

Organic Neighborhoods

The 36th National Pesticide Forum

Beckman Center of the National Academies of Sciences, Irvine, California, April 13-14, 2018

A Summary of the Program

(subject to slight changes, additional speakers; workshop speakers not listed on summary)

Friday, April 13, 2018

- 11:00am–3:30pm **Field trip:** Organic land management for soil health, and managing invasive plants and playing fields; managed goat grazing demonstration
- 4:00–4:50pm **Special Presentation: Protecting Life–From Frogs to the Human Family**
Tyrone Hayes, PhD., UC Berkeley
- 4:50–5:00pm **City of Irvine’s Path to Organic Land Management**
Kim Konte, Non Toxic Irvine
- 5:00–6:15pm **Understanding Pesticides–Health and Law**
Caroline Cox, Center for Environmental Health; Meg Sears, PhD, Prevent Cancer Now, Ottawa, Canada; Melinda Hemmelgarn, Food Sleuth Radio
- 6:15–10:30pm **Welcome and Keynotes**
- 6:15-7:00pm **Reception**
- 7:00-7:20pm **Welcome** (Jay Feldman, Beyond Pesticides; Routt Reigart, MD, Medical University of South Carolina; Dean Baker, MD, UCI Center for Occupational and Environmental Health
- 7:20-8:10pm **Keynote: A Critical Eye on Pesticides, Science, and Industry**
Carey Gillam, U.S. Right to Know, author, *Whitewash*
- 8:15-9:00pm **Keynote: Organic Systems for Health and Resiliency**
Steve Sprinkel, Center for Regenerative Agriculture
- 9:00-10:30pm **Reception and Book Signing**

Saturday, April 14, 2018

- 8:00–8:30am **Breakfast and Registration**
- 8:30–8:45am **Welcome**
Mayor Pro Tem, Christina Shea, City of Irvine
- 8:45–9:00am **Protecting Family Health and the Environment**
Dean Baker, MD, UCI Center for Occupational and Environmental Health
- 9:00–9:40am **Health Effects of Pesticide Use, Children and the Community**
Routt Reigart, MD, Medical University of South Carolina
Nayamin Martinez, MPH, Central California Environmental Justice Network
- 9:40–10:00am **Cutting Edge Science**
Bruce Blumberg, PhD, UCI School of Biological Sciences
- 10:00–10:45am **Science and Ecology–From aquatic organisms to plants and pollinators**
Michelle Hladik, Ph.D, U.S. Geological Survey
James Neih, Ph.D., School of Biological Sciences, UC San Diego
Scott P. Carroll, PhD, Institute for Contemporary Evolution, UC Davis

10:45–11:00am	Pesticides and the Law Sylvia Wu, JD, Center for Food Safety
11:00–11:15am	Break (<i>move to workshops</i>)
11:15–12:45pm	Workshop Block I Human Health and Pesticides ▪ Supporting Biodiversity and Balanced Ecosystems ▪ Threatened Watersheds and Riparian Preservation ▪ Organic Soil Management: Nurturing soil biology for plant health
12:45–2:30pm	Lunch served, followed by lunch speakers 1:15–2:00pm Farmworkers, Families, and Health Angel Garcia, Californians for Pesticide Reform, Tulare County Coalition Advocating for Pesticide Safety 2:00–2:30pm Keynote: GMO Crops and Pesticides Warren Porter, PhD, University of Wisconsin Madison
2:45–4:00pm	Adopting Organic Land Management Practices: Investing in Success ▪ Chip Osborne, Osborne Organics ▪ John Bohert and Scott Eldredge, Eldredge Lumber & Hardware, ACE Hardware ▪ Johnny Gonzales, Ecological Land Management ▪ Manuel Gomez, public works director, City of Irvine ▪ Joe Hoffman, maintenance and operations director, Irvine Unified School District ▪ Michael O’Connell, Irvine Ranch Conservancy ▪ Lisa Novick, Theodore Payne Foundation for Wildflowers and Native Plants
4:00–4:15pm	Break (<i>move to workshops</i>)
4:15–5:45pm	Workshop Block II Leveraging the Law for Health and the Environment ▪ Organizing for Local Policy Change ▪ Organic Land Management: For playing fields and farms ▪ Creating Just, Local, Organic Food Systems
5:45–7:15pm	Dinner
7:15–9:00pm	Panel and Keynote Reception 7:00–8:15pm The Leading Edge of Community-Based Change Panel ▪ Kim Konte, Non Toxic Irvine ▪ Christina Shea, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Irvine ▪ Autumn Ness, aide, Councilwoman Elle Cochran, Maui County, Hawaii ▪ Rachel Burger, Protect South Portland, Maine ▪ Valerie Gorospe, The Center for Race, Poverty and the Environment ▪ Meg Sears, PhD, Prevent Cancer Now 8:15–9:00pm Keynote: A Sustainable Future Philip Ackerman-Leist, Green Mountain College, Vermont, author, <i>Precautionary Tale</i>
9:00–10:30pm	Reception and Book Signing

March 15, 2018

Good Morning Committee members and staff:

PASE has requested that Dr Stephen Frantz be invited to provide information on glyphosate from a perspective of a scientist who has had much experience in reviewing both the science as well as the politics of legislation around glyphosate and rodenticides, and yet PASE has not been provided any reasons for why he has not been invited. This lack of transparency is disturbing. We ask each Committee member to consider if your role is to refrain from rocking the boat or to assess whether the boat is going in the wrong direction.

Contra Costa County's pesticide use reports show that its Rights of Way program alone applied 1,500 lbs of glyphosate Round Up where the Decision Making Committee now considers recreation areas, where people have foot-access and there is potential for exposure.

The following is an excerpt from the publication of the World Health Organization, IARC on its findings of Glyphosate:

“Glyphosate is a broad-spectrum herbicide, currently with the highest production volumes of all herbicides. It is used in more than 750 different products for agriculture, forestry, urban, and home applications. Its use has increased sharply with the development of genetically modified glyphosate-resistant crop varieties. Glyphosate has been detected in air during spraying, in water, and in food. There WAS limited evidence in humans for the carcinogenicity of glyphosate.

Glyphosate has been detected in the blood and urine of agricultural workers, indicating absorption. Soil microbes degrade glyphosate to aminomethylphosphoric acid (AMPA). Blood AMPA detection after poisonings suggests intestinal microbial metabolism in humans. Glyphosate and glyphosate formulations induced DNA and chromosomal damage in mammals, and in human and animal cells in vitro. One study reported increases in blood markers of chromosomal damage (micronuclei) in residents of several communities after spraying of glyphosate formulations.”

Why is there so much confusion and why does the US EPA and WHO IARC not agree on the toxicity of glyphosate?

Recently, a Monsanto employee, Moar, admitted during an agricultural student recruiting presentation that there is an entire department within Monsanto with the simple task of ‘discrediting’ and ‘debunking’ scientists whose research disagreed with theirs.

Monsanto has also held up or manipulated the findings of regulatory bodies, particularly in the United States where the revolving door between agrochemical corporations and government is well-known to be constantly turning and insidious, particularly during this current administration and those who have been particularly favorable to business even at the expense of public health and the environment.

If multi-million dollar efforts annually to undermine credible research, it is no surprise to me why this Committee find it difficult to access credible information. I believe the first step is to adopt a transparent and democratic process where decisions are not made behind closed doors.

Thank you for your work on this Committee,

Susan JunFish, MPH
Parents for a Safer Environment

March 15, 2018

Good Morning IPM Committee Members:

I am writing this statement to reflect my dismay at the choice of Dr. Brad Hanson by county staff in lieu of a more objective scientist not receiving huge sums of money from Big Ag.

PASE has recommended Dr. Stephen Frantz, who has offered to travel from Southern CA without reimbursement, however he has not been invited.

Priscilla discovered Dr. Brad Hanson receiving large sums of money from Monsanto, the very maker of Round Up. How would we expect anyone to be unbiased if receiving nearly \$700,000 from the agrochemical industry?

Although I do not have definitive information on Dr. Brad Hanson's integrity, the largest giants are providing him with generous gifts. These giants are responsible for much of the contamination on our agricultural lands. They are exposing the public, wildlife, bees and field workers to neurotoxins, carcinogens and hormone disruptors. Many studies of the children born to farm workers linked birth defects, especially autism and learning disabilities to exposure of their field-working parents.

Dr. Hanson defended the US EPA position on Glyphosate even though it is public information that the 2016 and 2017 investigation by the National Scientific Advisory Panel of the Health & Human Services Department concluded that the USEPA was "capitulating to pesticide industry demands" and "failed to follow its own guidelines in reclassifying Glyphosate as not likely to be carcinogenic."

The Panel disclosed biased review practices including the termination of scientists on the USEPA Committee who expressed concern about glyphosate. They also verified a "Revolving Door" between the USEPA Pesticide Committee and Monsanto where former employees of the agrochemical company sit on the US EPA Committee and return to Monsanto and visa versa.

In contrast, with credible publications in the Lancet and WHO IARC, glyphosate is going down despite Monsanto's effort to keep their big money maker. Will this Committee wait for another decade after more people are exposed and harmed or will you listen to the 17 scientists from 11 countries who worked over a year to review over a thousand research articles?

County staff has consistently come up with speakers with a conflict of interest or those who speak about topics for which this Committee has no authority to give recommendations. One suggestion is that county staff can allow the subcommittee community members to make the final decisions with the support and input of the community that attend the meetings.

How will this Committee ensure that speakers do not have an overt conflict of interest and their sharing of information is credible?

Shirley Shelangoski, Pleasant Hill resident
Parents for a Safer Environment Steering Committee

March 15, 2018

To: Contra Costa County IPM Advisory Committee
From: Priscilla Witt, Lafayette resident
RE: Public Comment

Dear Members of the IPM Advisory Committee:

My name is Priscilla Witt and I am a Lafayette resident and mother of three children. I have been volunteering with Parents for a Safer Environment for about 3 years. I wish to share disturbing information about a speaker that the county staff chose as a means of educating this Committee.

On July 20, 2017 this Committee heard a presentation from Dr. Brad Hanson, a researcher of plant pathology from UC Davis. Committee members have expressed interest in hearing from an expert about the toxicity of glyphosate, the active ingredient in RoundUp after it was listed by WHO IARC as a probable human carcinogen and subsequently listed by Cal/EPA as a Prop 65 known human carcinogen. RoundUp is used in the largest quantity by Contra Costa County staff. The community appreciated the initiative taken by the Committee members to prioritize learning more about glyphosate toxicity. However, at the start of his presentation, Dr. Hanson admitted that he does not have a background in toxicology. The study of plants is quite different than the study of humans.

When we heard Dr. Hanson speak, it was very disheartening to hear him pull the same industry spin on this Committee that glyphosate was not nearly as toxic as salt or caffeine. He showed us an LD50 chart without clarifying that this chart only refers to acute toxicity, not chronic toxicity, like cancer. Why did our county staff choose Dr. Hanson to speak about glyphosate out of so many experts who do have the expertise and the background to speak about glyphosate's effects on humans?

I requested public records from UC Davis on Dr. Hanson's funding sources and learned that he received just over \$2.7 million from the government and the agricultural trade institutes. He also received

nearly \$700,000 from the pesticide manufacturing companies like Dupont, Syngenta, Sepro, Dow, including Monsanto, the manufacturer of RoundUp. He provided his opinion that glyphosate was not of concern to him, being less toxic than salt and caffeine. Monsanto's GIFT to Dr. Brad Hanson was \$40,000 in cash.

I am submitting the spreadsheet provided to me by UC Davis that shows 76 cash gifts from the pesticide industry that Dr. Hanson received.

I urge this Committee to ask the questions: Do you really expect to receive honest and unbiased information from a researcher who is being paid by the company making a product he is critiquing? Do you not see a glaring conflict of interest here?

We need a new process that makes the choosing of the 5 speakers per year transparent and conducted by community members whose interest is in finding objective and credible professionals who can provide useful information in order for this Committee to make wise decisions in support of the health and protection of our community members, wildlife and the environment.

Thank you.

