

Monsanto: Decades of Deceit

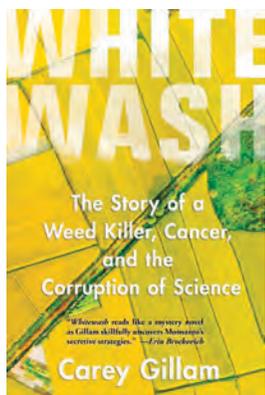


Glyphosate/Roundup is the poster child for the bigger pesticide problem

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CARY GILLAM

Carey Gilliam is the research director for U.S. Right to Know and author of *Whitewash: The Story of a Weed Killer, Cancer, and the Corruption of Science*. She has written about food and agriculture for over 25 years as a staff writer for Reuters. The following is excerpted from her talk at the Beyond Pesticides' 36th National Pesticides Forum, Organic Neighborhoods: For healthy children, families, and ecology, in April, 2018 at the Beckman Center of the National Academies of Sciences in Irvine, California. For a complete video of Ms. Gilliam's talk, please go to Beyond Pesticides' YouTube channel at bp-dc.org/monsantodeceit.



I am honored to be invited to speak to the Forum. You guys are the people who know this stuff. A lot of you sitting in the audience are my sources—the people who have helped inform me and helped me write *Whitewash*.

I have to open with a disclaimer. I'm a journalist. I've been one for more than 25 year. And, I'm far more comfortable sitting where you

are and listening to a presentation and probably writing a story about it. We journalists are not oriented towards activism. I have been trained to put aside my own opinions and my own biases—and simply stick to the facts, and pursue the truth wherever it may lead you, however deeply it might be hidden, and whoever it might offend.

With the book *Whitewash*, I've offended quite a few people, I think. So standing here isn't comfortable for me. I'm here, both because Beyond Pesticides invited me to be here, and because after 20-some years writing about food and agricul-

ture for Reuters, it just became impossible not to do this—not to speak out, not to write a book. Even though you all have known this longer than I have, it became abundantly clear to me that we have lost our way. We're out of balance with this world. We've allowed pesticide-dependent agriculture to take over and we're putting our future generation, including my three children, in danger.

The research by the group I work for, U.S. Right to Know, and the research by Beyond Pesticides and so many others, has made it clear that not only are we out of balance, but we're out of balance by intention, strategically so. And this is designed by a handful of very powerful companies that control the seeds and the chemicals that dominate the modern agricultural system that they have created. They aim primarily to generate ever-greater profits. So while we are being poisoned and our future generations are being put in danger, they are counting their profits. And that's something you can't be quiet about.

PERVASIVE GLYPHOSATE/ROUNDUP

My primary area of focus, lately, has been glyphosate. Glyphosate is the active ingredient in hundreds of herbicide products sold around the world, but most people know it as Roundup, which Monsanto introduced to the market in 1974. Monsanto patented glyphosate as a novel herbicide. It worked great, was very effective, and claimed to be so much safer than other herbicides on the market. It was pretty quickly embraced and is still to this day very popular. Today, about 300 million pounds are used per year in the United States. We're seeing it in parks, children's playgrounds, and on lawns and gardens. Residential homeowners are using it. Golf course operators are using it to keep the greens neat and nice looking. So many people here are so deeply invested in this, but I don't think a lot of people realize how pervasive it is. And, of course, it's used in food and agriculture.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) tracks over 70 different food crops on which glyphosate is used. It's not

just genetically-altered corn, or genetically-altered soy, cotton, canola, or sugar beet. It is used in almond orchards, orange groves, and tea plantations. It is the most widely used agricultural chemical in the world.

As a result, not only is it in our food, it's in our drinking water, our soil, the air, in our own bodies. It's been found in urine tests around the world. It's pervasive in our world today.

GLYPHOSATE IS THE POSTER CHILD FOR THE BIGGER PESTICIDE PROBLEM

The work that I have done recently is focused on glyphosate, and *Whitewash* focuses on Monsanto and how it pushed glyphosate to such prominence. But, glyphosate is the poster child for the bigger pesticide problem. If it goes away tomorrow, we are not okay. But I do think that it is very representative of what is going on in terms of the way that it has been pushed, and the way the company has manipulated public policy and the regulatory authority.

THE FACTS ABOUT PESTICIDES

A few "not so fun facts" about pesticides:

- Over one billion pounds of pesticides are used in the U.S. each year.
- Approximately 5.6 billion pounds of pesticides are used worldwide.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture has estimated that 50 million people in the U.S. obtain drinking water from groundwater that is potentially contaminated by pesticides and other agricultural chemicals.
- Glyphosate is the world's most widely used weed-killing pesticide, but research ties many others to health problems, including reproductive and neurodevelopmental harms, as well as cancers.
- The top scientist at National Institutes of Health, Linda Birnbaum, PhD, wrote a paper with colleagues, and this phrase really struck me: "U.S. regulations have not kept pace with scientific advances showing that pesticides and other widely used chemicals cause serious health problems at levels previously assumed to be safe."

We know that these pesticides are tied to cancers, right? There are many studies that have been done around the world, but the Agricultural Health Study is a good one because it has been tracking 89,000 farmers and their family members since 1993. These are farmers in Iowa and North Carolina who are exposed to a lot of pesticides, and they found overwhelming evidence of ties to a whole range of cancers: breast, ovarian, thyroid, kidney, non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL), as well as Parkinson's disease.

My son's 16-year-old friend was diagnosed with cancer last year. He's a football player. Two weeks ago my husband's sister was diagnosed with uterine cancer. On December 14, I lost a dear friend to pancreatic cancer. My tennis partner

just had surgery, her second surgery last week after going through chemo and radiation and a major surgery. I used to ask people to raise their hand if they knew someone that had cancer. Now, raise them if you don't. This is not okay. And this is why I'm doing this. I don't see this getting any better:

- Approximately 39% of men and women in the U.S. are expected to be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetimes.
- More than 600,000 are expected to die, this year, from cancer. More than 1.6 million are expected to be newly-diagnosed with cancer. Pediatric cancers are among those on the rise.
- Worldwide, more than 14 million cases of cancer occur each year, and that number is expected to hit 22 million a year by 2030.
- Research suggests a connection between pesticides and cancers such as NHL, multiple myeloma, and prostate, liver, pancreatic, lung, and non-melanoma skin cancers.
- The 2016 National Toxicology Program (NTP) report says that to reduce cancer deaths we must address environmental causes, including pesticides. The line in the NTP study that struck me is: "We need to stop focusing so much on how we fix it, how we treat it, how we live with cancer, and how we cut body parts off, and start preventing it and identifying these environmental contaminants, including pesticides."

GLYPHOSATE CLASSIFIED AS A CARCINOGEN

Back to my poster child. In 2015, the World Health Organization (WHO) cancer experts at the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) decided to take a look at glyphosate. A number of independent studies, as well as company studies, have been done over the past few decades, as glyphosate uses increased. Scientists all around the world have done toxicology studies—animal studies, as well as epidemiology, and some mechanistic studies—looking at not only glyphosate by itself, but also at the formulated products, like Roundup. IARC doesn't do new research. It looks at the published peer-reviewed work and weighs and analyzes it. Then they come up with a classification. In the case of glyphosate, they found that it was a "probable human carcinogen," classified as 2A. They found sufficient evidence in the lab animal studies, and limited evidence of cancer in humans. They found strong evidence of DNA damage. They looked at people who lived in areas where there had been aerial spraying of glyphosate and they were exposed in that way—there was DNA damage in those individuals, compared to control groups. So it was pretty stark. And when they put it all together, produced a glyphosate hazard evaluation. (See Figure 1.)

MONSANTO LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN AGAINST SCIENCE

Everything changed with this classification in March of 2015. Monsanto was outraged at this. I worked at Reuters at the time. I was talking with Hugh Grant, the chairman of Monsanto. They were outraged, stunned, shocked, and surprised. They

Summary: Glyphosate Hazard Evaluation

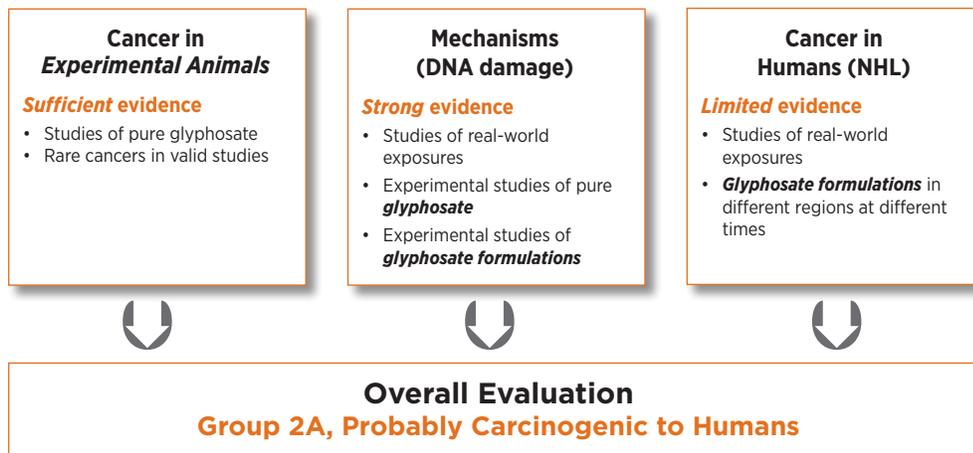


FIGURE 1:
**Summary—
Glyphosate
Hazard
Evaluation**

Source: Carey Gillam

said, “How could this happen? There’s absolutely no evidence that this chemical can cause cancer. It’s ridiculous. These people were relying on junk science and politically motivated, and had all sorts of agendas. And, it’s a terrible thing, and no one should believe it.”

They’ve continued to take this position for the past three years. They’ve been so successful that, on February 6 of this year, the Committee on Science Space and Technology, U.S. House of Representatives, held a hearing specifically to attack IARC, and to consider and discuss options for defunding IARC—to strip funding from our international cancer scientists specifically because they found that glyphosate was a probable human carcinogen.

VICTIMS OF ROUNDUP SUE

The IARC classification prompted an explosion of litigation as well. A very conservative estimate of 3,500 plaintiffs around the U.S. are suing Monsanto. These are people who either have developed NHL, or they are surviving family members of those who died from NHL. They’re suing in state and federal court. All of these lawsuits allege that Monsanto’s Roundup caused them to develop NHL, and that Monsanto knew and covered up the risks.

The first trial is scheduled to begin in San Francisco county June 18 of this year. [Note: It did begin.] It will be fascinating. The lawyers involved tell me they have well over 10,000 plaintiffs waiting in the wings. Monsanto is very concerned about this. They’ve filed motions—unsuccessfully—to try to get all of these lawsuits dismissed. The plaintiff in the case that is going to trial June 18 is not sure that he will survive until the court date, and Monsanto is trying very hard to get a delay. The judges said: “No. We’re not going to do that.”

As a result of this litigation, Monsanto is forced to turn over millions of pages of internal reports, documents, emails, memos, and different studies. When you look at those along with documents that I and my colleagues at U.S. Right to Know have obtained through the *Freedom of Information Act* from EPA, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and various state universities, it’s a pretty incredible picture of collusion, deception, and deceit.

I was asked to speak to the European Parliament in October, and the title of my presentation was “Decades of Deceit.” They had asked me to speak about Monsanto and glyphosate. As I was sitting there, about to address Parliament, I thought: “God, that’s a really strong title. Am I okay with that? Well, yeah. Because that is what it is. It is decades of deception.”

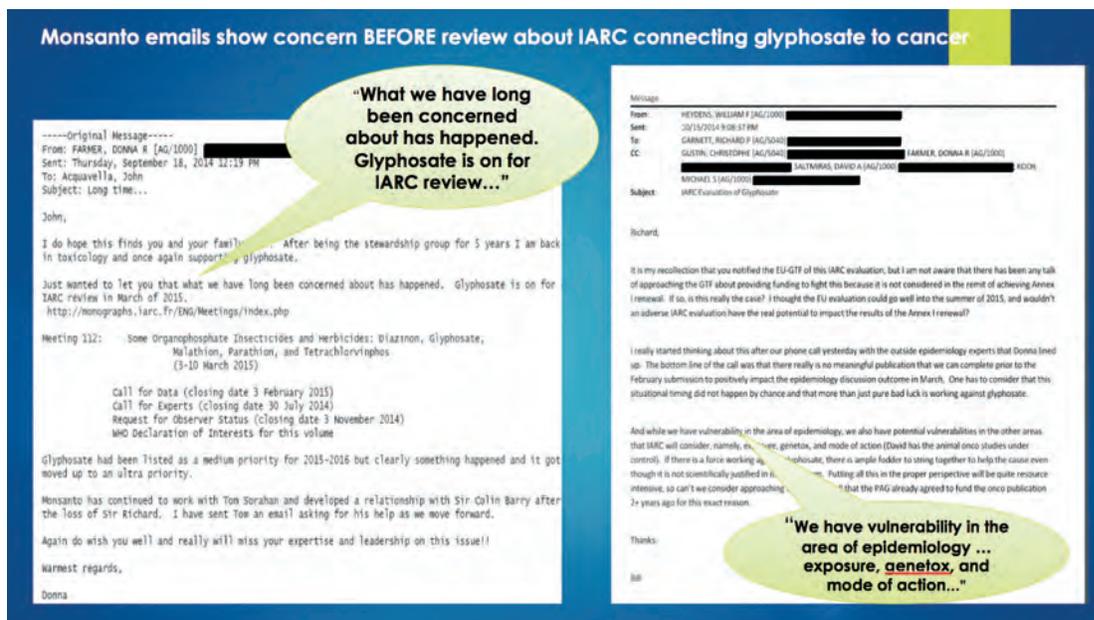
A DECEPTIVE CAMPAIGN

I can’t put what all the documents show in a presentation, but you can read *Whitewash*. The documents show all of these different things: ghost-written research papers that assert glyphosate’s safety for publication and regulatory review; alternative assessments provided for studies that indicate harm. So if a regulator is looking at a study and says, “Gosh, this looks like it causes cancer,” Monsanto will then give them the rationale for how to interpret the data in a different way. They have networks of European and U.S. scientists that push the safety message to lawmakers and regulators. They appear to be independent, so they appear to be more authoritative and authentic. But behind the scenes we see documents that show that Monsanto is helping them or telling them what to say, or assigning them a task.

Public relations teams are ghost-writing articles and blogs. They appear on different sites on the web or in different magazines—again, looking like they are coming from an independent scientist.

FIGURE 2:
Internal Monsanto emails expressing concern about cancer review.

Source: Carey Gillam



They form front groups. These front groups work to discredit IARC, or any scientist, individual, or journalist, like me, and others who try to speak out or address this. They provide the EPA with talking points to address. That one got me when I saw that: “Talking points. From Monsanto to the EPA.”

One thing that I thought was really outrageous. They actually have blocked the conducting of safety reviews by the Department of Health and Human Services, the National Toxicology Program. Monsanto was able to block that.

These are some of the emails that are fun to look at. So even though Monsanto claimed it was so surprised and so outraged and shocked that IARC could come up with a 2A probable human carcinogen ranking, you can see in the emails that Monsanto kind of thought that was where things were going to go. And they were very worried about this when they learned IARC was going to look at glyphosate. (See Figure 2.) You see in the memos: “What we have long been concerned about has happened. Glyphosate is on for IARC review.” From the fall of 2014, emails talk about lining up help from independent scientists. They’re girding for battle; they know what’s going to come. They’re talking about getting money together. They’re talking about the “fight” that is going to come. They talk about how vulnerable they are with this science. One memo, again, before IARC met, says, “We should assume and prepare for the outcome of a 2B (possible carcinogen) or 2A (probable carcinogen).” (See Figure 3.) They knew it was coming. A Monsanto document titled “Preparedness and Engagement Plan for IARC Carcinogen Rating of Glyphosate,” was written before IARC even met. (See Figure 4.) They knew it was going to come. They knew the science was there. They knew they were vulnerable. So they started laying out the plan of how to discredit IARC.

It illustrates a long-term pattern. This did not just begin with the IARC classification. This began in the 1980s, or late 1970s. If you go back through EPA archives, you can see that from the very beginning, wherever there was a sign of concern or harm associated with this pesticide, Monsanto figures out a way to make it go away, to tamp it down, to silence the person who is raising the alarm bells.

MONSANTO GHOST-WRITES JOURNAL ARTICLES

There is another thing that came out from the emails, pertaining to the ghost-writing in an internal communication from Monsanto executive Bill Heydens, as they are talking about discrediting IARC. They’re trying to figure out how to get another paper written. And you see Mr. Heydens saying: “An option would be to add Greim and Kier or Kikland to have their names on the publication, but we would be keeping the cost down by us doing the writing and they would just edit and sign their names, so to speak. Recall that is how we handled Williams, Kroes, and Munro, 2000.” So what they’re saying is they’re going to pay scientists to put their names on it, but Monsanto scientists will actually do the writing.

The work, signed by Williams, Kroes, and Munro, is one of the most highly regarded papers by regulators. It’s been cited hundreds of times. It is cited by EPA at the very top of its evaluation of glyphosate. It is a paper that they have relied on.

The paper is “Safety Evaluation and Risk Assessment of the Herbicide Roundup and Its Active Ingredient, Glyphosate, for Humans.” The paper found that Roundup does not pose a health risk—no effects on fertility or reproduction—and is non-carcinogenic. And this is very nice. It doesn’t say anywhere on it that Monsanto just paid these scientists to sign their names.

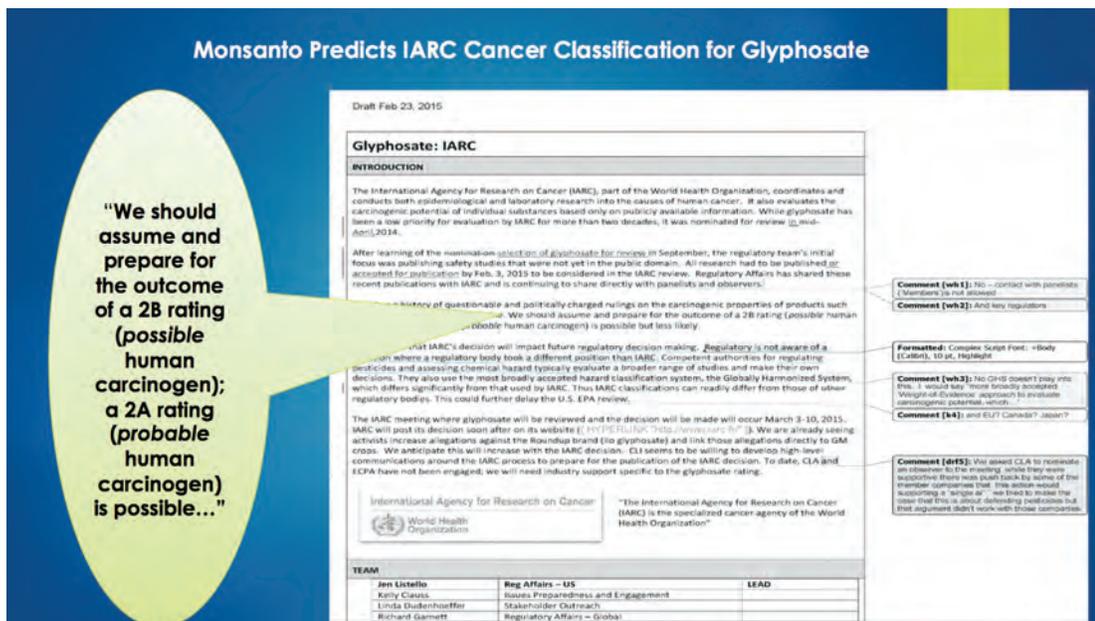


FIGURE 3: Monsanto prepares to fight cancer classification before outside evaluation begins, expressing expectation it will be ranked a carcinogen.

Source: Carey Gillam

Another example—David Saltmiras, PhD, another Monsanto scientist, brags that he ghost-wrote the cancer-review paper, Greim et al., 2015. And this Greim paper, again, was cited by EPA in its risk assessment of glyphosate as being a very important paper. Dr. Saltmiras, listed as an author, refers to his ghost-writing the paper. Helmut Greim, M.D. is an 82-year-old German scientist who some people are not sure actually did much writing. So it seems that Dr. Saltmiras was talking about ghost-writing it, even though Dr. Greim is listed as the lead author. Again, this paper comes up with no evidence of a carcinogenic effect related to glyphosate. “Compelling weight of evidence support the conclusion glyphosate does not present the concern with respect to carcinogenic potential.”

This next one was specifically designed to counter IARC. Monsanto came out and said it was going to hire a group of scientists to do an independent review of glyphosate safety and IARC’s papers. Monsanto said, “We are hands off. We don’t have anything to do with this.” The acknowledgements say, “Neither any Monsanto company employees nor any attorneys reviewed any of the expert panel manuscripts prior to submission to the journals.” This series of papers was published in a peer-reviewed journal. They have this disclaimer, this acknowledgement that no company employees of Monsanto looked at it.

Yet, in the documents from Monsanto, they’re writing the draft, they’re editing, they’re changing things, they’re moving things around. They’re getting in an argument with one of the authors.

These are very clearly tampered with or ghost-written by Monsanto, but if you go to the journal today, you don’t see any indication of that. They appear to be independent, and, in fact, that is the title of this work.

My last example, from 2011, is Donna Farmer, PhD, a toxicologist at Monsanto. She writes internally about how she is adding a section in the paper. She’s doing some cutting and pasting about POEA surfactant studies—a very big concern. She talks about all the work she’s doing on this very important paper that is looking at reproductive issues. Nevertheless, POEA has been banned in Europe because of its dangers.

When the paper is published, you can see that Dr. Farmer’s name is no longer on that paper. There is no mention of Monsanto on that paper, which very helpfully concludes that there’s no reproductive harm or concern at all tied to glyphosate.

INFLUENCING POLICY

In addition to these scientific papers, we have evidence that Monsanto is engaged in directing policy briefs that are submitted to lawmakers or submitted to regulatory agencies, promoting product safety and Monsanto strategies. You see in the documents what they’re saying to academics and others who are teaching and traveling around the world, again, appearing to be independent—“We’ll send you the powerpoint; I’m editing your slides for you.” They set up science outlets that, again, appear to be independent. They are pushing out messages to consumers, to medical professionals, and to others. They appear to be independent, but they are backed by the chemical industry—they are propaganda machines.

We see “front groups,” and their connections, like Academics Review, Genetic Literacy Project, and Campaign for Accuracy in Public Health Research. Doesn’t that sound lovely? There are Sense about Science and Biology Fortified. All of these say they’re independent, but in Monsanto internal documents they’re listed as “partners.” When Monsanto wanted to attack IARC in their preparedness plan, they talk about how they’re going to get these guys and others to help them to carry out their attack. They’re listed as Tier 2 partners.

FIGURE 4:

[Monsanto] knew the science was there. They knew they were vulnerable. So they started laying out the plan of how to discredit IARC.

Source: Carey Gillam



Monsanto uses a number of false fronts:

- Websites, set up to promote Monsanto's agenda.
- Nonprofits established.
- Social media manipulation.
- PR experts working on behalf of Monsanto seek bloggers to post pro-industry articles that appear to be independent on consumer and health websites. . .to get things up on Web-MD and elsewhere.
- Journalistic manipulation through groups set up as a "science media" center that push pro-Monsanto sources and story ideas.

Academics Review is a good example because Monsanto's name is not on it anywhere. This was started presumably by a retiring University of Illinois professor, Bruce Chassy, PhD, to provide thoughtful and independent reviews and criticisms of scientific issues and look at journalists and scientists who may be whackos, and to alert the world to these whacko people. You can see in Monsanto's internal documents that it was their idea to set this up. They are talking to Dr. Chassy, sending him a check, first of all. Then they're saying: "From my perspective, the problem is one of expert engagement and that could be solved by paying experts to provide responses. The key will be keeping Monsanto in the background so as not to harm the credibility of the information." This website is still up there today. At least two articles were written about me on that website while I was at Reuters, and Tyrone Hayes, PhD has been written about. *The New York Times'* Eric Lipton "is a terrible reporter." This is what they do—they go after a whole lot of folks.

BLOCKING INDEPENDENT GOVERNMENT RESEARCH

In 2015, the Department of Health and Human Services' Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC),

wanted to take a look at glyphosate as well and had actually already started it. Monsanto got wind of it and did not want it to happen. You can see in their internal emails. They're saying, "We're trying to do everything we can to keep from having a domestic IARC occur with this group." "ATSDR is VERY conservative and IARC-like." Again, they knew. They know what the science says.

So they got in touch with at least three top EPA officials and said: "Yeah, we need some help with this. We need this to go away. We don't like this." Monsanto argued it was duplicative government resources.

So, EPA jumped. Within an hour of that first email going to EPA, Jim Jones, who was the top guy at EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs, is on the phone. Does the government work that fast for any of us, ever? They were ultimately successful. ATSDR pushed back a little bit a few times, saying, "We don't think it's duplicative. We think we're doing important work." EPA keeps saying no. Monsanto's in there. Finally, ATSDR says, "Fine." We may still see something from ATSDR. They've said that they eventually will do something. But, it's 2018. That was 2015.

GENETIC ENGINEERING FOR PROFIT, NOT PRODUCTION

So, what has happened with all of this manipulation, this pushing, and these front groups? The use of glyphosate has surged, from about 40 million pounds a year on average in the mid-90s to about 300 million pounds used annually now. A big part of that, of course, was not only the propaganda, but the introduction of genetically engineered crops, which encouraged farmers to use these glyphosate products. And an important thing to note is that Monsanto's patent in the U.S. was expiring in the year 2000. When they introduced these crops, it wasn't about feeding the world. It wasn't about

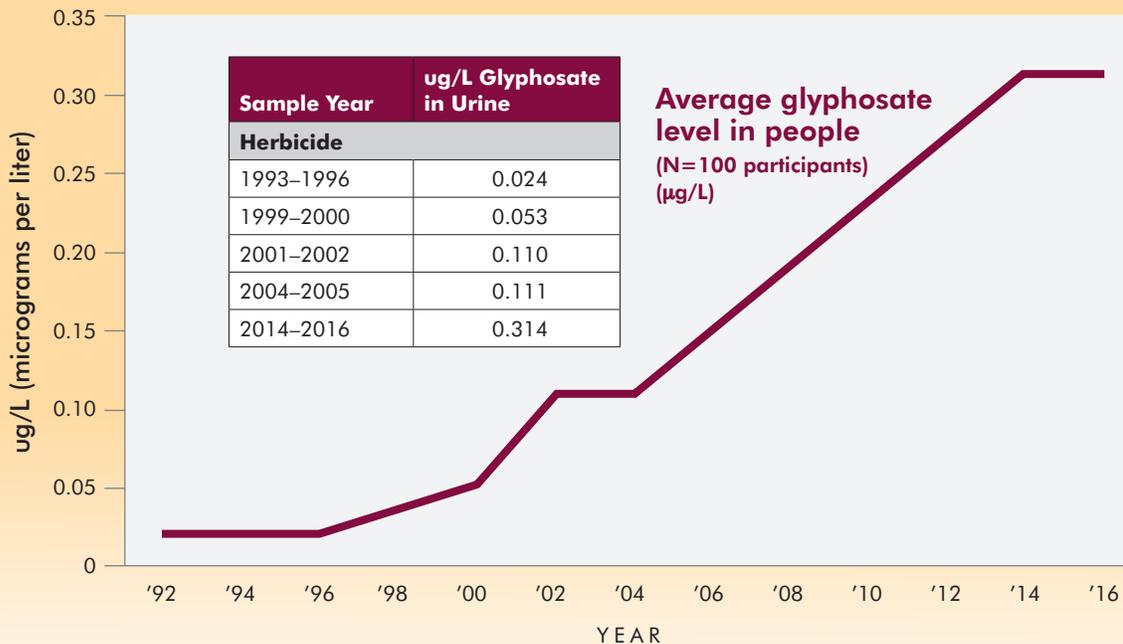


FIGURE 5:
Human exposure climbs 500 percent since mid-1990s.

Source: University of California San Diego School of Medicine (published in JAMA, October 2017)

helping farmers. It was about locking in market share because their patent was about to expire and they didn't want to lose that lucrative business. In an investor note that Monsanto sent out back in the early 2000s, right after their patent expired, they were reassuring investors. They said, "Look at this. Not only has use increased, but our share is really, really strong." So, it wasn't a secret when they introduced this. It was never about the farmer. It was about profit and market share.

PREDICTABLE SUPER WEEDS

Now we've had an explosion of super weeds, with all of this use of Roundup and glyphosate. I was really surprised when I started hearing about these "super weeds" and seeing them in the field. They are taller. You can't get rid of them in many cases if they get out of hand in your fields. So, farmers are fighting ever-more diligently—spraying two, three times more glyphosate and looking for other herbicides. Now we have dicamba and 2,4-D loaded on top of the glyphosate and crops that tolerate them. The number glyphosate resistant weeds worldwide has been increasing exponentially. (See Figure 6.)

GLYPHOSATE RESIDUES THROUGHOUT THE FOOD SUPPLY

Where has that left us? It's in our food because we're growing our food with glyphosate. I've done a number of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. FDA and USDA annually are charged with testing the nation's food supply for pesticide residues. They've been doing it for 30 some years. Both of them have been criticized sharply by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) because both of them routinely do not test for glyphosate. In decades of testing, they never looked for glyphosate, even though it is the most widely used chemical in the world. After they got hit by GAO, FDA said, "Fine. We'll test for glyphosate." I got wind of this in early 2016 and they confirmed to me that they would indeed start

testing for glyphosate. That was February of 2016. They have still not publicly released any information, any data. I've had to get all this from FOIA requests. We found an FDA chemist in Atlanta testing honey samples, even organic honey, pulled from store shelves. Every single sample contained glyphosate residues—some at levels that were illegal in Europe. We don't have a legal limit in the U.S. All of it presumably is illegal. I was very concerned about this. FDA hadn't done anything. EPA hadn't done anything, and they didn't want to talk about it. The very same chemist also found glyphosate in oatmeal—baby oatmeal products that were found on store shelves.

In another memo I just got from a FOIA request, a chemist from Arkansas was trying to find food without glyphosate residues. He tested wheat crackers, granola cereal, and cornmeal from home and found a fair amount in all of them. He says broccoli is the only thing he can find that doesn't have glyphosate in it.

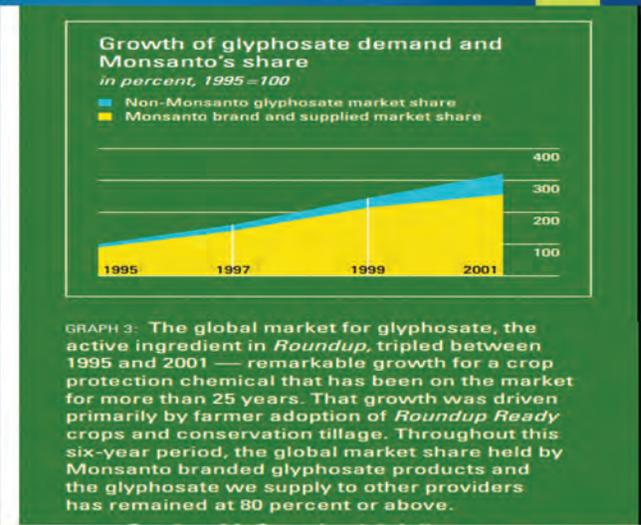
USDA said a year ago, again in internal memos and reports, that it was going to start testing for glyphosate. But, by April 1, that plan had mysteriously disappeared, and they're not sure whether or when they are going to do it. It is worth noting that at this June 18 trial the lawyers from Monsanto have specifically asked the plaintiffs to be barred from mentioning anything about glyphosate residues in foods—at the same time that USDA and FDA are not reporting any glyphosate residues in foods. The University of California, San Diego School of Medicine has been tracking glyphosate levels in people for quite some time—at least since the mid-90s. Their data show that both the incidence of exposure and the glyphosate levels found in urine are up dramatically. It is in us. (See Figure 6.)

This is bigger than glyphosate. The 2015 data shows 85% of foods tested have pesticide residues in them. One sample

FIGURE 6:
Monsanto pushes exponential increase in glyphosate use and profits.

Source: Carey Gillam

After Monsanto introduced genetically engineered crops that were designed to be sprayed directly with glyphosate, both demand and the company's market share soared



of strawberries had more than 20 different pesticides. In the most recent data available from FDA's pesticide residue testing of about 6,000 food samples (51.2% of domestic food types), 43.2% contain pesticides and 80% of the fruits show the pesticide residues, 2% at illegal levels.

A NEUROTOXIC PESTICIDE INADEQUATELY REGULATED

Chlorpyrifos, marketed by Dow chemical. We all know, science knows, EPA scientists know, it causes neuro-developmental damage in children. It's the fourth most prevalent pesticide found now in our food supply, according to FDA, and EPA cannot vouch for any level as safe in food and water. We are not doing anything about it.

This is why I do this—because we have kids, we feed our kids, and our kids are eating this. Chlorpyrifos and these other pesticides are very damaging to our children in these key developmental times. The American Academy of Pediatrics is calling for greater protections from toxic exposures. I don't feel like we're getting there.

I want to share a quote from this paper I mentioned earlier by Dr. Birnbaum: "Existing U.S. regulations have not kept pace with our scientific advances showing that widely used chemicals cause serious health problems at levels previous assumed to be safe. The most vulnerable population, our children, face the highest risks." We should all pay attention to it. This paper drew the ire of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology chairman, Lamar Smith (R-TX), who called for Dr. Birnbaum to be investigated for writing this statement. Because how dare she advocate for public policy—which you're not supposed to do as a government scientist because she was calling for greater protection of public health. So she's in the hot seat.

We always have to quote Rachel Carson:

"If, having endured much, we have at least asserted our right to know, and if by knowing, we have concluded that we are being asked to take senseless and frightening risks, then we should no longer accept the counsel of those who tell us that we must fill our world with poisonous chemicals; we should look about and see what other course is open to us."

Whitewash is a book that Monsanto really doesn't want you to read. The agrichemical industry has gone after it quite heavily. The industry tells us not to worry. One of the reviews from Biology Fortified, a Monsanto partner, called the book hogwash. They say you shouldn't worry about pesticides in food. You shouldn't worry about it in your water. You shouldn't worry about pesticides in your body. There's no evidence that it's tied to cancer. They tell us not to worry. They're counting their profits and we're all getting cancer. So, I say, it's not a feel good story, but a story that has to be told. Thanks for letting me tell it.

Carey Gillam is a veteran journalist, researcher and writer with more than 25 years experience in the news industry covering corporate America. Since 1998, Gillam's work has focused on digging into the big business of food and agriculture. As a former senior correspondent for Reuters' international news service, and current research director of the consumer group U.S. Right to Know, Ms. Gillam specializes in finding the story behind the spin; uncovering both the risks and rewards of the evolving new age of agriculture. Ms. Gillam's areas of expertise include biotech crop technology, agrichemicals and pesticide product development, and the environmental impacts of American food production. She has been recognized as one of the top journalists in the country covering these issues. Ms. Gillam can be reached at carey@careygillam.com.