



**For Immediate Release 20 September, 2012**

Today the report of the first peer reviewed trial of GM corn and Round-up safety looking at the health of lab rats for their lifetime was published in France. The study found that levels of GM corn and Round-Up, previously regarded as safe, caused tumours and multiple organ damage in laboratory rats.

Dr Michael Antoniou, molecular biologist at Kings College, London, said he was shocked by the extreme negative health impact and said the study showed an extraordinary number of tumours developing earlier and more aggressively - particularly in female animals. Researchers found that rats fed on a diet containing NK603 Roundup tolerant GM corn, or given water containing Roundup at levels permitted in drinking water and GM crops in the US, died earlier than rats fed on a standard diet. They suffered mammary tumours and severe liver and kidney damage.

Auchan and Carrefour, the 2 major French supermarkets (the equivalent of Coles and Woolworths here), funded part of the research because they are concerned about the safety of GM food.

MADGE founder Fran Murrell said “ We are worried about the health of Australians in the light of this new study. The GM corn variety NK603 was allowed into our food in 2002, based on an assessment by our regulators, FSANZ. It will be in our food now, mostly unlabelled. This has to stop.

**“We are calling on FSANZ to freeze all GM approvals while all past approvals are re-assessed, based on long-term feeding studies by independent scientists.**

“We will be holding a GM free cooking demonstration in Canberra next month. We don’t want our families to be guinea pigs in a giant GM experiment with our health.

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Report :

“Long term toxicity of a Roundup herbicide and a Roundup-tolerant genetically modified corn”. Study conducted by a team of scientists led by molecular biologist and endocrinologist Professor Gilles-Eric Seralini, co-director of the Risk Quality and Sustainable Environment Unit at the University of Caen, France.

**Background :** <http://safefoodfoundation.org/wordpress/>

*MADGE is a network of individuals interested in how our food is grown and the effects it has on our health. We are concerned about the lack of adequate labelling and testing of GM foods. We advocate on behalf of consumers for the right to know what is in our food. We promote information on natural foods and healthy farming practices. [www.madge.org.au](http://www.madge.org.au)*