

[The Huffington Post](#) October 24, 2009



HuffPost Social News

Connects you with
friends and the news.

HuffPost Social News BETA



[Jeffrey Smith](#)

Author and founder of the Institute for Responsible Technology

Posted: July 23, 2009 03:17 PM

[BIO](#) [Become a Fan](#)

[Get Email Alerts](#) [Bloggers' Index](#)

[You're Appointing *Who*? Please Obama, Say It's Not So!](#)

[digg](#) [f](#) [stumble](#) [reddit](#) [del.icio.us](#) [ShareThis](#)

Read More: [Accelerated Aging](#), [Allergies](#), [American Academy Of Environmental Medicine](#), [Asthma](#), [Bovine Growth Hormone](#), [Cancer](#), [Dennis Wolff](#), [Dr. P. M. Bhargava](#), [Fda](#), [FDA Policy](#), [Food And Drug Administration](#), [Food Labels](#), [Food Related Illness](#), [Food Safety](#), [Food Safety Czar](#), [Food Supply](#), [Gastrointestinal Disorder](#), [GE Foods](#), [Genetically Engineered](#), [Genetically Engineered Foods](#), [Genetically Modified Foods](#), [Genetically Modified Organisms](#), [GM Foods](#), [GMO Labels](#), [Gmos](#), [Governor Ed Rendell](#), [Igf-1](#), [Immune Problems](#), [Infertility](#), [Inflammation](#), [Insulin Regulation](#), [Insulin-Like Growth Factor 1](#), [International Dairy Foods Association](#), [Michael Taylor](#), [Safety Testing](#), [Milk](#), [Milk Supply](#), [Monsanto](#), [Multiple Chronic Illness](#), [Ohio Governor Strickland](#), [Organic](#), [Organic Trade Association](#), [Pennsylvania Secretary Of Agriculture](#), [President Obama](#), [Rbqh](#), [Rbst](#), [Revolving Door](#), [Substantially Equivalent](#), [Green News](#)

What's Your Reaction?

The person who may be responsible for more food-related illness and death than anyone in history has just been made the US food safety czar. This is no joke.

Here's the back story.

When FDA scientists were asked to weigh in on what was to become the most radical and potentially dangerous change in our food supply -- the introduction of genetically modified (GM) foods -- [secret documents](#)

now reveal that the experts were *very* concerned. Memo after memo described toxins, new diseases, nutritional deficiencies, and hard-to-detect allergens. They were adamant that the technology carried "serious health hazards," and required careful, long-term research, including human studies, before any genetically modified organisms (GMOs) could be safely released into the food supply.

But the biotech industry had rigged the game so that neither science nor scientists would stand in their way. They had placed their own man in charge of FDA policy and he wasn't going to be swayed by feeble arguments related to food safety. No, he was going to do what corporations had done for decades to get past these types of pesky concerns. He was going to lie.

Dangerous Food Safety Lies

When the FDA was constructing their GMO policy in 1991-2, their scientists were clear that gene-sliced foods were significantly different and could lead to "[different risks](#)" than conventional foods. But [official policy declared](#) the opposite, claiming that the FDA knew *nothing* of significant differences, and declared GMOs substantially equivalent.

This fiction became the rationale for allowing GM foods on the market *without any required safety studies whatsoever!* The determination of whether GM foods were safe to eat was placed entirely in the hands of the companies that made them -- companies like Monsanto, which told us that the PCBs, DDT, and Agent Orange were safe.

GMOs were rushed onto our plates in 1996. Over the next nine years, [multiple chronic illnesses](#) in the US nearly doubled -- from 7% to 13%. Allergy-related emergency room visits [doubled](#) between 1997 and 2002 while food allergies, especially among children, skyrocketed. We also witnessed a dramatic rise in asthma, autism, obesity, diabetes, digestive disorders, and certain cancers.

In January of this year, Dr. P. M. Bhargava, one of the world's top biologists, told me that after reviewing 600 scientific journals, he concluded that the GM foods in the US are largely responsible for the increase in many serious diseases.

In May, the [American Academy of Environmental Medicine](#) concluded that animal studies have demonstrated a [causal relationship](#) between GM foods and infertility, accelerated aging, dysfunctional insulin regulation, changes in major organs and the gastrointestinal system, and immune problems such as asthma, allergies, and inflammation

In July, a [report](#) by eight international experts determined that the flimsy and superficial evaluations of GMOs by both regulators and GM companies "[systematically overlook the side effects](#)" and significantly underestimate "the initial signs of diseases like cancer and diseases of the hormonal, immune, nervous and reproductive systems, among others."

The Fox Guarding the Chickens

If GMOs are indeed responsible for massive sickness and death, then the individual who oversaw the FDA policy that facilitated their introduction holds a uniquely infamous role in human history. That person is Michael Taylor. He had been Monsanto's attorney before becoming policy chief at the FDA. Soon after, he became Monsanto's vice president and chief lobbyist.

This month Michael Taylor became the senior advisor to the commissioner of the FDA. He is now America's food safety czar. What have we done?

The Milk Man Cometh

While Taylor was at the FDA in the early 90's, he also oversaw the policy regarding Monsanto's [genetically engineered bovine growth hormone](#) (rbGH/rbST) -- injected into cows to increase milk supply.

The milk from injected cows has more pus, more antibiotics, more bovine growth hormone, and most importantly, more insulin-like growth factor 1 (IGF-1). IGF-1 is a huge risk factor for common cancers and its high levels in this drugged milk is why so many [medical organizations](#) and [hospitals](#) have taken stands against rbGH. A former Monsanto scientist told me that when three of his Monsanto colleagues evaluated rbGH safety and discovered the elevated IGF-1 levels, even they refused to drink any more milk -- unless it was organic and therefore untreated.

Government scientists from Canada [evaluated the FDA's approval](#) of rbGH and concluded that it was a dangerous facade. The drug was banned in Canada, as well as Europe, Japan, Australia and New Zealand. But it was approved in the US while Michael Taylor was in charge. His drugged milk might have caused a significant rise in US cancer rates. [Additional published evidence](#) also implicates rbGH in the high rate of fraternal twins in the US.

Taylor also determined that milk from injected cows did not require any special labeling. And as a gift to his future employer Monsanto, he wrote a white paper suggesting that if companies ever had the audacity to label their products as not using rbGH, they should also include a disclaimer stating that according to the FDA, there is no difference between milk from treated and untreated cows.

Taylor's disclaimer was also a lie. Monsanto's own studies and FDA scientists officially acknowledged differences in the drugged milk. No matter. Monsanto used Taylor's white paper as the basis to successfully sue dairies that labeled their products as rbGH-free.

Will Monsanto's Wolff Also Guard the Chickens?

As consumers learned that rbGH was dangerous, they refused to buy the milk. To keep their customers, a tidal wave of companies has publicly committed to not use the drug and to label their products as such. Monsanto tried unsuccessfully to convince the FDA and FTC to make it illegal for dairies to make rbGH-free claims, so they went to their special friend in Pennsylvania -- Dennis Wolff. As state secretary of agriculture, Wolff unilaterally declared that labeling products rbGH-free was illegal, and that all such labels must be removed from shelves statewide. This would, of course, eliminate the label from all national brands, as they couldn't afford to create separate packaging for just one state.

Fortunately, consumer demand forced Pennsylvania's Governor Ed Rendell to step in and stop Wolff's madness. But Rendell allowed Wolff to take a compromised position that now requires rbGH-free claims to also be accompanied by Taylor's FDA disclaimer on the package.

President Obama is considering Dennis Wolff for the top food safety post at the USDA. Yikes!

[Rumor](#) has it that the reason why Pennsylvania's governor is supporting Wolff's appointment is to get him out of the state -- after he "screwed up so badly" with the rbGH decision. Oh great, governor. Thanks.

Ohio Governor Gets Taylor-itus

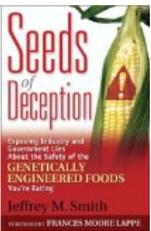
Ohio not only followed Pennsylvania's lead by requiring Taylor's FDA disclaimer on packaging, they went a step further. They declared that dairies must place that disclaimer on the same panel where rbGH-free claims are made, and even dictated the font size. This would force national brands to re-design their labels and may ultimately dissuade them from making rbGH-free claims at all. The Organic Trade Association and the International Dairy Foods Association filed a lawsuit against Ohio. Although they lost the first court battle, upon appeal, the judge ordered a mediation session that takes place today. Thousands of Ohio citizens have

flooded Governor Strickland's office with urgent requests to withdraw the states anti-consumer labeling requirements.

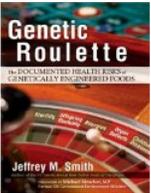
Perhaps the governor has an ulterior motive for pushing his new rules. If he goes ahead with his labeling plans, he might end up with a top appointment in the Obama administration.

To hear what America is saying about GMOs and to add your voice, go to our [new non-GMO Facebook Group](#).

Jeffrey M. Smith is the author of [Seeds of Deception: Exposing Industry and Government Lies About the Safety of the Genetically Engineered Foods You're Eating](#) and [Genetic Roulette: The Documented Health Risks of Genetically Engineered Foods](#) from [Chelsea Green Publishing](#). Smith worked at a GMO detection laboratory, founded the Institute for Responsible Technology, and currently lives in Iowa—surrounded by genetically modified corn and soybeans. For more information, visit [Chelsea Green](#).



[Seeds of Deception: Exposing Industry and Government Lies About the Safety of the Genetically Engineered Foods You're Eating](#)
by Jeffrey M. Smith



[Genetic Roulette: The Documented Health Risks of Genetically Engineered Foods](#)
by Jeffrey M. Smith



[Judge Rejects U.S. Approval of Genetically Modified Sugar Beets](#)

A federal judge has ruled that the government failed to adequately assess the environmental impacts of genetically engineered sugar beets before approving the crop for...