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**From:** Rick Goodman  
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Dear All,

I saw the bad news this afternoon. I was interviewed in January by someone from the Oprah Winfrey publishing group. Was I ever fooled. They seemed sincere and honest about seeking a balanced opinion. I knew there would be a risk, but I thought I could counter some of the likely garbage.

I should have recorded the call. I am not sure if I spoke with Rachel Mount who is credited with the story, but think maybe it was her free-lance writer, Shawna Jones. I thought the interview went well, but then someone from Monsanto emailed the story to me this afternoon. One half of the paragraph is nearly right, but the last two sentences are quite wrong. Also the whole story is so biased and pro-GM labeling/anti-GM. So I apologize to all of you and your companies for thinking I could get a number of good points out of this one. You might notice that they do NOT use quotation marks....they only imply that I said some of that stuff.

Rachel Mount's story.

You don't have to look hard to find genetically modified food on supermarket shelves: More than 85 percent of the corn and soy grown in the United States comes from seeds whose DNA has been rejiggered (to increase yields), and those two crops play starring roles in countless processed foods, from soda to salad dressing to bread. Advocates say genetically modified (GM) foods allow farmers to produce more with fewer chemicals—which means a cleaner environment and cheaper groceries for us all. But the question remains: What impact do GM foods have on our health?

The answer is, no one really knows. GM foods have been on the market only since 1994, and research on their long-term effects on humans is scarce. To date most of the studies have been done on animals; worryingly, though, some of those studies link GM foods to altered metabolism, inflammation, kidney and liver malfunction, and reduced fertility. In one experiment, multiple generations of hamsters were fed a diet of GM soy; by the third generation, they were losing the ability to produce offspring, producing about half as many pups as the non-GM soy group.

In addition, allergy sufferers worry that, as genes are transferred between plants, allergenic proteins (from, say, peanuts or wheat) will pop up in unexpected places (like soy or sugar). Richard Goodman, PhD, a professor of food science and technology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and a former scientist for Monsanto, says that seed companies run sophisticated tests to prevent that kind of mistake from happening. But inserting new genes into a seed's delicately constructed genome is always a gamble because scientists can't predict all the consequences. There is, for example, the possibility of creating brand-new allergens.

Despite the potential health implications, more GM foods appear each year. In 2011 the USDA approved the planting of genetically enhanced sugar beets (sucrose) and alfalfa (hay for livestock). The FDA is expected to okay a fast-growing salmon in the near future. And possibly on the horizon: pigs designed to produce omega-3s.

Yet because GM foods are not required to be labeled as such, it's impossible for consumers to tell them apart from regular foods. Gary Hirshberg, chairman and cofounder of Stonyfield, the organic yogurt company, thinks that's not right. Last October he partnered with Just Label It, a national coalition of nearly

450 organizations that's currently petitioning the FDA to give consumers a choice. More than 600,000 people have already signed. (To add your name, go to [justlabelit.org](http://justlabelit.org).)

"The status quo is innocent until proven guilty," says Ashley Koff, a registered dietitian who studies GM foods, "as it was for trans fats, DDT, and countless other harmful chemicals. A labeling requirement would motivate seed companies to prove to consumers that their products are safe, to protect their sales." Nearly 50 other countries—including China, Brazil, and most European nations—have mandated that genetically modified organisms (GMOs) be marked, and in an MSNBC online poll, 96 percent of more than 45,000 respondents said that they should be labeled. At press time, 18 states had introduced legislation to promote GMO labeling.

Hirshberg, for one, remains impatient. "I'm 57," he says. "I don't want to wait another 30 years to see what the science says. At this point, I want to decide for myself."

Read more: <http://www.oprah.com/health/Genetically-Modified-Foods-Affect-Health-and-Body#ixzz1telPXFds>

I tried to add my comment....which was to correct and also deny the inappropriate statements. But somehow I could not get the blog to accept my comments, even when I registered on the website. So....an interesting illusion of "open, honest press".

Also, Rachel Mount has now moved to Reader's Digest....but in searching on line she is pretty biased. Hopefully she won't start stories like that one in Reader's Digest too.

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On the good side, I think the interview I reluctantly did at the GMSAFOOD conference in Vienna in March went well. But that meeting was also filled with some strange ideas. On the good side, I just got to make a statement. There were no questions as the German speaking reporters did not want to ask questions of someone using English.

You can play my interview, as well as the other people. Also there is a long (48 minute) video presentation that I did.

The press conference tape is only 3 minutes, not quite as boring.

<http://www.gmsafoodproject.eu/Default.aspx?section=376>

You would need to look at the press information and then at the interviews.

Now to more serious work

Rick

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