President Obama's Cancer Report:
Synthetic Chemicals Bad —
Natural Chemicals Ignored

A rehash of myths and misapprehensions
about the causes of cancer

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Not surprised, you say ?

What else would a person expect from a chemical group ?

Well, there’s a real hooker here.

The AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY is also CRITICAL of the report, which collects seemingly every CANCER–SCARE HYPOTHESIS that’s been floated over the past 30 to 40 years, and SUGGESTS THAT WE REALLY OUGHT TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT THEM.
American Cancer Society is critical of President Obama’s Cancer Panel 2008–2009 Report

And all this is done while totally ignoring all the chemicals we consume in «natural» foods.

As Elizabeth Whelan and Henry Miller write —

<< The 240-page document produced by the «panel» — which consists entirely of two scientists lacking expertise in cancer epidemiology — is a REHASH OF MYTHS AND MISAPPREHENSIONS ABOUT THE CAUSES OF CANCER. The report concluded that «grievous harm» results from exposure to chemicals and that there is a «growing body of evidence» linking environmental exposure (to chemicals) to cancer. >> [?!?!]

RECENT FACTS ABOUT CANCER

First, let’s look at some recent data on cancer —

The American Cancer Society reports that U.S. cancer death rates are FALLING, with BIG DECREASES in major killers such as colon and lung cancer.

Death rates for all cancer types FELL by 2 per cent a year from 2001 to 2006 among men, and 1.5 per cent per year from 2002 to 2006 in women.

The DROPS IN MORTALITY RATES have meant 767,000 people who would have died prematurely from cancer over the past 20 years DID NOT.
American Cancer Society reports cancer death rates are FALLING.

Death rates for all cancer types FELL.

DROPS IN MORTALITY rates have affected 767,000 Americans in the last 20 years.

Hardly data that would indicate that deaths from chemicals are on an upward trend.

Now let's look at some specifics from the report itself.

PESTICIDES

From President Obama’s Cancer Panel 2008–2009 Report, page iii —

<< Pesticides (insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides) approved for use by the EPA [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency] contain nearly 900 active ingredients, many of which are toxic. >> [?!?!]

The report adds —

<< Only a few hundred of the more than 80,000 chemicals in the United States have been tested for safety. Many known or suspected carcinogens are completely unregulated. >> [?!?!]
Many foods contain **natural** pesticides produced by plants for self-protection

Notice, there is no mention of the potential carcinogens in natural foods; all the bad ones are from synthetics.

Here’s what isn’t mentioned.

**Bruce Ames and his colleagues have shown that many of our foods contain pesticides created naturally by plants for self-protection.**

We ingest at least ten thousand times more, by weight, of natural pesticides than of synthetic pesticide residues.

These natural toxic chemicals vary enormously in chemical structure, appear to be present in all plants, and serve to protect plants against fungi, insects, and animal predators.

When we eat cabbage, we ingest forty-nine different natural pesticides and metabolites.

**Oregano** has one hundred thousand times as much natural pesticide present as there is in synthetic pesticide residue.

Before you drink another cup of coffee, there are some facts you should know.

A cup of coffee contains more than two thousand chemicals.

Only twenty-seven (coffee chemicals) have been tested for carcinogenicity, and nineteen of these tested positive at least once.
There is probably NO food that doesn’t contain potentially harmful « natural » chemicals.

There are more RODENT CARCINOGENS, by weight, in a single CUP OF COFFEE than there are potentially carcinogenic synthetic pesticide residues in the average U.S. diet in a year, and this doesn’t count the 1,970 OR SO chemicals yet to be tested.

There are more than ONE THOUSAND CHEMICALS IN STRAWBERRIES.

Chemists have identified SOME SIX THOUSAND COMPOUNDS IN SOFT DRINKS.

WINE contains MORE THAN TWO THOUSAND COMPOUNDS that are derived from the GRAPES themselves, and from changes the GRAPES undergo during fermentation.

CHOCOLATE CONTAINS OVER EIGHT HUNDRED CHEMICALS.

A VERY LARGE BODY OF KNOWLEDGE about food, and food chemicals, has almost been forgotten or is ignored.

A monograph by Irvin Liener contains some THREE THOUSAND literature references on THOUSANDS of chemicals isolated from COMMON VEGETABLES that have been shown to have the potential to cause NEGATIVE EFFECTS on human and animal health.

The list goes on and on, but by now you hopefully get the point.

There is probably NO food that doesn’t contain potentially harmful « natural » chemicals.
Synthetic is bad.
Let's ignore natural.
?!?!

But this information is BY-PASSED in President Obama’s Cancer Panel 2008–2009 Report.

After all, synthetic is bad; let’s ignore natural.

ENDOCRINE DISRUPTERS

From President Obama’s Cancer Panel 2008–2009 Report, page iii —

<< The entire U.S. population is exposed, on a daily basis, to numerous agricultural chemicals, some of which also are used in residential and commercial landscaping ... Many of these chemicals have known or suspected carcinogenic or endocrine-disrupting properties. >>  [?!?!]

Once again, the report neglects to mention « natural » chemicals.

More than THREE HUNDRED plants in SIXTEEN common families contain ESTROGENS that may bond with the receptors of humans or wildlife.

NATURALLY-OCcurring ESTROGENS abound in many cereals, legumes, fruits and tubers. ( J. G. Edwards, 21st Century, 52, Fall 1996 )
If you want to scare someone, you could probably develop more frightening endocrine disruption scenarios based on healthy human diets containing cereals, fruits, and vegetables.

In effect, ENDOCRINE DISRUPTERS are all around us, and we eat some of them every day in natural foods.

PERCHLORATES

From President Obama’s Cancer Panel 2008–2009 Report, page 77 —

<< Perchlorate is a rocket fuel component and by-product of rocket and missile testing. It has spread from numerous manufacturing sites into drinking water systems; it also can accumulate in leafy food crops and fruit irrigated by perchlorate-contaminated water. >>

After mentioning that PERCHLORATE accumulates in the thyroid gland, and can block iodide transfer into the thyroid resulting in iodine deficiency, and that it can be found in all types of powdered baby formula, the report does state that NO research to date has indicated that perchlorate causes human cancer.

Here’s what the report fails to mention about PERCHLORATE.
NO research indicates that perchlorate causes cancer.

Perchlorate has been shown to also be a product of Mother Nature.

Perchlorate is in precipitation, the oceans, as well as Greenland, Hawaii, and Alaska.

While assessing the blame for PERCHLORATE on big, bad industry, President Obama’s Cancer Panel 2008–2009 Report FAILS TO MENTION that Mother Nature is also responsible for PERCHLORATE since it has been found in precipitation, the oceans, and at locations as diverse as Greenland, Hawaii, and Alaska.

There is a NATURAL FLUX of atmospheric PERCHLORATE to the earth, and a NATURAL PERCHLORATE LEVEL.

So PERCHLORATE is both a synthetic and natural chemical.

As a synthetic, PERCHLORATE is a subject of concern for many folks.

Now that PERCHLORATE has been shown to also be a product of Mother Nature, hopefully folks who got upset with it as a synthetic will be mollified, even though other natural food products affect the thyroid gland much more than PERCHLORATE.

Regardless, NONE of this information can be found in the President Obama’s Cancer Panel 2008–2009 Report.
President Obama’s Cancer Panel 2008–2009 Report places blame on an unstructured regulatory body, weak laws, even weaker enforcement and a mindset amongst regulators that chemicals are safe unless proven harmful.

The implication is that pollution is the major cause of cancer.

What about the major known causes of cancer — tobacco, obesity, alcohol, infections, sunlight?

What about all those chemicals in natural foods?

Let’s ignore all this.

Senator Frank R. Lautenberg (D–N.J.) put out a press release titled « President’s Cancer Panel Findings Affirm Lautenberg’s Call for Chemical Safety Reform ».

Look for hearings to follow soon.

The truth is that few chemicals are as toxic as the report says, which will only fuel the Obama’s administration’s activists’ ill-advised, unscientific vendetta toward chemicals.

Synthetic chemicals are good WHIPPING-BOYS to use when you want to excite the public and media, but it’s best not to pick on everyday foods mankind has been eating for long periods of time, even though they are loaded with chemicals.

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Dr. Elizabeth M. Whelan is President of the American Council on Science and Health (ACSH) and a member of its Board of Trustees. She founded ACSH in 1978.

Whelan is a graduate of Connecticut College. She has a Masters in Public Health from the Yale School of Medicine, a Master of Science from the Harvard School of Public Health, and a Doctor of Science from the Harvard School of Public Health.

Whelan is the author or co-author of twenty-three books on nutrition, smoking, and environmental issues. She has authored or co-authored over 300 articles for popular and professional publications such as Across the Board, Health Confidential, Journal of the American Medical Association, and newspapers such as the Wall Street Journal and New York Post.

Whelan has many professional affiliations and honorary positions in associations such as Men and Women in Science, the American Institute of Nutrition, and the American Medical Writers Association. Whelan has received many awards, including ones from the American Public Health Association and the American Institute of Chemists.

The American Council on Science and Health (ACSH) is a non-profit organization founded in 1978 by Dr. Whelan that produces peer-reviewed reports on issues related to food, nutrition, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, lifestyle, the environment and health. Its core membership is a board of 350 physicians, scientists and policy advisors who review the Council's reports and participate in ACSH seminars, press conferences, media communications and other educational activities.

ACSH frequently defends science against claims that industry products create risks of injury, ill-health or death. ACSH criticizes some industries for making unscientific and overstated health claims, promoting dangerous natural supplements, or otherwise failing to tell the truth about scientific issues. Scientific and professional journals routinely publish ACSH’s work, including Medscape, CRC Critical Reviews in Clinical Laboratory Sciences, Ecotoxicology and Environmental Safety, Journal of Health Communications, Clinical Therapeutics, and Technology. ACSH focuses its studies in several areas.

ACSH frequently warns against regulating chemicals without scientific proof of harms. A 2009 editorial by board member Henry Miller in Investor’s Business Daily criticized the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), saying, "An EPA hit list of important and demonstrably safe chemicals is about to be put through the regulatory wringer, and many are likely to be banned or severely restricted. These include bisphenol-A, phthalates, life-saving flame retardants, the herbicide atrazine, and fluorinated chemicals used to make Teflon."

While ACSH does not currently disclose their funding, Whelan described ACSH's contributors to John Tierney of the New York Times in 2007 — "ACSH has a diverse funding base — we receive donations from private foundations and individuals and unrestricted (usually very small) grants from corporations. The fastest-growing segment of our funding base is individual consumers who are sick and tired of the almost daily baseless scares — and they write us checks to help support our work."
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Huje is a term used to describe Enviro Maniac Activists that routinely concoct FEAR MONGERING, FRAUDULENT LIES, MISCONCEPTIONS, COERCION, THREATS, DECEPTIONS, TERROR, and PARANOID CONSPIRACIES that are DESIGNED to SCAM and DECEIVE the public into believing there is some NON-EXISTENT danger with conventional pest control products. Huje also SCAM and DECEIVE Government Officials into the NEEDLESS, SENSELESS, and MALIGNOUS PROHIBITION of conventional pest control products that are FEDERALLY LEGAL, SCIENTIFICALLY SAFE, TOTALLY IRREPLACEABLE, and ABSOLUTELY INDISPENSABLE.

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