

# EPA's Collusion with Monsanto to Suppress Evidence of Glyphosate/Roundup's Cancer Risks Must Be Investigated

The Environmental Protection Agency is currently conducting its registration review of glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup, Monsanto's top-selling herbicide. In 2015, in the midst of this review, the World Health Organization determined that glyphosate is a probable human carcinogen. In March 2017, a lawsuit on behalf of Roundup-exposed cancer victims brought to light internal EPA documents that reveal that some EPA officials may have colluded with Monsanto to suppress evidence of Roundup's carcinogenicity.

## These documents show that:

- Monsanto has been confident all along that EPA would continue to support glyphosate, whatever happened and no matter who held otherwise.
- Monsanto enjoyed considerable influence within the EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP).
- Monsanto worked closely with Jess Rowlands, chair of the EPA's Cancer Assessment Review Committee, and that Rowland's primary goal was to serve the interests of Monsanto.

## The documents include:

- **A 2013 letter from Marion Copley**, a 30-year EPA toxicologist, to Jess Rowlands, chair of the EPA's Cancer Assessment Review Committee, dated March 4, 2013, in which she lays out the mechanisms by which glyphosate could cause cancer and says:

*For once in your life, listen to me and don't play your political conniving games with the science to favor the registrants. ... You and Anna Lowit [toxicologist in Office of Pesticide Program's Health Effects Division who is now the Senior Science Advisor, among the most important positions on the organization chart of OPP] intimidated staff on CARC and changed HIARC [Hazard Identification Assessment Review Committee] and HASPOC [Hazard and Science Policy Committee] final reports to favor industry. ... Your Nebraska colleague took industry funding, he clearly has a conflict of interest. Just promise me to ever let Anna on the CARC committee, her decisions don't make rational sense. If anyone at OPP is taking bribes it is her.*

- **2015 emails from Dan Jenkins**, a Monsanto executive, describing Rowland's promised to beat back an effort by the Department of Health and Human Services to conduct its own review of glyphosate. Jenkins said Rowlands told him, "If I can kill this, I should get a medal." The review never took place. Jenkins noted to a colleague that Rowland was planning to retire and said he "could be useful as we move forward with ongoing glyphosate defense.

## Key documents are available here:

<https://usrtk.org/pesticides/mdl-monsanto-glyphosate-cancer-case-key-documents-analysis/>