



#### Elizabeth M. Whelan and American Council on Science and Health

### Pest Control Products and the Sham of Allegations of Lower IQ in Children

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American Council on Science and Health

Selected and adapted excerpts



[ An Intelligence Quotient, or IQ, is a score derived from one of several different standardized tests designed to assess intelligence. IQ scores have been shown to be associated with such factors as morbidity and mortality, smoking, alcohol or drug use, parental social status, and, to a substantial degree, parental IQ. ]

#### The WISDOM of REAL Experts

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### Anti-pesticide camps should be the ones accused of lower IQs

Just in time for the 41<sup>st</sup> annual Earth Day last, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011, the news media went wild reporting on a trio of highly flawed studies published in the journal Environmental Health Perspectives, a periodical now NOTORIOUS FOR REPORTING ON JUNK SCIENCE RESEARCH.

In the main study, Brenda Eskenazi and her colleagues from the University of California–Berkeley conducted a birth–cohort study of 400 children, most of whom came from Latino farm worker families in agricultural communities in California.

Researchers followed the children's health — beginning with the mothers during pregnancy, whose urine they analyzed for dialkyl phosphate ( DAP ), a metabolite of ORGANO-PHOSPHATE ( OP ) pesticides.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION FROM AN INDEPENDENT PERSPECTIVE -

Organo-phosphates represent a class of pest control products that includes diazinon (Basudin) and chlorpyrifos (Dursban).

Enviro-Lunatics have CONCOCTED IMAGINARY DANGERS concerning organophosphates, such as the RIDICULOUS FAIRY TALE that they were originally developed in Germany during World War II as a by-product of nerve gas development.

When used frequently by Professional Lawn Care applicators, organo-phosphates may interfere with proper functioning of blood cholinesterase, an enzyme which facilitates transmission of nerve impulses — under these circumstances, applicator exposure is monitored with near-monthly blood tests — health issues even with professional applicators have been EXTREMELY RARE



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Many ALLEGED health issues that are associated with organo-phosphates are, in fact, caused by products like Parathion, which itself is HIGHLY-TOXIC, but has NEVER been used in the Professional Lawn Care Industry.

Parathion is the one product that Enviro-Lunatics have used to tarnish ALL pest control products, although they never refer to it by name.

Originally, these same lunatics RECOMMENDED Parathion as a SAFER alternative to DDT, without any reservation regarding the consequences of its use.

Unfortunately, Parathion is the only pesticide for which government agencies like the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have received reports of death resulting from workers re-entering treated fields or wearing contaminated clothing despite laundering.

The lunatics who CONSPIRED to PROHIBIT DDT were HAPPY TO RELEGATE OTHERS TO DIE FOR THEIR CAUSE, as demonstrated by the following DE-PRAVED and SHOCKING statement —

« It doesn't make a lot of difference because the organophosphate [ alternative Parathion ] acts locally and only kill [ sic ] farm workers, and most of them are Mexicans and Negroes. »

IQ tests were performed by Eskenazi and her colleagues when the children reached the age of seven.

It was found that children in the highest quintile of maternal pesticide metabolite concentration had an AVERAGE DEFICIT OF SEVEN POINTS ON IQ TESTS compared to children in the lowest quintile.

The authors did note, however, that the children's urinary metabolite concentration was NOT consistently associated with cognitive [ IQ ] scores.

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#### It's a sham!

The study findings went viral almost immediately, providing further ammunition for environmental activists' campaigns against pesticide use — chemicals they claim lead to a slew of health maladies, now including a SUPPOSEDLY LOWER IQ.

But Dr. Gilbert Ross, Executive Director of American Council on Science and Health, analyzed the study and notes that the authors didn't control for some very basic variables known to influence IQ, such as smoking, alcohol or drug use nor any paternal traits.

According to Dr. Gilbert Ross —

<< The study is FLAWED methodologically, and assumptions are made based on simple assertions with NO SCIENTIFIC SUPPORT.</p>

The authors acknowledge that the metabolites they measured DID NOT NECESSARILY COME FROM THE ORGANO-PHOSPHATE CHEMICALS.



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They could have also come from ingestion of trace amounts of the metabolites themselves that had already formed elsewhere

In addition, missing data is imputed — some ARBITRARY value is just stuck in where none existed.

It's a SHAM! >>

Dr. Elizabeth Whelan, President of American Council on Science and Health, further points out that the study didn't even postulate a potential mechanism of action of how pesticide exposure in utero might affect cognition later on.

According to Dr. Elizabeth Whelan —

<< Actually, there is NO PLAUSIBLE BIOLOGICAL HYPOTHESIS that could explain this association, but we do know that this journal [Environmental Health Perspectives] has an ENVIRONMENTAL AGENDA that they stick to very closely. >>

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According to Dr. Gilbert Ross of American Council on Science and Health —

<< An overwhelming body of scientific evidence has clearly shown that ORGANO-PHOSPHATE pesticides have NO ADVERSE HEALTH EFFECTS, a finding also replicated by the Environmental Protection Agency.</p>

Nevertheless, activists who persist in campaigning against pesticides FAIL TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE MANY BENEFITS they provide, such as enhancing crop yields and the quality of the produce.

Without these valuable chemicals, food would be significantly less healthful due to insect and other pest infestations that introduce disease microbes.

But apparently, these CHEMOPHOBES are HAPPY TO RELEGATE OTHERS TO STARVATION and POTENTIALLY FATAL INSECT DISEASES like MALARIA in order TO SERVE THEIR OWN ANTI-CHEMICAL, ANTI-TECHNOLOGICAL POLITICAL AGENDAS. >>



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 Master's Degree in Public Health from the Yale School of Medicine, a Master of Science from the Harvard School of Public Health.

Dr. Gilbert L. Ross is the Executive Director and Medical Director of the American Council on Science and Health (ACSH), a consumer education–public health organization. He received his undergraduate degree in Chemistry from Cornell University's School of Arts and Sciences in 1968, and received his M.D. from the N.Y.U. School of Medicine in 1972.

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