



CRIIGEN

Comité de Recherche et d'Information
Indépendantes sur le génie Génétique



Committee for Independent Research and Information on Genetic Engineering

*Science in service of public
health and the environment*



The Committee for Research and Independent Information on Genetic Engineering (CRIIGEN) was co-founded in 1999 by Corinne Lepage (now «Honorary President»), Prof Gilles-Eric Séralini, Prof Jean Marie Pelt, and Chantal Jaquet.

CRIIGEN is **a unique association of international experts with a transdisciplinary approach to the benefits and risks of genetic engineering and synthetic chemicals**, such as pesticides and endocrine disrupters.

Independent of biotechnology companies, we carry out scientific studies and issue expert reports and 'second opinions' in order to **better understand and analyze the risks of biotechnology and xenobiotics**, and to reveal the shortcomings of the current evaluation systems - particularly regarding health effects - which allow certain hazardous substances to be authorized and wrongfully to remain on the market.

Our members - researchers, doctors and members of civil society - produce scientific studies and original multidisciplinary expert reports, including through the publica-

tion of books. **The observation that concerns us is the worrying development of environmental diseases. What drives us is the will to fight against this trend by bringing to light certain problems, and also by proposing alternatives** in the industrial and regulatory spheres, so as to ensure better protection of public health.

As well as advancing knowledge, our association is **a training center which aims to make scientific and technical knowledge available to all**. CRIIGEN offers seminars, professional training, and conferences with leading experts.

The goal of the association is to develop its own research facilities by founding a laboratory specializing in toxicology, which will help identify risks, but also develop alternatives that support environmental health. ■

Dr Joël Spiroux de Vendômois,
Presentation by the President



Objectives of CRIIGEN

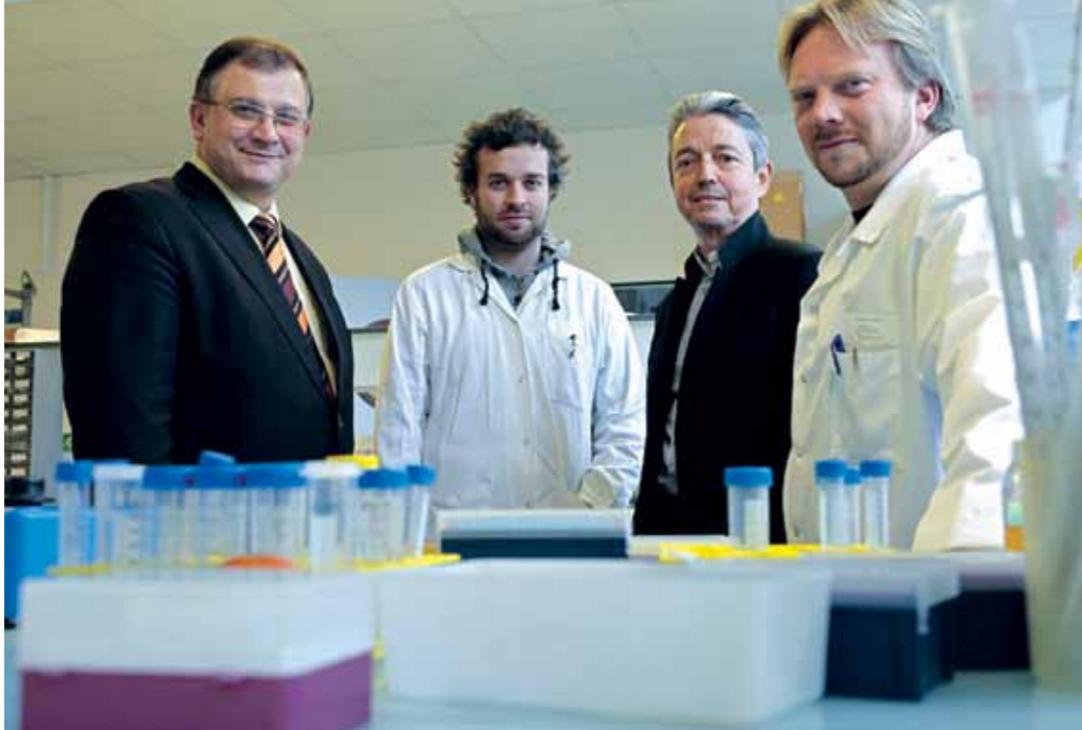
1 To research and provide information on genetic engineering, pesticides and other xenobiotics.

2 To work on the links between health and environment in order to better understand the effects of environmental pollutants responsible for chronic environmental diseases.

3 To contribute to the study, in particular, of endocrine and nervous system disturbances, in order to protect health and the environment.

4 To lift the veil of secrecy over the regulatory authorisations of GMOs, pesticides and other pollutants, with regard to their health and environmental effects.

5 To create a laboratory for research and analysis that can provide expertise independent of large industrial organisations.



Pr Gilles-Eric Séralini, Dr Robin Mesnage, Dr Joël Spiroux de Vendômois, Nicolas Defarge

CRIIGEN calls for scientific and regulatory transparency

The results of the toxicity studies, carried out over dangerously short periods, which allow GMOs, pesticides and other xenobiotics to be commercialized, are inaccessible and considered «trade secrets» or under the protection of «intellectual property» of manufacturer.

For over 10 years, CRIIGEN has stressed the need for transparency and expert “second opinions”, particularly by publishing scientific data on toxicity testing.

Wherever possible, **CRIIGEN promotes open access publication and the publication of its raw data in the spirit of open and participatory science, with the aim of promoting a dialogue with peers and society as a whole.**

Multiple and converging research projects

GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOs)

More than 99% of agricultural GMOs or GMP (genetically modified plants) have been designed either to tolerate a herbicide, that is to say, to accumulate it in their cells without dying (most often Roundup, the most widely sold and used herbicide in the world), or to produce their own insecticide (Bt plants). **These pesticides are therefore found in animal feed and on the dinner plates of humans across the world.** These facts should demand the highest vigilance on the part of the official regulatory bodies. On the contrary, however, there are many deficiencies and a lack of transparency in the safety evaluations of these products for consumption.

CRIIGEN denounces the **lack of rigour in the evaluation of these «pesticide plants»**, 80% of which contain high levels of glyphosate (one of the components of Roundup) and its accumulated residues. Regulatory toxicity studies on rodents are only carried out over a three-month period, which is **not enough time to properly assess long-term effects.**

PESTICIDES

Researchers associated with CRIIGEN, such as Prof Séralini and his team at the University of Caen, and Prof Sultan and his team at the University of Montpellier, carry out original research studies on pesticides to determine their toxicity. Their findings have provided a better understanding of disease and have highlighted the fact that the evaluation of these products, as well as the safety limits for residues in food and feed, are based only on the toxicological analysis of the so-called “active” molecules - not the commercial formulations, which contain numerous additives that increase their toxicity.

ENDOCRINE DISRUPTORS

An endocrine disruptor is a molecule that mimics, blocks or alters the action of a hormone and disrupts the normal functioning of an organism. Prof Charles Sultan and his team study and treat early puberty in girls and genital malformations in both sexes. Their findings, like those of his colleagues, challenge the safety of pesticides, but also reveal the role of phthalates, phenols and other environmental pollutants in the alarming increase in these diseases.

Scientific work with international impact

In a world-first, CRIIGEN supported a long-term toxicity study (two years), performed on rats, on a GM maize (NK603) and its associated pesticide, Roundup, which was published in September 2012 in a scientific journal.

The findings of this study highlighted the toxic effects of this maize and Roundup, contradicting the statements of manufacturers and health agencies. Controversy ensued.

The study was retracted in 2013 after pressure on the publisher, but was republished in June 2014 with additional data in a new journal.

CRIIGEN has become a whistleblower and a key player on topics related to health and the environment.





CRIIGEN experts

CRIIGEN is an association with a unique governance shared between a Board and a Scientific Council, composed of French and foreign scientists from various disciplines. **Research priorities are determined based on their potential impact on public health and environment.**

The core research team associated with CRIIGEN is that of Prof Gilles-Eric Séralini of the University of Caen, who also co-directs the «Risks Division, Quality and Sustainable Environment» (MRSH-CNRS). Prof Séralini and his team have published **numerous scientific studies with international impact** (55 research publications in international peer-reviewed journals since 2000).

Other research teams participate in CRIIGEN, including those led by Dr Christian Vélot (microbiologist, Orsay), Prof Jean-Michel Panoff (biologist, Caen), Prof Charles Sultan (endocrinologist, Montpellier), Prof Pierre Henri Gouyon (naturalist, Paris), Prof Jean Paul Bourdineau (toxicologist, Bordeaux), and Dr Frederick Lemarchand (sociologist, Caen). Foreign teams are also associated with CRIIGEN: Prof Michael Antoniou (biologist, King's College of London), Prof Marcello Buiatti (biologist, Florence), Dr Angelika Hilbeck (biologist, Switzerland), and Dr Louise Vandelac (sociologist, Montreal).

Training for all

CRIIGEN is a registered training organization. In that capacity it organizes 3-day conferences (22 hours). Professionals, particularly representatives of associations, are welcome at these meetings of 15-20 people at the organic, Green Key-certified hotel, le Mas de Rivet, Barjac (Gard), with chef Jerome Douzelet.

These conferences have themes, **such as toxicology and detoxification; GMOs, pesticides and their regulation; the health impacts of the many inadequately assessed products (endocrine disruptors); environmental health; and the development of healthy alternatives.**

Further information is on our website. Conferences on many other themes can be offered on demand.

Public lectures

CRIIGEN scientists give popular lectures for the general public on the topics of genetic engineering, GMOs and pesticides, as well as environmental conditions, at the request of local associations, NGOs, local authorities and businesses.

Donations & membership

CRIIGEN is a non-profit organization, largely composed of volunteers, but also researchers and doctoral students whose studies are financed by public or private grants from foundations, individual donations, and membership subscriptions.

If you would like to support CRIIGEN by becoming a member or by making a donation, or if you would like to make a funding proposal to support the development of CRIIGEN's activities, please do not hesitate to contact us.



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