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From:	MURPHEY, SAMUEL	Redacted	
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Sent:	4/12/2017 4:18:03 PM		
To:	RANDS, TODD	Redacted	
Subject:	Reuters inquiry		
From:		Redacted	
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New study on Monsanto weed killer to feed into crucial EU vote

By Kate Kelland, Health and Science Correspondent

LONDON, **April xx** (Reuters) - Full results a new animal study into possible health risks of the weed killer glyphosate will be published in time to inform a key EU relicensing vote due by the end of 2017, according to the researcher leading the trial.

Giving details and very preliminary findings of the keenly-anticipated study, Italian scientist Fiorella Belpoggi said experimental rats exposed to the herbicide at levels equivalent to those allowed in humans showed no initial adverse reaction.

"Exposed animals had no evident differences from non-exposed animals. But this tells us very little at the moment, because the examinations of key parameters that could be affected by exposure are still being done (and) we are waiting for those results," she told Reuters in a telephone interview.

Those parameters include any genetic changes, as well as potential toxic effects on measures related to fertility, such as sperm, embryo development and offspring growth, she said.

A row over possible effects of glyphosate - an ingredient in Monsanto's <MON.N> big-selling herbicide Roundup - has prompted investigations by congressional committees in the United States and forced a delay in Europe to a decision on whether it should be banned or re-licensed for sale. [nL8N18Y1TK]

The argument centres on whether glyphosate is carcinogenic: Scientists at the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), who say it probably does cause

cancer, are at odds with scientists at the European Food Safety Authority, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and multiple other safety and regulatory agencies around the world, who say it likely doesn't.

Amid the dispute, congressional committees in the United States have raised questions about the work and funding of IARC, which is based in Lyon, France, and the Ramazzini Institute in Italy, where Belpoggi is leading this latest glyphosate study. [nL8N1HJ4NB] [nL5N1CC5D9] [nL8N1CQ76Y]

A spokesman for Monsanto said:

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Belpoggi, who is director of Ramazzini Institute's Cesare Maltoni Cancer Research Centre in Bologna, said her team decided to conduct this trial to produce fresh, independent results in an effort to settle differences over glyphosate's health effect.

But she stressed that due to a shortage of time, the study is not able to analyse its potential carcinogenicity, which would take several years research properly, given the time any tumours might take to develop and grow.

"We are focused on reproductive and developmental issues - in other words, whether glyphosate ... effects the development of embryos, foetuses and pups," she said.

Chemicals that can affect hormones and reproduction are known as endocrine disruptors and, like carcinogens, are subject to strict regulations in the European Union.

This study involves scientists working five laboratories - Belpoggi's and one other in Italy, and three others outside Italy. "This was to ensure we would have the best experts analyse each end point," Belpoggi said. The study is funded by the Ramazzini Institute, a research cooperative of around 28,000 members who are its co-owners and raise funds for its work.

Using laboratory rodents known as Sprague Dawley rats, the researchers exposed them to low levels of glyphosate and its formulation Roundup in their diet, equivalent to U.S. Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI) levels permitted in humans.

The U.S. ADI for glyphosate at 1.75 milligrams per kilogram of body weight per day while the European Union ADI for consumers is 0.5 milligrams per kilogram of body weight.

Full results should be available by June, Belpoggi said, and will be submitted in a paper for peer review and publication in a scientific journal. A draft copy of the results will be sent at the same time to the European Commission.

The Commission has said it expects to restart talks with EU member states by August on re-approving the use of glyphosate in herbicides. A decision is due before the end of 2017.

"We would like to have the results in time to help regulators have a good judgment about this chemical," Belpoggi said. "If it is negative (no effect), then I will be happy - because I am also exposed. But if there is some damage, then we would like everyone to know."

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