

**THE UNSETTLING FACTS ABOUT FDA POLICY ON GMOs –  
*And the Pressing Need for Policymakers to Recognize Them***

Steven M. Druker, J.D.  
Alliance for Bio-Integrity  
February 2016

Although most people have been led to believe that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has developed a science-based policy on genetically engineered (GE) foods and is subjecting each of them to rigorous scientific review, the truth is otherwise. In reality, FDA officials disregarded the input of the agency's own scientists, covered up their warnings about the risks, misrepresented the facts, and, despite pretensions to the contrary, have failed to conduct any genuine scientific reviews at all (a fact even acknowledged by the FDA's Biotechnology Strategic Manager). Consequently, the agency has violated federal food safety law by allowing these novel products to reach America's dinner tables without requiring that they first be demonstrated safe through standard scientific tests. Absent these delinquencies, GE foods could never have come to market – and the intense debate about whether, or how, they should be labeled would not even exist.

All these points are solidly documented in my new book, *Altered Genes, Twisted Truth*, which demonstrates that genetically engineered foods entail abnormal risks and that their commercialization has been dependent on systematic misrepresentation – not only by the FDA, but also by numerous scientists and scientific institutions. In her foreword, the renowned scientist Jane Goodall hails it as “without doubt one of the most important books of the last 50 years,” and it has earned high praise from many other scientists as well. For instance, David Schubert, a Professor and laboratory director at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies, has extolled the book as “incisive, insightful, and truly outstanding” and has stated: “Through its masterful marshalling of facts, it dispels the cloud of disinformation that has misled people into believing that GE foods have been adequately tested and don't entail abnormal risk.” Similarly, John Ikerd, Emeritus Professor of Agricultural and Applied Economics at the University of Missouri has called it “a great book” and declared: “The evidence is comprehensive and irrefutable; the reasoning is clear and compelling. No one has documented other cases of irresponsible behavior by government regulators and the scientific establishment nearly as well as Druker documents this one. His book should be widely read and thoroughly heeded.”

The assertions in the first paragraph above are also backed up by the evidence in the accompanying memorandum, “Why the FDA's Policy on Genetically Engineered Foods is Unscientific, Irresponsible, and Illegal.” This memo reveals that from 1992 to the present the agency's policy has survived through reliance on bogus claims – as when, on October 21, 2015, the official who testified at a hearing of the Senate Agriculture Committee falsely declared (a) that the FDA is still “not aware” of any information showing that GE foods are riskier than conventional ones and (b) that it subjects them to “rigorous” scientific review. The document further points out that the protracted efforts on Capitol Hill to deny consumers the straightforward labeling of GE foods that they overwhelmingly desire could not have gained traction if the members of Congress had been fairly informed of the key facts – and would fail if those facts are brought to light.