

The story of Arpad Pusztai Part III of III

By mark phillips

In part I of the Arpad Pusztai Story we were introduced to the scientist and his work that showed significant harm on the health of rats eating his GE potatoes. We found that he was terminated after making cautionary statements about the GE industry. In part II we were introduced to some of the techniques that were used by the Rowett Institute and the Royal Society to discredit Dr. Pusztai and his research.

These efforts continued with individual scientists such as Dr. Nina Fedoroff. She tried to have us believe that Dr. Pusztai's research suffered because he was not a plant biologist, even though Dr. Pusztai has worked and published in the area of plant physiology for 20 years. She has also made incorrect and irrelevant statements, not in an effort to fairly discuss Dr. Pusztai's research, but to use any means available to discredit him.

Her incorrect and misleading comments are picked up by others, including local GE Task Force members, and further disseminated to a largely ill-informed public.

Ill informed because media such as the Tribune consistently refuse to publish any information that indicates problems with GE technology. I know, because we have tried to get them to do so.

So some folks, such as myself, have quite relying on experts and the media, local or otherwise, and have researched these topics ourselves.

For my part, I contacted Dr. Pusztai and asked him to respond to some of the charges that have been leveled against his research. He was kind enough to do so and generous with his time to answer questions that, I'm sure, he has had to answer many times before.

I was quite impressed with how solid and convincing his rebuttals were. I was also shocked to find how second rate the criticisms of his work have been. It became clear to me that the critiques of his work were not honest differences of opinion, but hit jobs.

Given the comments that had been made regarding how flawed his research was, it seemed only fair and reasonable to me that he be allowed to respond to these charges. So I asked, and Dr. Pusztai agreed, to respond to 3 critiques of his work, to be submitted by the GE Task force.

Given the vast difference in how Dr. Pusztai portrays his research and that provided by those who are trying to discredit him, it would seem as though any investigative body interested in the truth would be eager to accept Dr. Pusztai's offer.

But our GE task force not only did not take up Dr. Pusztai's offer, they didn't even respond.

Meanwhile, the GE lobbyists are busy passing pre-emption laws on the state level that will overrule local ordinances such as the one the people of Mendocino Co. passed. They are also busy passing pre-emption laws on the national level that will overrule state ordinances. And they have also been successful getting the WTO to overrule laws passed by the citizens of entire nations.

In short, the system is working perfectly for the corporate interests it has been designed to serve.