Plurality of opinion, scientific discourse and pseudoscience: an in depth analysis of the Séralini et al. study claiming that Roundup™ Ready corn or the herbicide Roundup™ cause cancer in rats.

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The publication of G.E. Séralini in the journal Food and Chemical Toxicology is full of grave errors, which have been enumerated and commented on in an appropriate way by these authors. Unfortunately, despite its serious flaws, the study had serious impact on the regulatory politics on GM crops of a number of governments, since Séralini et al. claim that GM maize clearly causes tumors in rat experiments. Besides many other flaws described in the paper, the most serious one is the use of Sprague-Dawley rats, which are highly prone to spontaneous tumors, in two-year, long-term experiments, in contrast to the 90 day experiments for which they are recommended. The authors convincingly expose these failures and discuss their potential impact, while retaining a position that is entirely consistent with the coexistence of diverging interpretations of data, as long as these conform to minimum standards of professional scientific and ethical conduct.

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PMID: 9164252

Disclosures
None declared

Sections
Pharmacology & Drug Discovery » Toxicology
Plant Biology » Plant Genetics & Gene Expression, Agriculture & Biotechnology

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