

Gilles-Eric

# Séralini

## Biography

Gilles-Eric Séralini is a professor of molecular biology at the University of Caen in France where he leads a research team associated with CNRS (French National Centre for Scientific Research) and INRA (French National Institute for Agricultural Research). He was appointed a member of two governmental commissions on genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in from 1998 to 2007: the Biomolecular Engineering Commission in charge of risk assessment, and the Biovigilance Committee assessing GMOs after they have been commercialised. As a member of the Borloo-Lepage Commission, he reassessed a range of biotechnologies for the European Union.

Séralini has written over 100 scientific articles and conference papers for international specialist symposiums, and presented a number of public lectures in relation to food safety. He was one of the scientists demanding more research before GMOs could be commercialised in Europe. After the hearing of the Citizens' Conference on GMOs at the French National Assembly, he was appointed member of the Commission on Biomolecular Engineering in July 1998 and was a member of the Provisional Biovigilance Committee on transgenic maize for ten years from 1998.

## Independent research

In light of the inadequacy of the studies on GMOs, Prof. Séralini founded a new laboratory to conduct independent testing called CRIIGEN. He founded this research centre along with Corinne Lepage, a former Ecology Minister, and Jean-Marie Pelt, President of the Scientific Board on the Committee of Independent Research and Information on Genetic Engineering.

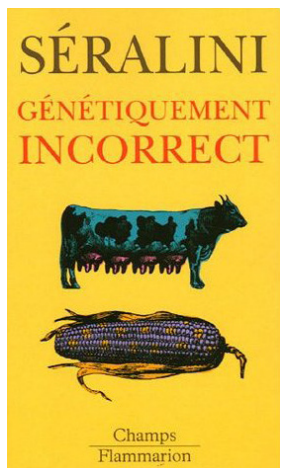
## Peer-reviewed studies

Professor Séralini's team has been the most published in the world in scientific peer reviewed journals on the effect of GMOs authorised in agriculture and pesticides used in association with GMOs on health, animals and humans.

In 2007, Professor Séralini's team published a study involving a re-analysis of data from the Monsanto 90-day rat feeding study conducted with MON863 corn<sup>1</sup>. The authors found statistically significant differences indicating liver and kidney toxicity in rats fed MON863 maize and stated that it cannot be concluded that MON863 corn is a safe product. MON863 corn is currently authorised in Australia for human consumption.

In 2007, Séralini's team also published a study on the previously unknown toxic effects of Roundup<sup>®</sup> on human embryonic cells<sup>2</sup>. In December 2011, the team released another paper on Roundup's<sup>®</sup> effects on mammalian testicular cells<sup>3</sup>. Roundup<sup>®</sup> is the major herbicide in use worldwide and is often used on GM crops for food and animal feed and its residues can be found in both food and feed. A number of different types of crops authorised in Australia for cultivation are genetically modified to be tolerant to Roundup<sup>®</sup>.

More recently, in 2011, Séralini's team found new indications that insecticidal Bt toxins like those produced in genetically engineered plants can be detrimental to human cells<sup>4</sup>. According to companies like Monsanto, which produces genetically engineered maize with these toxins, the toxins are supposed to be active only against particular insects and should have no effect on mammals and humans. For the first time, experiments have now shown that they can have an effect on human cells. These kinds of investigations are not a requirement for risk assessment in Australia or in any other region of the world.



## Acknowledgements

In 2008, Professor Séralini's research in biology was acknowledged by the French Minister of Ecology and he was nominated Knight of the French Order of Merit. He was nominated International Scientist of the year in 2011 by the International Biographical Centre.

## Australia 2012

Professor Séralini will be in Australia from 27 February until 4 March 2012. His visit represents an important opportunity to encourage healthy, open and informed debate on the important public health issues surrounding the genetic modification of Australia's food.

### Notes

- 1 Séralini G.E., Cellier D., Spiroux, de Vendomois J. (2007). New analysis of a rat feeding study with a genetically modified maize reveals signs of hepatorenal toxicity. *Arch. Contamin. Environ. Toxicol* 52 (4): 596-602.
- 2 Benachour, N., Siphatur, H., Moslemi, S., Gasnier, C., Travert, C., Séralini, G. E. (2007) Time- and dose-dependent effects of Roundup on human embryonic and placental cells, *Arch Environ Contam Toxicol* 53:126-33.
- 3 Mesnage, R., Clair, E., Gress, S., Then, C., Székács, A., Séralini, G. E. (2011) A glyphosate-based herbicide induces necrosis and apoptosis in mature rat testicular cells in vitro, and testosterone decrease at lower level. *Toxicol. in Vitro* (accepted)
- 4 Mesnage, R., Clair, E., Gress, S., Then, C., Székács, A., Séralini, G. E. (2011) Cytotoxicity on human cells of Cry1Ab and Cry1Ac insecticidal toxins alone or with a glyphosate-based herbicide. *J. of Appl. Toxicol.* (accepted)

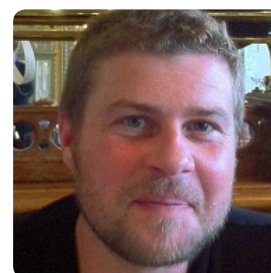


## Jérôme

# Douzelet

## Biography

Jérôme Douzelet is from the new generation of French chefs that avoids genetically modified ingredients and pesticides, preferring natural, fresh, and organic produce. Douzelet owns a hotel and restaurant in southern France called Le Mas de Rivet. He frequently hosts seminars on environmental issues at the restaurant and is a member of administrative council of CRIIGEN, an independent non-profit organization of scientific expertise on genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and pesticides.



## Séralini and Douzelet Tour dates

**27 February:** Sydney

**28 and 29 February:** Canberra

**1 March:** Adelaide

**2 March:** Perth

**3 and 4 March:** Margaret River