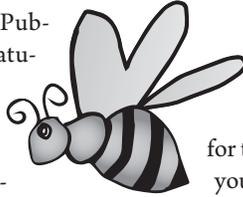




Follow the Money

Has modern medicine reduced human suffering? Improved human health? Not entirely, argues David Richard, author, editor, health enthusiast and former owner and publisher of Vital Health Publishing: “Modern medicine has failed us by providing unnatural solutions to natural problems. We are ill because we live in a toxic world, filled with the unnatural stresses of industrialization and technology along with their chemical and energetic fallout. Lost is the spiritual basis and altruistic motivation of society. Modern medicine follows a worldview that values technological innovation over healing tradition, arrogantly assuming that anything made by nature can be better made by man.” In this guest essay, Richard explains the role the U.S. patent law has played in creating a “degenerative” healthcare system, and why he holds out hope that we will someday transition to “regenerative” healthcare. orgcns.org/2071qsz



Trouble in St. Louis?

OCA, Beyond Pesticides sue Monsanto.

This week, we teamed up with Beyond Pesticides to sue St. Louis based Monsanto in Washington, DC for false and misleading labeling of the company’s flagship product, Roundup herbicide. Here’s why. The label on Monsanto’s Roundup, sold in stores like Home Depot and Walmart and online by Amazon, clearly states that the herbicide targets an enzyme “found in plants but not in people or pets.” Not true. Studies show that the enzyme targeted by glyphosate, the key active ingredient in Roundup, is found in people and pets. So when humans and pets ingest, absorb or inhale glyphosate, it negatively affects gut bacteria, which can ultimately lead to health problems. orgcns.org/20zfgYH
Monsanto Tribunal press conference next week.

On April 18, the five Monsanto Tribunal judges will announce their opinions, after having spent the past six months reviewing written testimony, and the oral testimony they heard during the two-day citizens’ tribunal held in October. Will the judges decide that Monsanto has violated the right to food, health, a healthy environment and scientific freedom? Will they conclude that these violations represent a new crime—ecocide? OCA will report on the judges’ opinions live from The Hague, Netherlands. Be sure to follow us on Facebook and twitter for live updates and interviews. You can also livestream the press conference, which will start at 6 am PDT, 9 am EDT (3 pm in the Netherlands). orgcns.org/209yroY

Call for Congressional investigation heats up.

Last week we reported on how a visit to a town hall meeting led to a letter by Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ), ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, to Rep. Greg Walden (R-OR), chair of the same committee, asking for an investigation into possible collusion between Monsanto and the EPA. This week we urged all Oregonians to attend Walden’s town hall meetings, being held this week in six Oregon cities, to push him on Pallone’s request. Pallone gave Walden until April 14 to respond “yes” or “no” to the investigation—so let’s keep up the pressure!

Call Rep. Greg Walden: 202-225-6730 Tweet him @RepGregWalden
Is your Congress Member on the Energy and Commerce Committee? Find out, then call and tweet: orgcns.org/2nOFdPV
Take Action: orgcns.org/2mmwkB8

March for Science—‘Bee’ There!

Pesticides hurt pollinators. But policymakers are ignoring the science.

That’s why OCA, along with Beyond Pesticides, Center for Biological Diversity, Center for Food Safety, Friends of the Earth, Pesticide Action Network and Smart on Pesticides have organized a Pollinators Procession for the upcoming March for Science, happening Saturday, April 22, in Washington, DC If you’ll be in DC for the March for Science, and want to join the Pollinators Procession, you can meet up with OCA’s Alexis Baden-Mayer at 1:45 pm on April 22 at the corner of 15th and E Street.

Can’t make it to DC? So far, 514 satellite marches have been scheduled in cities across the country. If you plan to attend one of these satellite marches, and would like to organize your own Pollinators Procession, contact our staff and we’ll send you a package of materials to distribute.

There’s plenty of scientific evidence pointing to neonicotinoid pesticides as a primary cause of mass death in honeybee populations. Scientists have also concluded that glyphosate (the active ingredient in Monsanto’s Roundup herbicide) is killing off the milkweed plant—which is the monarch butterfly’s only source of food. Regulatory agencies like the EPA and USDA are censoring science like never before. The March for Science gives us a great opportunity to draw attention to the plight of pollinators.

Find a March for Science near you: orgcns.org/209Cgdu

Download *Give Bees a Chance* Leaflet: orgcns.org/209k18g

Request materials by mail (deadline April 15)

No Organic Checkoff!

Advertisements with slogans like *Incredible Edible Egg*, *Pork: The Other White Meat*, *Beef: It’s What’s for Dinner*, and *Got Milk?* promote industries without ever mentioning a specific company or brand. Who pays for those ads? The money comes from Research & Promotion programs, commonly referred to as checkoff programs. Set up under the USDA, checkoff programs require producers of agricultural commodities to contribute a percentage of sales to the program, which in turn provides research and promotion, including ads, to help expand the market for products like meat, milk and eggs.

Now the USDA, with support from the Organic Trade Association (OTA), wants to establish a similar mandatory “checkoff” program for organic producers. Good idea? The Big Food corporations that are buying up organic brands (and calling a lot of the shots at OTA), say yes. But small organic producers and family farmers say that an organic checkoff program will be bad for them, and bad for consumers. orgcns.org/2nOv9Xc
Take Action By Midnight April 19: orgcns.org/2nciy4B
Or text ‘NoCheckoff’ to 97779 to sign the petition.

Time Must Come

In support of the struggle for peasant and seed freedom, the Monsanto Tribunal, and the upcoming (April 18) announcement of the judges’ opinions, France’s Manu Chao, musician and activist, wrote *Seeds of Freedom*.

The song, which Chao performs, highlights how industrial agriculture, with its pesticides, GMOs and corporate seed monopolies, destroys peasant systems and violates their rights to seeds, land and natural resources.

“Seeds of Freedom, of hope growing slowly,
Seeds of freedom, time must come.”

Livestream the Monsanto Tribunal press conference: orgcns.org/209yroY

Watch the Manu Chao video: orgcns.org/209xHA3