



Who Smells a Rat?

What do you do when your scientific journal publishes a study that Monsanto doesn't like? And the industry bombards you with complaints? You hire a new editor. And retract the study.

In September 2012, the journal *Food and Chemical Toxicology* (FCT)

published the findings of the first long-term study of rats fed genetically modified corn. The study's authors, led by Gilles-Eric Seralini of the University of Caen, France, concluded that the GM corn caused cancerous tumors in the test rats.

The biotech industry wasted no time attacking the study, which was released about a month before Californians were set to vote "yes" or "no" on an initiative to require labels on foods containing GMOS. The attacks were predictable. But who would have predicted what followed next? Not long after the study came out, FCT created a new editorial position—Associate Editor for Biotechnology—and appointed none other than a former Monsanto employee, Richard E. Goodman, to the post. Fast-forward to November 28, 2013, when the publisher of FCT announced it was retracting the study. Not because of fraud or misrepresentation of data. But because, upon further review, the journal's editors had decided the study was "inconclusive." The biotech industry is puffing out its chest and throwing around a lot of "I told you so's." But the scientists who don't have a vested interest in GMO technology are calling the retraction "unscientific and unethical."

If there was no evidence of fraud or misrepresentation, why did FCT retract the study? Because, the journal said, "there is legitimate reason for concern about both the number of animals tested in each group and the particular strain of rat selected." As Seralini and his supporters point out, "the offending strain of rat (the Sprague-Dawley) is used routinely in the U.S.—including sometimes by Monsanto to study the carcinogenicity and chronic toxicity of chemicals." Seralini told *Sustainable Pulse*, the FCT in 2004 published a study by Monsanto finding the same strain of GMO corn (NK603) safe after measuring its effects on only ten Sprague-Dawley rats for three months only. "Only studies pointing to adverse effects of GMOS are rigorously scrutinized on their experimental and statistical methods," he said, "while those who say GMOS are safe are taken at face value." FCT and Seralini are battling it out in the media for now. But the battle could move to the courts, if Seralini follows through on threats to sue the journal. orgcns.org/i1F6uQB

Walmart, Not the Fairest of them All

Behind every low price at Walmart is a story: underpaid employees; employees illegally fired for trying to unionize; dirt-cheap prices paid to farmers; sweatshop clothing factories. Who benefits the most from Walmart's low prices? Walmart shareholders. And the Sam Walton family, whose net worth is estimated to be more than \$100 billion. Last week was International Food Workers Week. Let's stand in solidarity with Walmart employees and the workers and farmers who supply them. Take Action: orgcns.org/18cyAhH



Biotech's Christmas Present—a GMO Apple

This time, the biotech industry isn't even pretending that its technology will make life better for farmers, or feed the world, or reduce the use of pesticides, or any of the other lies it routinely feeds to consumers. This time, the industry is promising only that its latest darling, a genetically engineered (GE) apple, will look prettier after it's been sliced. Because it won't turn brown (like a normal, natural apple). This latest biotech miracle food could be approved by Christmas.

The USDA is set to approve the Arctic Apple®, engineered for the purely cosmetic purpose of preventing browning after it's been sliced, sometime this month. Scientists say that not only does the Frankenapple offer no real benefit to consumers, but the technology used to create it is untested and inherently risky.

Dr. Hart Feur, a Senior Researcher at the University of Bonn, Germany, outlined for the USDA a host of reasons why, from an agricultural perspective, the agency should reject the Arctic Apple. Unless the USDA heeds consumers, environmentalists and apple growers, all of whom are speaking out against deregulation of the Arctic Apple, the first GMO apple could soon turn up in fast-food restaurants, school cafeterias—even baby food. With no labels to warn consumers. Take Action: orgcns.org/IFHx7z

Hook, Line and Sinker?

There's nothing good to be said for fish raised on "farms." Many fish farms feed GE soy and canola, not to mention feathers, necks and intestines leftover from poultry processors. That can't be healthy for the fish. Or the people who eat them. But now the FDA is close to making matters worse, by approving the first GE salmon. The list of reasons to reject GE salmon is long. Risk to our health. Risk to the wild salmon population. Risk to the environment. And most recently, complaints that the AquaAdvantage Salmon's creator, AquaBounty, is mismanaging its experimental facility in Panama, where the company plans to grow and process its Frankenfish creation. At least 30 House members and 14 senators have lodged concerns with the FDA over its intent to approve AquaBounty's GE salmon. Will the FDA heed them, and the 90% of consumers who say they don't want Frankenfish? Or will the agency charged with the safety of our food buy biotech's story, instead... hook, line and sinker? Take Action: orgcns.org/WVSBMS

USDA: 'Not Enough Evidence' to Ban Bee-Killing Pesticides

The USDA spent god-knows-how-many of our tax dollars to study Colony Collapse Disorder, or more simply, why all the honeybees are dying. Their conclusion? There are a lot of contributing factors, including pesticides, to the mass die-off of bees. But "not enough evidence" to ban the pesticides. The study called for more research before any meaningful action is taken. Meanwhile, the European Union isn't taking any chances. Researchers there will do more experiments to find out if pesticides are responsible for the bee die-off. Meanwhile, officials there have instituted a two-year ban on the use of neonicotinoids, the pesticides most frequently implicated in the bee die-off. Take Action: orgcns.org/182qLWX

Whistleblowers as Criminals

Witnessing and reporting animal abuse isn't a crime. Except when it is, according to the upside-down reasoning of Colorado lawmaker... or lawmakers in states that have passed ag-gag laws designed to turn whistleblowers into criminals. Taylor Radig went undercover at Quannah Cattle Company, where she filmed calves being thrown and kicked around and dragged by their ears, tails, and legs. Three workers were charged with animal cruelty on Nov. 15. But a week later, the whistleblower herself was charged with animal cruelty. Factory Farms are responsible for a whole host of crimes, against the environment, human health, workers' rights, and animal rights. Turning the whistleblowers into the criminals is just plain wrong.

Take Action: orgcns.org/1jwqjYd