

Revelations from the Monsanto Papers

Industry attacks on scientists



MERCHANTS OF POISON

How Monsanto Sold the World on a Toxic Pesticide

A case study in disinformation, corrupted science, and manufactured doubt about glyphosate

bit.ly/MerchantsofPoison



“The point of modern propaganda isn’t only to misinform or push an agenda. It is to exhaust your critical thinking, to annihilate truth.”

Garry Kasparov



bit.ly/MerchantsofPoison

1. Corrupting the science

Ghostwriting papers, hand-picking scientists, cooking up studies and other PR science methods; influencing regulatory agencies.

2. Co-opting academia

Partnering with and paying universities and professors and using their platforms promote industry talking points.

3. Mobilizing third parties

Front groups, academics, astroturf campaigns, food industry spin groups, farmers, beekeepers, dietitians, women’s groups, bloggers, reporters.

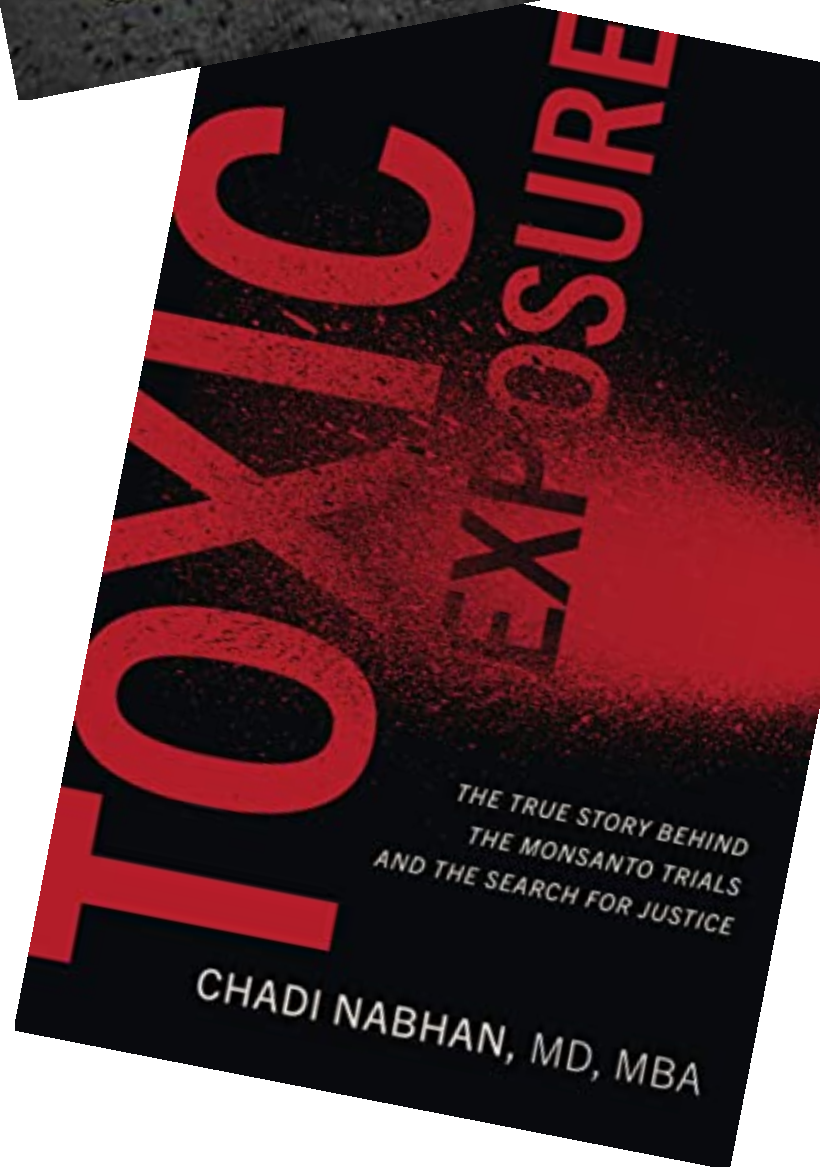
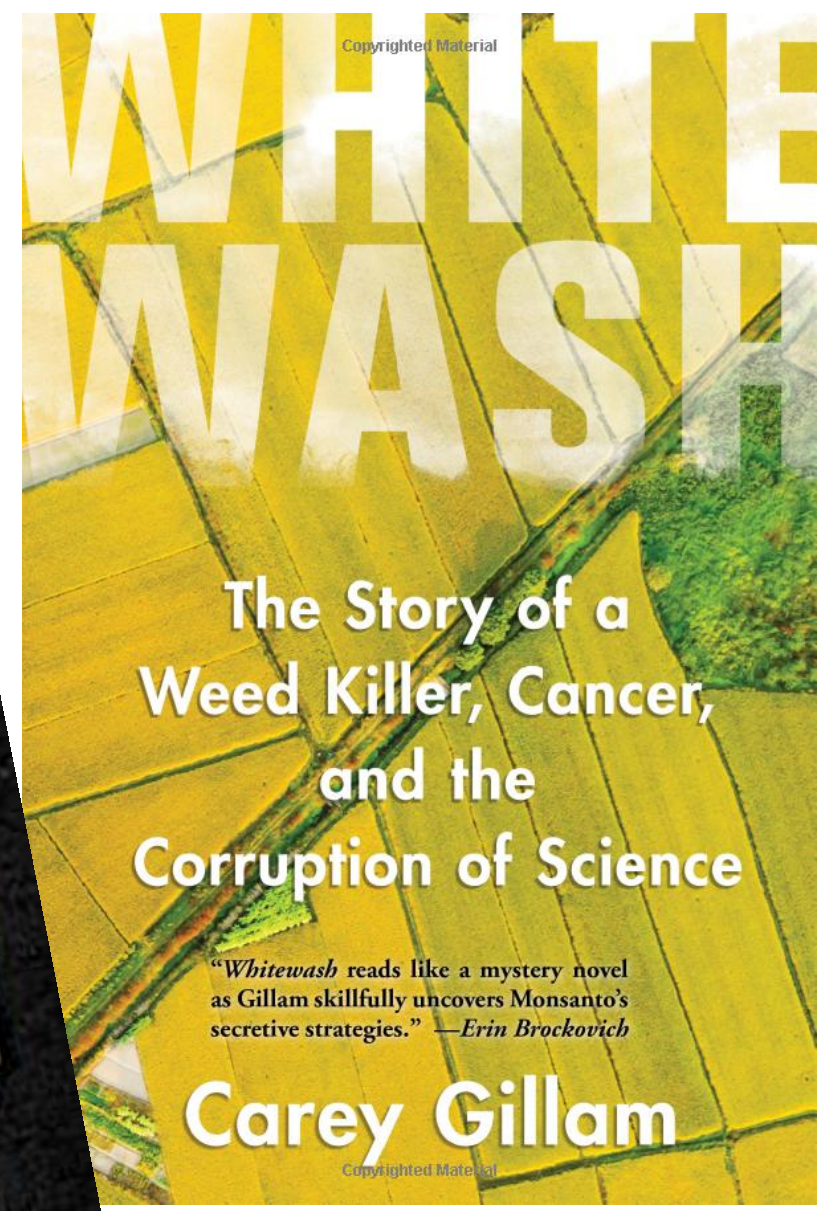
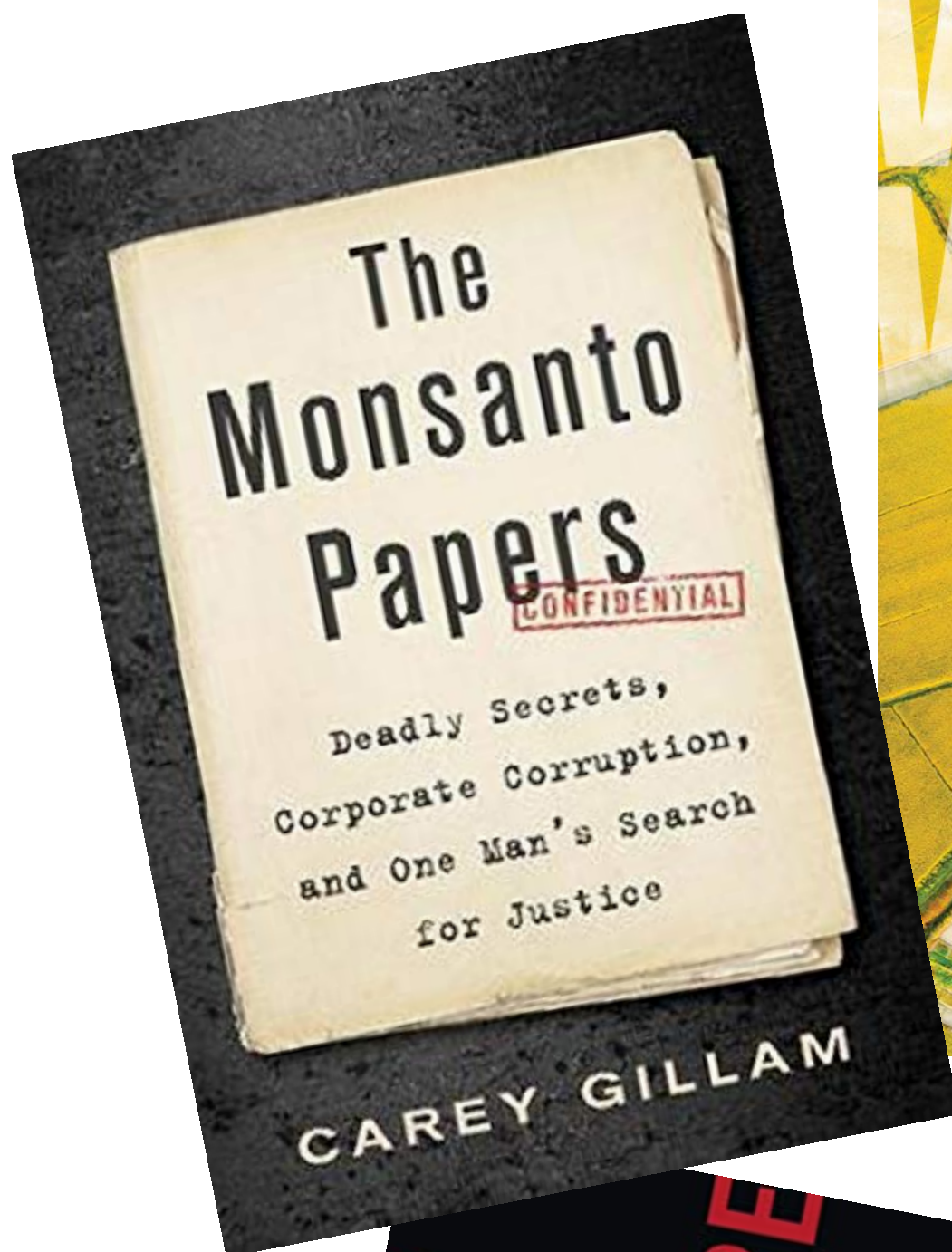
4. Attacking scientists, journalists

Aggressive efforts to track and attack scientists, journalists, public health advocates and others who report negatively on pesticides and biotech.

5. Weaponizing the web

How pesticide industry-funded front groups and corporate attack dogs dominate Google News searches and other online spaces

Corrupting science



Spinning Science & Silencing Scientists:
A Case Study in How the Chemical Industry Attempts to Influence Science

Bloomberg Businessweek
Monsanto Was Its Own Ghostwriter for Some Safety Reviews

Essay: Monsanto's ghostwriting and strong-arming threaten sound science —and society
Discovery documents uncover the corporate capture of science, which puts public health, and the very foundation of democracy, at risk.

Markets
EPA Official Accused of Helping Monsanto 'Kill' Cancer Study

Chairman of UN's joint meeting on pesticide residues co-runs scientific institute which received donation from Monsanto, which uses glyphosate



The New York Times
Monsanto Emails Raise Issue of Influencing Research on Roundup Weed Killer

The Monsanto Papers: Poisoning the scientific well

Corruption of science by agrochemical industry

Attacking the International Agency for Research on Cancer

AJPH
A PUBLICATION OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

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Home » American Journal of Public Health (AJPH) » July 2019

Expert Review Under Attack: Glyphosate, Talc, and Cancer

Jonathan M. Samet MD, MS

[+] Author affiliations, information, and correspondence details

Accepted: April 12, 2019 Published Online: June 05, 2019

First Page Full Text References Supplements PDF/EPUB

Conclusions as to the causation of adverse effects by environmental and occupational agents may have powerful societal consequences, leading to measures to control exposure through removal of products from the marketplace, changes in design and manufacturing processes, regulation, and litigation. We are at a moment when massive and widely publicized litigation is underway in the United States related to carcinogenicity and causation of cancer by two agents, talcum powder and the herbicide glyphosate, sold as Roundup. Verdicts amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars (as much as \$4 billion in the case of talc and ovarian cancer) have been reached: for ovarian cancer in talcum powder users and for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in persons exposed to glyphosate. Conclusions of the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) have figured in this litigation. Through its IARC Monographs, the agency offers evidence-based classifications of the strength of evidence for carcinogenicity of selected agents and exposures.

Unprecedented and harsh strategy ... parallels those used by the tobacco industry and others, but the glyphosate story is notable for its intensity ...

Expert review under attack

The Monsanto Papers, Part 1 — Operation: Intoxication

In order to save glyphosate, the Monsanto corporation has undertaken an effort to destroy the United Nations' cancer agency by any means possible. Here is the part one of an investigation from Le Monde.

**ATTACHMENT A: PREPAREDNESS AND ENGAGEMENT PLAN
FOR IARC CARCINOGEN RATING OF GLYPHOSATE**

Last Updated: February 17, 2015

2. Inform / Inoculate / Engage Industry Partners

- Develop a “toolkit” containing key information and resources
 - Identify any message shortcomings and address through updates to monsanto.com/glyphosate-and through US and EU blog posts
- Work with RPSA, Stakeholder Outreach Team, Industry Affairs, Government Affairs, US Business, Global CE and Regulatory teams, etc. to engage industry partners
 - Tier 1: Crop Life International / European Crop Protection Association / GMO Answers / BIO – identify committees that are best to engage
 - Tier 2: Academics (AgBioChatter), Biofortified, Sense About Science, Genetic Literacy Project, Academics Review
 - Tier 3: Alert food companies via Stakeholder Engagement team (IFIC, GMA, CFI) for “inoculation strategy” to provide early education on glyphosate residue levels, describe science-based studies versus agenda-driven hypotheses
 - Tier 4: Inoculate key grower associations

Lead voice in
“who is IARC” plus
2B outrage

agenda-driven hypotheses

Orchestrate Outcry with IARC Decision

Figure 5: Expenses of Key Third-Party Allies Named in Monsanto Glyphosate Defense Documents

Non-Profit Organizations	2015-2019
Academics Review	\$577,060
American Council on Science and Health	\$8,569,186
Center for Food Integrity	\$14,889,183
Foundation for Food Integrity	\$594,050
GMO Answers / Council for Biotechnology	\$22,687,700
International Food Information Council	\$19,376,743
International Food Information Council Foundation	\$4,694,134
Science Literacy Project/Genetic Literacy Project*	\$2,967,614
Sense About Science	\$1,773,888
	\$76,129,558
Trade Groups	2015-2019
American Chemistry Council	\$622,391,307
American Soybean Association	\$5,159,738
Biotechnology Innovation Organization	\$408,207,588
CropLife America	\$82,541,996
Consumer Brands Association**	\$144,791,582
National Corn Growers Association	\$108,224,267
	\$1,371,316,478
2015-2019	
Total Expenses for Key Trade Groups, Front Groups, and Other Key Third-Party Allies	\$1,447,446,036



**AMERICAN COUNCIL
ON SCIENCE AND HEALTH**
Promoting science and debunking junk since 1978.
This website is for educational purposes.

Message

From: GOLDSTEIN, DANIEL A [AG/1000] [/O=MONSANTO/OU=NA-1000-01/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=527246]
Sent: 2/26/2015 8:08:31 PM
To: VICINI, JOHN L [AG/1000] [/O=MONSANTO/OU=NA-1000-01/cn=Recipients/cn=56908]; REYNOLDS, TRACEY L [AG/1000] [/O=MONSANTO/OU=Na-1000-01/cn=recipients/cn=133378]
CC: SACHS, ERIC S [AG/1000] [/O=MONSANTO/OU=NA-1000-01/cn=Recipients/cn=171736]
Subject: ACSH

While I would love to have more friends and more choices, we don't have a lot of supporters and can't afford to lose the few we have....

I am well aware of the challenges with ACSH and know Eric has valid concerns- so I can assure you I am not all starry-eyed about ACSH- they have PLENTY of warts- but:

You WILL NOT GET A BETTER VALUE FOR YOUR DOLLAR than ACSH:

They are working with us to respond if needed to IARC- Gil has asked for information feed.

They are working with us to respond if needed to IARC-

They host TWO BOOKS and a Pamphlet that are EXTREMELY USEFUL:

AND the recent pesticide review:

FIFTY THREE Recent examples of posting in 2014/15..... NOT complete:

<http://acsh.org/2015/02/scientifically-unsound-discussion-█-watch-fox-news-sunday-housecall/>
<http://acsh.org/2015/02/new-█-labeling-bill-introduced-amidst-approval-gm-apple/>
<http://acsh.org/2015/02/many-consumers-want-█-labeling-dont-really-know-much-gmo-foods-ingredients/>
<http://acsh.org/2015/02/health-news-█-labeling-long-lasting-gm-apples-added-vitamins-foods/>
<http://acsh.org/2015/02/health-news-█-labeling-epa-attacked-secret-science-skinny-bariatric-surgery/>
<http://acsh.org/2015/02/health-news-█-knowledge-deadly-flu-season-news-anticholinergics/>
<http://acsh.org/2015/02/█-labeling-laws-will-harm-good/>
<http://acsh.org/2015/02/food-babe-food-poisoning-harmful/>
<http://acsh.org/2015/01/science-█-debate-explains-absence-science/>
<http://acsh.org/2015/01/really-killing-bees-may-surprised/>
<http://acsh.org/2015/01/publics-scientists-views-diverge-widely-important-issues/>
<http://acsh.org/2015/01/new-variety-█-potato-introduced-jr-simplot/>
<http://acsh.org/2015/01/henry-miller-wall-st-journal-epausda-strangled-biopharming-cradle/>
<http://acsh.org/2015/01/cspi-dead-█-labeling-good/>
<http://acsh.org/2014/12/top-10-scares-2014/>
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<http://acsh.org/2014/12/█-debate/>
<http://acsh.org/2014/12/dr-henry-miller-calls-american-farmers-wake/>
<http://acsh.org/2014/12/acshs-top-stories-2014-part-2/>
<http://acsh.org/2014/11/recent-eu-vote-may-allow-█-crops-nations/>
<http://acsh.org/2014/11/meta-analysis-shows-█-crops-reduce-pesticide-use-37-percent/>
<http://acsh.org/2014/11/labeling-█-benefits-one-except-organic-foods-industry/>
<http://acsh.org/2014/11/health-news-█-spud-laundry-pods-dangers-chemical-mix-ups/>
<http://acsh.org/2014/11/acsh-comment-pesticide-residues-wash-examiner/>
<http://acsh.org/2014/10/█/>
<http://acsh.org/2014/10/indian-government-sees-light-█-crops/>
<http://acsh.org/2014/07/greenpeace-gets-small-taste-medicine/>

Genetic Literacy Project

SCIENCE NOT IDEOLOGY

ESG MediaMetrics

Clients: Monsanto

NiSource

Pomeroy IT Solutions

Results: 1-10 of 200

Viewpoint: 'Science does not matter in Europe' — European Chemicals Agency says weedkiller glyphosate does not cause cancer, but it will be banned nonetheless

Hank Campbell | Science 2.0 | May 15, 2023

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) Committee for Risk Assessment is unsurprisingly more literate than a San Francisco jury, so they have joined every major scientific body in recognizing that the common weedkiller glyphosate does not cause cancer, or any other ailment, unless you fall into a vat of it and drown.

Viewpoint: Can the International Agency for Research on Cancer be trusted to dispassionately assess potential dangers of aspartame when its key evaluator claims to know the answer in advance?

Hank Campbell | Science 2.0 | April 28, 2023

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), a United Nations epidemiology group headquartered in France, could be in ethical hot water again over the claim by a Ramazzini Institute leader that seems to know in advance that IARC will consider aspartame a carcinogen – a designation which leads to automatic warning labels or even bans in places like California, which under Proposition 65 turned over its science to IARC last century.

Viewpoint: Anti-chemical film polemic "Into the Weeds" is wrong on the facts but a tort lawyer's dream. Did lawyers and the organic industry fund it?

David Zaruk | Genetic Literacy Project | April 27, 2023

The organic food industry lobby was in full swing in Brussels with their StopGlyphosateWeek. A collective of NGOs ran an entire week of actions for the chemically obsessed to show how glyphosate, a relatively benign herbicide less toxic than a cup of coffee, is the root of all that is evil in humanity.

Viewpoint: Without glyphosate, critical wetlands and wildlife could be strangled by invasive plants

Susan Goldhaber | Genetic Literacy Project | April 25, 2023

Almost two years ago, I wrote an article hoping "we are finally at a place when a few influential scientists with integrity will have the courage to speak out and demand that the 2015 IARC assessment of glyphosate be retracted or revised." That has not happened, and the results are devastating.

Viewpoint: How tort lawyers came to fund environmental activist fundamentalist attacks on science and agriculture

David Zaruk | Genetic Literacy Project | March 27, 2023

Since the period of stakeholder dialogue in the 1990s and early 2000s, environmental activists engaged in the policy process to try to make an impact. And this worked for the easy wins (increased recycling, lower emissions and effluents, incentives for energy-saving devices, better water and air quality...) but enough was just never enough. The green ambition expanded towards banning synthetic chemicals, plastics, pesticides, fossil fuels, fertilisers, nuclear energy and GMOs, to name a few. This demanded more than just a handful of busy lobbyists and an umbrella group of NGOs. Lately

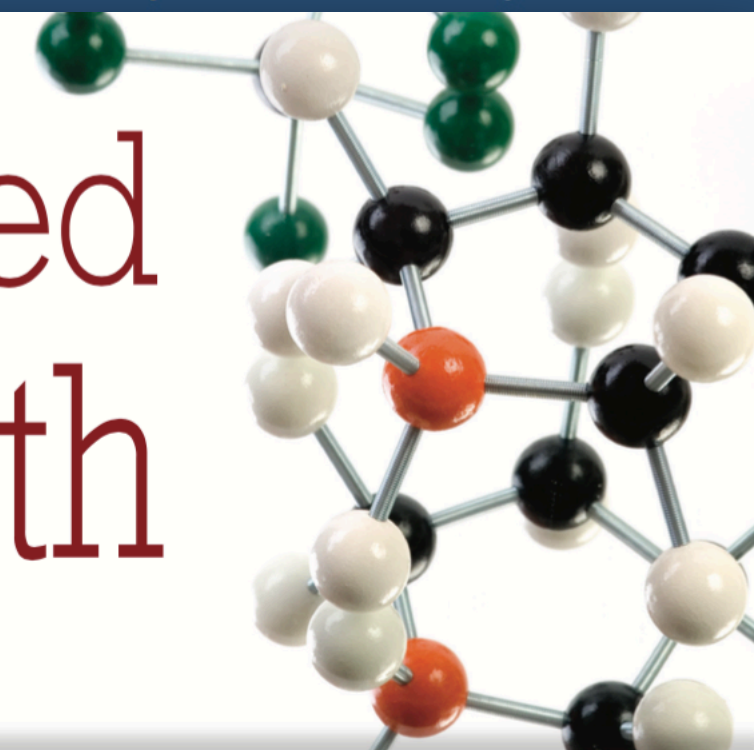
Jon Entine

Jon founded **ESG MediaMetrics**, an alliance of strategic partners, to address an unfilled frustration voiced by corporations, business groups and civil society organizations: how to manage the complex nexus of media, public policy and sustainable management.

Jon is the founder of the **Genetic Literacy Project** and a Senior Fellow at the **Statistical Assessment Service (STATS)** at George Mason University. He is also a columnist for the British-based international magazine **Ethical Corporation** and a frequent writer for publications around



Scared to Death



How Chemophobia Threatens Public Health

Presented by the



Written by **Jon Entine**

Genetic Literacy Project

SCIENCE NOT IDEOLOGY

Congress should reign in IARC cancer agency's 'corruption, distortion and fraud'

Paul Driessen, climate science denialist

How activist scientists hijacked IARC for personal profit and ideological vanity

David Zaruk, former chemical industry lobbyist

IARC director lied to Congress about cancer agency debacle

David Zaruk, former chemical industry lobbyist

IARC accused of selectively excluding best scientists from glyphosate review

American Council on Science and Health, industry funded group

Corruption and secrecy behind IARC's glyphosate cancer designation?

Jon Entine, executive director of Genetic Literacy Project; principal of a PR firm that had Monsanto as a client when he set up the Genetic Literacy Project

These and over 200 other articles about IARC appear on the Genetic Literacy Project website. A 2015 Monsanto PR plan listed Genetic Literacy Project as one of the "industry partners" that could help protect Roundup from cancer concerns raised by IARC.

Funders:

Scaife Foundation

Searle Freedom Trust

Templeton Foundation

Top donors 2020/21:

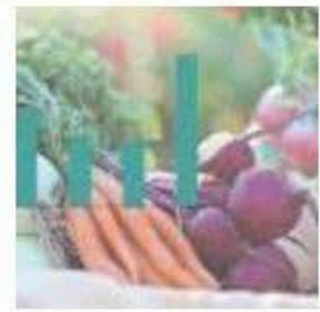
Bayer

Donor's Trust

pesticides in food

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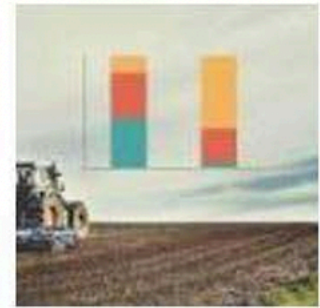
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Pesticide residues—Something to worry about?

Genetic Literacy Project - 12 hours ago

The safety of **pesticides** and the amounts that end up in our **food** are constantly being evaluated. And, just like anything that goes into your body ...



Soil health—When synthetic **pesticides** are more sustainable than ...

Genetic Literacy Project - Feb 5, 2019

Tillage is one example of organic farming being less sustainable than conventional farming. Tillage is a technique farmers use to prepare soil ...



How dangerous is glyphosate?

Genetic Literacy Project - Jan 29, 2019

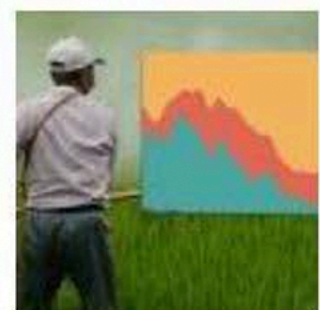
Compared to other **pesticides** and even things we find in common **food** and drink, like caffeine or vitamin D, glyphosate is low in toxicity.



How do organic **pesticides** compare to synthetic **pesticides**?

Genetic Literacy Project - Jan 30, 2019

There is a large variation in **pesticide** toxicity and environmental impact, within and between organic and synthetic **pesticides**. For example ...



Have **pesticides** improved?

Genetic Literacy Project - Jan 23, 2019

This is because the amount of **food** that each acre produces (its yield) has steadily increased since 1985. Although **pesticide** toxicity continues ...



BLPII: 2nd Annual Biotechnology Literacy Project Bootcamp

World Food Center Institute for Food and Agricultural Literacy

University of California-Davis | May 31-June 3

US government-GLP-Byrne projects

From: [Holtzman, Max - OSEC](#)
To: ["jon@jonentine.com"](mailto:jon@jonentine.com)
Cc: [Peckins, Stacey FAS](#); ["jay.byrne@v-fluence.com"](mailto:jay.byrne@v-fluence.com); [Lubinsky, Pace \(FAS\)](#)
Subject: Re: anti-GMO crop biotech challenges with GLP and Jay Byrne
Date: Saturday, December 07, 2013 11:25:34 AM
Attachments: [GLP3.png](#)

Thanks Jon. It was great meeting w you as well. I think your outline below provides natural intersection points where usda/USG messaging and your efforts intersect well. I'd like to engage further and loop other folks here at usda not only from the technical/trade areas but from our communications shop as well. Realistically this would occur after the turn of the year, likely mid january as I will be in and out travelling thru year end.

 Reuters

Exclusive: WHO cancer agency asked experts to withhold weedkiller documents

The World Health Organization's cancer agency - which is facing criticism over how it classifies carcinogens - advised academic experts on...


Oct 25, 2016

 Reuters

Special Report: How the World Health Organization's cancer agency confuses consumers

Thanks to scientists working under the auspices of the World Health Organization, you can be fairly sure your toothbrush won't give you...

Apr 18, 2016

 Reuters

Who says bacon is bad?

The World Health Organization's cancer agency ranks processed meat alongside plutonium as a carcinogen. Here's how such assessments work and...

Apr 18, 2016

SPECIAL REPORTS JUNE 14, 2017 / 6:27 AM / UPDATED 6 YEARS AGO

Special Report: Cancer agency left in the dark over glyphosate evidence

By Kate Kelland

17 MIN READ



LONDON (Reuters) - When Aaron Blair sat down to chair a week-long meeting of 17 specialists at the International Agency for Research on Cancer in France in March 2015, there was something he wasn't telling them.

U.S lawmakers seek answers from new head of WHO's cancer agency

By Kate Kelland

3 MIN READ



U.S. chemical industry body calls for reform of WHO cancer agency

By Kate Kelland

3 MIN READ



From: [Redacted]

Date: March 1, 2016 at 16:51:13 GMT+1

To: [Redacted]

Cc: [Redacted]

Subject: Reuters looking to speak to IARC Observer

Hello [Redacted]

As you are aware, Reuters are doing a series of special reports on the WHO and its agencies and you'll recall that following engagement by Red Flag a number of months ago, the first piece was quite critical of IARC. See [here](#).

You may also be aware that Red Flag is in touch with Reuters regarding the second report in the series, which is examining IARC itself. I gave a background brief to the journalist a few weeks ago and the North American Meat Institute also spoke to her recently both on background and on the record about its experience over the meat monograph and at the meeting in Lyon.

From: MURPHEY, SAMUEL [AG/1000]

Sent: Thursday, April 27, 2017 9:48 AM

To: [Redacted]

Subject: RE: Your voicemail

Kate –

As we discussed, I am passing along a background summary deck; the deposition (sworn witness testimony) of the IARC Chair, Dr. Aaron Blair, and a number of additional documents will follow. We are sending these exclusively to you for your review. The deposition and other documents clearly show that Dr. Blair concealed information from the IARC working group that showed no link between glyphosate and cancer. This concealed data undermines IARC's conclusion.

Please treat the summary deck as background information – but the quote from our VP of Strategy, Scott Partridge, is on the record. If it would be helpful to speak with Scott on the record as you're developing a story, I can arrange that as well.

Message

From: MURPHEY, SAMUEL [Redacted]

[Redacted]

Sent: 4/12/2017 4:18:03 PM

To: RANDES, TODD [Redacted]

Subject: Reuters inquiry

From: [Redacted]

Sent: mercredi 12 avril 2017 17:36

To: CARROLL, BRIAN [Redacted]

Subject: Fwd: My draft. Confidential

Summary

Confidential - Produced Subject to Protective Order

MONGLY07575512

IARC chair concealed crucial data.

- The IARC chair recently testified under oath that he concealed crucial scientific data that showed no link between glyphosate and cancer.
- The IARC chair also testified that the concealed data undermines IARC's conclusion.
- IARC's conclusion is the lone outlier in decades of research and the conclusions of every regulatory agency around the world.

- IARC has been trying to hide the truth by blocking access to key evidence – even going so far as directing U.S. government agencies and other public institutions not to comply with open-records requests.
- Plaintiffs' attorneys have been going to great lengths to block access to key witnesses and documents relating to IARC but were recently overruled by a federal judge. They have even hired IARC members to participate in their legal cases – and tried to use that as a basis to block access to key evidence.
- Meanwhile, those involved in the IARC process have been actively lobbying government institutions to undermine and discredit regulatory bodies that disagree with the IARC conclusion.

Confidential - Produced Subject to Protective Order

MONGLY07575513



aaron blair and glyphosate



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Reuters

<https://www.reuters.com> › investigates › special-report

Cancer agency left in the dark over glyphosate evidence

Jun 14, 2017 — SENIOR SCIENTIST: **Aaron Blair**, a retired epidemiologist, led the review of several pesticides, including **glyphosate**, by the International ...



EcoWatch

<https://www.ecowatch.com> › reuters-monsanto-glypho...

Monsanto Accuses IARC Scientist of Withholding ...

Jun 16, 2017 — Dr. **Aaron Blair**—a lead researcher on the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) committee that classified **glyphosate** as “probably ...
You visited this page on 5/22/23.



American Council on Science and Health

<https://www.acsh.org> › news › 2017/06/18 › round-co...

Round Up Cover-Up, Part 2: Why Did IARC Exclude ...

Jun 18, 2017 — **Aaron Blair**, the former epidemiologist at the U.S. National Cancer Institute, explaining why new data on **glyphosate** and cancer was not ...



NEWS.BERKELEY.EDU

National Academy of Sciences elects seven from UC Berkeley

UC Berkeley's newest NAS members are neuroscientist Marla Feller, herpetologist Tyron...

New Report



MERCHANTS OF POISON

How Monsanto Sold the World on a Toxic Pesticide

A case study in disinformation, corrupted science, and manufactured doubt about glyphosate

by Stacy Malkan
with Katrina Kiash, PhD and Anne Lippert



Merchants of Poison: How Monsanto Sold the World on a Toxic Pesticide

A case study in disinformation, corrupted science, and manufactured doubt about glyphosate

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Fact sheets on front groups

<https://usrtk.org/pesticides/tracking-the-agricheical-industry-propaganda-network/>

6 ways to confront pesticide industry disinformation

<https://usrtk.org/industry-pr/confronting-spin-recommendations/>

UCSF Document Library USRTK collections

Food: <https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/food/collections/usrtk-food-industry-collection/>

Agrichemicals:

<https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/chemical/collections/usrtk-agricheical-collection/>

Contact

Twitter [@StacyMalkan](https://twitter.com/StacyMalkan)

Email Stacy@usrtk.org



U.S. RIGHT TO KNOW