists who report information from the UK Science Media Centre are being taken for a ride by a lobby organisation

The UK Science Media Centre is sponsored by corporations not by NGOs or Unions

Colin Macilwain, a science policy writer from Edinburgh who has worked as a reporter and an editor from both sides of the Atlantic wrote about plans to replicate Britain’s Science Media Centre (SMC) in the United States, which he said was *“fraught with danger.”*⁴⁶

Extracts: *“The London SMC was set up because UK scientific leaders were upset that environmentalists had successfully fought the introduction of genetically modified food; they felt that the UK media were too susceptible to environmental scare stories about new technologies. Despite the fears of the SMC founders, the British press — led by the BBC, which treats the Confederation of British Industry with the deference the Vatican gets in Rome — is overwhelmingly conservative and pro-business in its outlook. It is quite unperturbed by the fact that SMC sponsors include AstraZeneca, BP, Coca-Cola, L’Oreal, Monsanto, Syngenta (as well as Nature Publishing Group) but not a single environmental non-governmental organization (NGO) or trade union.*

Fiona Fox, the SMC’s director, says that the centre operates independently of its sponsors and points out that none (except its host, a Medical Charity, the Wellcome Trust) accounts individually for more than 5% of its income. She adds that no NGOs are involved because it was their public-relations skills that the founders of the SMC sought to match.”

Macilwain goes on to say: *“But the perception that the environmental group Friends of the Earth constitutes a bigger threat to scientific truth-telling than some of the corporate names on the SMC’s sponsorship list is not one the US media would accept. Some of those considering a US centre share*

⁴⁴ Royal Society, Wellcome Foundation, Bill & Melinda Gates, Lord David Sainsbury and the Gatsby Foundation, Rothamsted Research, John Innes Centre, Sainsbury Laboratory, Civil Servants from Defra, NFU, James Hutton Institute, BIS, Offices of Life Sciences, Centre for Food Security, Food Standards Agency, etc.

⁴⁵ http://beyond-gm.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/DRUKER_OPEN-LETTER-TO-THE-ROYAL-SOCIETY_Final.pdf

⁴⁶ <https://www.nature.com/news/two-nations-divided-by-a-common-purpose-1.10224?nc=1376335775294>

these concerns. They think that their funding model will have to rely on charitable trusts, not companies or government agencies.

UK's Science Media Centre lambasted for pushing corporate science⁴⁷

The meeting of global science writers in Bath in 2014 concluded: *“Journalists who uncritically report on SMC briefings and quotes sent by the centre are being taken for a ride by a lobby organisation instead of a neutral science information provider.”* Connie St Louis, former president of the Association of British Science Writers and a senior lecturer at City University, London said: *“I would close down the UK Science Media Centre.”* She conducted a small study on the centre's impact on UK science reporting in the 12 national newspapers in 2011 and 2012. The SMC's main activities include sending out 'expert reactions' — quotes on issues in the news — and holding media briefings, essentially small press conferences with a few experts. She found that more than half the SMC's expert reactions were covered in the press and, in 23 per cent of the stories that included these, the only quotes were those that came from the centre.

David Miller, a professor of sociology from the University of Bath, United Kingdom, presented a scathing analysis of the SMC, based on a combination of methods, such as analysing the SMC's website content and sending out freedom of information requests. He looked at which experts the centre uses — given that its mission is to get scientists' views across. What he found was that some 20 of the 100 most quoted experts were not scientists, as defined by having a PhD and working at a research institution or a top learned society. Instead they were lobbyists for and CEOs of industry groups. In 2012, the UK SMC, EFSA, Monsanto and GMO lobbyists set about discrediting and destroying the paper by Séralini and his team. After a year, Wallace Hayes, the Editor of *Food and Chemical Toxicology* retracted the paper under pressure from Monsanto, but it was republished.

Cancer Research UK protects the Agrochemical Industry: the CRUK website claims *‘there is little evidence that pesticides cause cancer’*

Michael Pragnell former Chairman of Cancer Research UK (2010-2017), founder of Syngenta and former Chairman of CropLife International was awarded a CBE in 2017 for services to cancer research. CropLife International was founded in 2001.⁴⁸ As of 2015 CropLife International's member list includes the following 8 companies: [BASF](#), [Bayer CropScience](#), [Dow AgroSciences](#), [DuPont](#), [FMC Corp.](#), [Monsanto](#), [Sumitomo](#) and [Syngenta](#). Many of these make their own formulated glyphosate. CRUK said that there was little evidence that pesticides caused cancer. CRUK, the CMO England and PHE, linked cancer to alcohol, obesity and smoking. They blamed the people for 'lifestyle choices'.

In the UK there were 13,605 new cases of Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma in 2015 (and 4,920 deaths in 2016)⁴⁹

There were 41,804 new cases of bowel cancer in 2015 (and 16,384 deaths in 2016); 12,547 new cases of kidney cancer in 2015 (and 4,619 deaths in 2016); 5,736 new cases of liver cancer in 2015 (5,417 deaths in 2016); 15,906 new cases of melanoma in 2015 (2,285 deaths in 2016); 3,528 new cases of thyroid cancer in 2015 (382 deaths in 2016); 10,171 new cases of bladder cancer in 2015 (5,383 deaths in 2016); 8,984 new cases of uterine cancer in 2015 (2,360 deaths in 2016); 7,270 cases of ovarian cancer in 2015 (4,227 deaths in 2016); 9,900 new cases of leukaemia in 2015 (4,712 deaths in 2016); 55,122 new cases of invasive breast cancer in 2015 (11,563 deaths in 2016); 46,388 new cases of lung cancer in 2015 (and 35,620 deaths in 2016); 47,151 new cases of prostate cancer

⁴⁷ <https://www.scidev.net/global/journalism/feature/uk-s-science-media-centre-lambasted-for-pushing-corporate-science.html>

⁴⁸ https://www.vinci.com/vinci.nsf/en/management-board-directors/pages/michael_pragnell.htm

⁴⁹ <https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/health-professional/cancer-statistics/statistics-by-cancer-type/non-hodgkin-lymphoma>

in 2015 (11,631 deaths in 2016); 9,211 new cases of oesophageal cancer in 2015 (8,004 deaths in 2016) and 5,540 new cases of myeloma in 2015 (3,079 deaths in 2016); 2,288 new cases of testicular cancer in 2015 (57 deaths in 2016); 9,921 new cases of pancreatic cancer in 2015 (9,263 deaths in 2016); 11,432 new cases of brain cancer in 2015 (5,250 deaths in 2016). In the US in 2014 there were 24,050 new cases of myeloma.

Each year there are steady increases in the numbers of new cancers, and increases in deaths from the same cancers, with no treatments making any difference to the numbers.

In 2011, CRUK began donating money (£450 million/year) to the Government's Strategy for UK Life Sciences and AstraZeneca provided 22 compounds to academic research to develop medicines.⁵⁰

Lord Gardiner of Kimble, Under-Secretary of State for Defra, deceitfully evaded questions on Roundup in the House of Lords on 31 August 2018

The Noble Lord assured the House of Lords that Roundup was safe. Extracts:

REPLY Lord Gardiner of Kimble: *"My Lords, there is robust EU and UK law on the use of weedkillers. The Government will always base their assessments of safety on the best scientific evidence available. Clearly, users of Roundup and other weedkillers should always read the instructions and use the product responsibly, and in accordance with the instructions, as indeed they should for many other household products."*

QUESTION Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb: *"I thank the Minister for his reply. I am sure that it is general knowledge that the landmark verdict in a case in the United States was that Roundup and glyphosate herbicides can cause cancer, and Monsanto has acted with "malice and oppression" by selling it in full awareness of the risks. Given that here in the UK farmers have to keep such pesticides under lock and key in a steel cupboard, how can it be all right to sell it freely in the supermarkets on open shelves? Is that not a risk for both shoppers and workers?"*

REPLY Lord Gardiner of Kimble: *"My Lords, the recent case was a civil court case with a non-expert jury. There was no new scientific evidence presented regarding safety as part of the court case, and so it does not raise doubts about the scientific assessments underpinning the EU approval decision. Of course, we have in this country, and through the EU as well, very strict rules about authorisations and approvals. There are many requirements for Roundup, and it is important that it is used responsibly, but it is safe."*

Monsanto to go on trial again in the US for concealing that Roundup caused cancer⁵¹

On 30/01/2019 Katherine Paul of Organic Consumers Association reported: *"In a few weeks, Monsanto will go on trial again. And when it does, the pesticide-maker won't be able to suppress evidence that the company ghostwrote scientific studies and otherwise tried to influence scientists and regulators in an attempt to hide the potential health risks of its flagship product, Roundup weedkiller.*

This week, U.S. District Judge Vince Chhabria, the federal judge in San Francisco overseeing 620 cases involving Monsanto's Roundup weedkiller and cancer victims, ruled that the evidence could be introduced in the upcoming trial. According to a Reuters report, Chhabria said the documents were "super relevant."

Chhabria's ruling almost guarantees that the documents in question will play a role when, on February 25, a jury in San Francisco Federal Court, begins hearing the case of Edwin Hardeman vs. Monsanto. Hardeman alleges that Roundup caused his non-Hodgkin lymphoma cancer.

⁵⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-life-sciences-strategy>

⁵¹ <https://www.organicconsumers.org/blog/and-hits-just-keep-coming-more-bad-news-monsanto>

Hardeman's case follows the August 10, 2018, [\\$289-million](#) judgment (later [reduced to \\$78 million](#)) awarded to DeWayne "Lee" Johnson, a former school groundskeeper who also sued Monsanto for causing his non-Hodgkin lymphoma. Monsanto's [appeal](#) of the \$78-million judgment is still pending.

There are more than 9,000 claims pending against Monsanto in state courts, about 620 awaiting trial in federal court. Reuters [reported](#) in November that Hardeman's case was selected as "a so-called bellwether, or test trial, frequently used in U.S. product liability mass litigation to help both sides gauge the range of damages and define settlement options."

Bayer CEO Werner Baumann called the lawsuits "[nuisances](#)." But the company's stock took a [big hit](#) after the jury sided with Johnson, so shareholders probably aren't thrilled with Chhabria's ruling this week."

On 28/08/2018 Robert F Kennedy Jr. one of the US Attorney's fighting Bayer, said: Bayer Needs More Than an Aspirin to Cure Its Monsanto-Sized Headache⁵²

"In a special telephone meeting on Thursday, August 23, Bayer AG's CEO Werner Bauman tried to reassure the German conglomerate's principal shareholders who were concerned about the recent [drop](#) in the company's stock. Bayer's stock fell dramatically after an unfavorable [verdict](#) against Bayer's St. Louis subsidiary, Monsanto.

Bauman expressed his confidence in [Monsanto](#) and predicted a sunny future for its flagship herbicide, Roundup. He told his top-tier investors that Bayer had performed an adequate due-diligence on Monsanto before [purchasing](#) the troubled company for \$66 billion this past June. At the time of its purchase, Monsanto told its German suitors that a \$270-million set-aside would cover all its outstanding liabilities arising from Monsanto's 5,000 Roundup cancer lawsuits.

Bauman did concede to anxious shareholders that Monsanto had withheld [internal papers](#) relevant to the case. Bayer never saw those internal Monsanto documents prior to the purchase.

It's no surprise that Monsanto kept secrets from Bayer. Johnson's jury [heard evidence](#) that for four decades Monsanto maneuvered to conceal Roundup's carcinogenicity by capturing regulatory agencies, corrupting public officials, bribing scientists and engaging in scientific fraud to delay its day of reckoning. The jury found that these activities constituted "malice, fraud and oppression" warranting \$250 million in punitive damages.

I am one of several attorneys representing, collectively, now some 8,000 clients with similar cases. I attended the two-month trial and worked with the trial team led by two young and exceptionally gifted lawyers, Brent Wisner of Baum Hedlund Aristei & Goldman and Dave Dickens of The Miller Firm. For Bayer the worst is yet to come.

Despite Monsanto's efforts, the science [linking glyphosate](#)—Roundup's active ingredient—to non-Hodgkin's lymphoma has passed the critical inflection point. European nations are [moving](#) to ban or restrict the chemical, and California regulators and courts have [ordered](#) Monsanto to warn consumers of Roundup's carcinogenicity at all points of sale. Both federal and state courts across the country have agreed that the question can be sent to juries. Hundreds of new inquiries have flooded our offices since the Johnson verdict.

Perhaps more ominously for Bayer, Monsanto also faces cascading scientific evidence [linking glyphosate](#) to a constellation of other injuries that have become prevalent since its introduction, including obesity, depression, Alzheimer's, ADHD, autism, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's, kidney disease, and inflammatory bowel disease, brain, breast and prostate cancer, miscarriage, birth defects and declining sperm counts. Strong science suggests glyphosate is the culprit in the exploding epidemics of celiac disease, colitis, gluten sensitivities, diabetes and non-alcoholic liver cancer which, for the first time, is attacking children as young as 10.

⁵² <https://www.organicconsumers.org/blog/kennedy-monsanto-roundup-verdict-bayer-stock>

Researchers peg glyphosate as a potent endocrine disruptor, which interferes with sexual development in children. The chemical compound is certainly a chelator that removes important minerals from the body, including iron, magnesium, zinc, selenium and molybdenum.

Roundup [disrupts the microbiome](#) destroying beneficial bacteria in the human gut and triggering brain inflammation and other ill effects.

The public's growing concerns with Roundup are, in part, due to Monsanto's overreaching.

For two decades following its licensing in 1974, farmers and gardeners used Roundup as a conventional weedkiller. After Monsanto's introduction of Roundup Ready seeds in the 1990s, farmers began aerial spraying of the herbicide on entire fields, including newly planted corn, canola and soy genetically altered to thrive in the toxic mist that killed all neighboring weeds.

Then, around 2006, Monsanto started marketing Roundup as a [desiccant](#) to dry up oats and wheat immediately before harvest. For the first time, farmers were spraying the chemical directly on food. Roundup sales rose dramatically to 300 million pounds annually in the U.S., with farmers spraying enough to cover every tillable acre in America with a gallon of Roundup.

Glyphosate now accounts for about [50% of all herbicide use](#) in the U.S. About [75% of glyphosate use](#) has occurred since 2006, with [the global glyphosate](#) market projected to reach \$11.74 billion by 2023. Never in history has a chemical been [used](#) so pervasively. Glyphosate is in our air, water, plants, animals, grains, vegetables and meats. It's in beer and wine, children's [breakfast cereal and snack bars](#) and mother's breast milk. It's even in our vaccines.

As grim as its financials now look, Monsanto's reputational liability may be even more of an anchor for Bayer than all the lawsuits. Environmentalists complain that Roundup is exterminating at least 13 species in the U.S. alone, including North America's iconic [Monarch butterfly](#). Human rights advocates blame the [suicides](#) of more than 200,000 Indian farmers on the suffocating economics caused by Monsanto's monopolistic control of international seed stocks. Government regulators are already under pressure to restrict these sorts of chemical mayhems with laws limiting glyphosate and GMOs. Monsanto has carved out a market niche monetizing deadly chemicals that more squeamish companies shun, a strategy that has made the company the Snidely Whiplash of corporate scoundrels and the planet's worst villain, according to many environmentalists and human rights advocates. As a boy, I watched Monsanto's vicious campaign to pillory the dying heroine Rachel Carson over her book, "Silent Spring," in its efforts to exonerate its pesticide DDT which was wiping out songbirds and the American bald eagle."

Glyphosate-based herbicides (weedkiller) present in non-organic food cause obesity

Weedkiller found in 43 out of 45 popular breakfast cereals marketed for US children

A short piece was published in the *Guardian* on 15th August 2018. "Significant levels of the weedkilling chemical glyphosate have been found in an array of popular breakfast cereals, oats and snack bars marketed to US children, a new study has found.⁵³ Tests revealed glyphosate, the active ingredient in the popular weedkiller brand Roundup, present in all but two of the 45 oat-derived products [that were sampled by the Environmental Working Group](#), a public health organization. Nearly three in four of the products exceeded what the EWG classes safe for children to consume. Products with some of the highest levels of glyphosate include granola, oats and snack bars made by leading industry names Quaker, Kellogg's and General Mills, which makes Cheerios. In April, internal emails obtained from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) [showed](#) that scientists have found glyphosate on a wide range of commonly consumed food, to the point that they were finding it difficult to identify a food without the chemical on it. The FDA has yet to release any official results from this process. **The UK Guardian reported:** "There was no indication that the claims related to products sold outside the US."

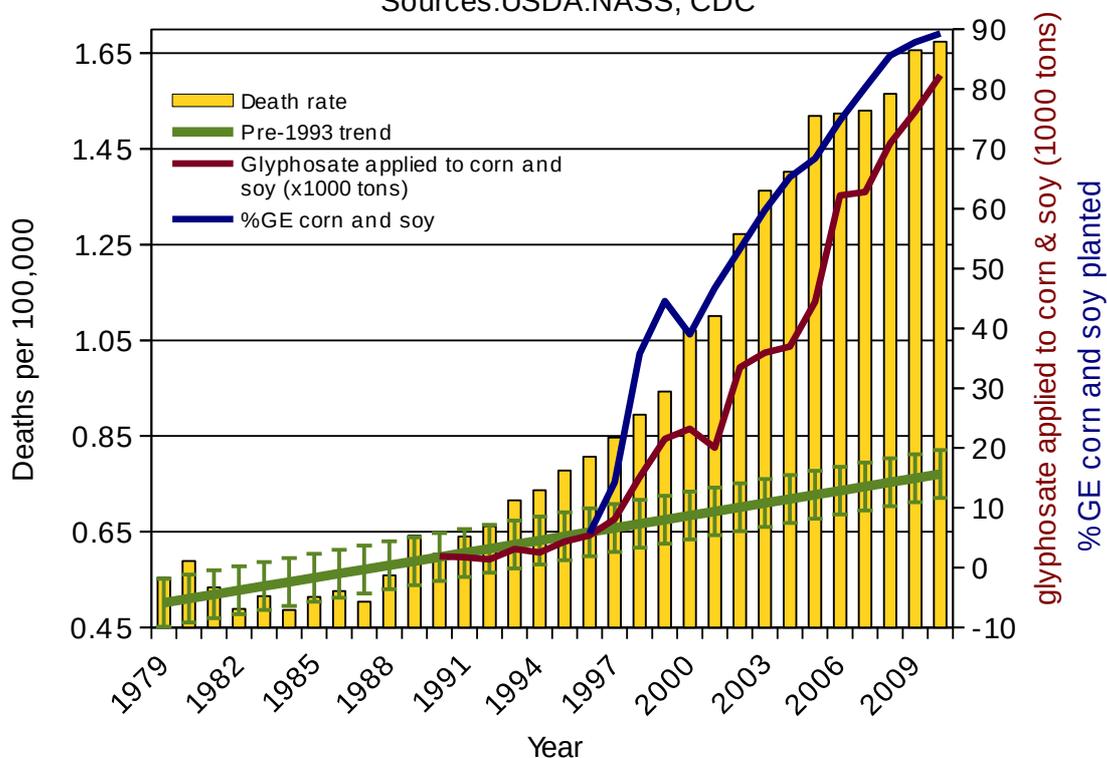
⁵³ <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/aug/16/weedkiller-cereal-monsanto-roundup-childrens-food>

In order to test this statement by the *Guardian*, we sent samples of four oat-based breakfast cereals marketed for children in the UK to the Health Research Institute, Fairfield, Iowa, an accredited laboratory for glyphosate testing. The Director said the levels of weedkiller were shockingly high. Dr Fagan said: “These results are consistently concerning. The levels consumed in a single daily helping of any one of these cereals, even the one with the lowest level of contamination, is sufficient to put the person’s glyphosate levels above the levels that cause fatty liver disease in rats (and likely in people).⁵⁴

Type of breakfast cereal marketed for children Product description	Glyphosate level ng/g	AMPA ng/g	Effective glyphosate level ng/g
Kelloggs No added sugar granola with Apricot & pumpkin seeds	499.90	ND	499.90
Quaker/Oat So simple/Original Microwaveable Oats	464.23	24.04	500.28
Weetibix Oatibix 100% wholegrain oats	318.85	16.96	344.28
Nestle Multigrain Cheerios Whole Grain Oat Flour 29.6% Whole Grain Wheat 29.6% Whole Grain Barley Flour 17.9% Whole Grain Corn Flour 2.1% Whole Grain Rice Flour 2.1%.	137.29	ND	137.29

Age Adjusted Deaths due to Obesity (ICD E66 & 278)

plotted against %GE corn & soy ($R = 0.9618$, $p \leq 3.504e-06$)
and glyphosate applied to corn & soy ($R = 0.9616$, $p \leq 1.695e-08$)
Sources:USDA:NASS; CDC



⁵⁴ <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-6315209/Revealed-UK-cereals-contain-potentially-harmful-amounts-WEEDKILLER.html>

This graph is reproduced by kind permission of Dr Nancy Swanson from the paper [Genetically-engineered crops, glyphosate and the deterioration of health in the United States of America. Swanson *et al.*](#)⁵⁵

Americans have grown fatter in the past two decades, but are a curious shape

They have added girth to their bellies and in some cases, even growing shorter, according to federal health data released 20/12/2018.⁵⁶ The report gave no specific reasons for the trends, which come as no surprise as the nation battles with an ongoing obesity epidemic. Average weight, waist circumference, and body mass index (BMI) in adults have increased over the past 18 years, said the report by the National Center for Health Statistics.

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject:Open Letter to Bayer CropScience

Date:Mon, 7 Jan 2019 10:24:53 +0000

From:Rosemary Anne Mason <rosemary.mason01@btinternet.com>

To:werner.baumann@bayer.com, david.fischer@bayer.com, liam.condon@bayer.com

Werner Baumann
Chief Executive
Bayer CropScience

Dear Werner Baumann,

An advertisement that Bayer placed in Politico and the Farmers' Guardian on 19/12/2018

“Transparency creates trust. At Bayer, we embrace our responsibility to communicate how we assess our products’ safety — and we recognize that people around the world want more information around glyphosate. This month, we published more than 300 study summaries on the safety of glyphosate on our dedicated [transparency website](#). “

Bayer CropScience has never been transparent in its life

Formerly IG Farben, the private German chemicals company allied with the Nazis, that manufactured the [Zyklon B](#) gas used to commit genocide against millions of European Jews in the [Holocaust](#). It built a factory next to Auschwitz, Poland, so it could exploit Jewish slave labour in its oil and rubber production plant. In total, some 300,000 detainees from Auschwitz were employed in IG Farben’s workforce, supplying the company with free labour. The company housed the workers in its own concentration camp, with the horrendous conditions there and in the factory leading to an estimated 30,000 deaths. On top of this, an unknown number of workers deemed unfit to continue working at the factory were sent to the death camp at Auschwitz. Alongside the brutal conditions of the labour camp, IG Farben also sanctioned drug experiments on live, healthy inmates. IG Farben was probably the most well-known corporate participant in the Holocaust, and the company’s history sheds a chilling light on how genocide became tied in with economics and business.⁵⁷ At the end of the war, after the Nuremberg Trials, the company itself was dissolved into three separate divisions, Hoescht, Bayer, and BASF. Monsanto was a firm created by the Rockefeller Foundation.⁵⁸ Monsanto partners with [I.G. Farben](#), makers of Bayer aspirin and the Third Reich’s go-to chemical manufacturer producing deadly Zyklon-B gas during World War II.

⁵⁵ http://www.organic-systems.org/journal/92/JOS_Volume-9_Number-2_Nov_2014-Swanson-et-al.pdf

⁵⁶ <https://guardian.ng/features/americans-have-grown-fatter-shorter-since-1999-us-data/>

⁵⁷ <https://www.newhistorian.com/ig-farben-opens-factory-at-auschwitz/3822/>

⁵⁸ <https://www.globalresearch.ca/the-complete-history-of-monsanto-the-worlds-most-evil-corporation/5387964>

It is outrageous that the European Commission renewed the licence on glyphosate for 5 years on the basis of the European Chemical Agency harmonised classification of glyphosate.

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. The Commission agreed that the member states would reassess glyphosate-based herbicides, which are 1,000 times more toxic than glyphosate.

According to Defra, 13 March 2018, European Regulatory assessments found no safety concerns that would prevent continuing approval of glyphosate

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject:Request for information - Ref: TO2018/05500

Date:Tue, 13 Mar 2018 13:45:53 +0000

From:correspondence.section@defra.gsi.gov.uk on behalf of Ministerial Contact Unit
<correspondence.section@defra.gsi.gov.uk>

Reply-To:Ministerial Contact Unit <correspondence.section@defra.gsi.gov.uk>

To:rosemary.mason01@btinternet.com

Dear Ms Mason,

Thank you for your recent emails to xxxxxxxxxx. I have been asked to reply on behalf of Defra. Pesticide active substances such as glyphosate are assessed at EU level and the European Commission takes the decision on whether each active substance should be approved. Products containing approved active substances are assessed and decisions on authorisation are taken at national level. Applicants for authorisation must show that their products are effective and **have no harmful effects to people or unacceptable effects on the environment**. If their products were to pose such risks, they would not be authorised; or if such effects were discovered later, they would be withdrawn.

As you point out, the European Commission has renewed the approval of glyphosate until December 2022. This followed reviews of the scientific data by the European Food Safety Authority and the European Chemicals Agency's Committee for Risk Assessment. **Those reviews found no safety concerns that would prevent continuing approval.**

Following the Commission decision, the UK and all other Member States will review the authorisations of **every product containing glyphosate to ensure that they meet the current legal requirements and safety standards**. The rules for this review are set out in EU legislation and guidance documents. The review will be carried out by the Health and Safety Executive as the UK competent authority.

Yours sincerely,

Defra

Ministerial Contact Unit

Yours sincerely

Rosemary Mason MB, ChB, FRCA

Open Letter to *Nature*: *Nature* has been colluding with the Corporation that helped the Nazis in the Holocaust