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I was born in Budapest (Hungary) in 1930 and got my first degree in Chemistry at the Eötvös Lóránd University, Natural Sciences Faculty, Budapest in 1953. I then became a scientific associate worker with Prof. E. Szörenyi at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences Biochemistry Institute in Budapest. In December 1956, after the crushing of the Hungarian revolution by the Soviet army, I fled Hungary and went to London with a Ford Foundation Scholarship where I received my PhD degree in biochemistry and physiology from the University of London. I did my postdoctoral studies at the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine in London, after which at the invitation of the Nobel-laureate Dr R.L.M. Synge, I joined his protein chemistry department at the Rowett Research Institute, Aberdeen, Scotland in 1963. I was a Visiting Associate Professor at the Department of Biological Chemistry of University of Illinois Medical Center between 1967 and 1968. After my return to Aberdeen I worked at the Rowett till my "official" retirement as a senior scientist in 1990. In 1988 I was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. From 1990 to the end of 1998 I was engaged in research as a Senior Research Fellow of the Rowett at the request of the Institute's Director and coordinated six major research programmes, and several national and European research programmes till, as a result of my disclosures on our GM-potato work, my contract was prematurely terminated and not renewed for 1999. Since then I have been giving lectures on the results of our GM-potato work and on the dangers of genetic engineering of crop plants used for human/animal food/feed all over Britain, Europe and the World. From 2001 I have been collaborating in a Norwegian Research Council-funded GM food research programme at the Norwegian Institute of Gene Ecology, University of Tromso, headed by Professor Terje Traavik. In 2005 and 2006 I (with my wife in partnership) gave a course for 3rd and 4th year undergraduate students at St Stephan University in Gödöllő, Hungary on the unresolved scientific problems in genetic engineering "Alternative Views of Genetic Modification and Food Safety". During my lifetime of research I have published over 300 primary scientific papers, 9 scientific books, participated and gave lectures at hundreds of scientific meetings and co-owned major international patents. I am married to Dr Susan Bardocz, Professor of Nutrition at the Agricultural Faculty of University of Debrecen, an internationally well-known scientist who was a part of our research team of GM-potato work and is now a collaborator in the Tromso research project on the safety of GM foods. We are also setting up a collaborative research programme in Debrecen to investigate the effects on the reproductive performance of rats fed on GM soybean diets (repeats of the "Ermakova" experiments).

Genetically Modified (GM) Food Crops – Safety Issues.
Arpad Pusztai and Susan Bardocz

The debate on the safety of GM crops has been going on since the first GM crop, FLAVR-SAVR tomato was released in the nineties. The main problem is that although the GM biotechnology industry confidently asserts that GM crops are safe, this view mainly rests on undisclosed industry data claiming that these are confidential business information (CBI). Unfortunately, they are also reluctant to provide *bona fide* samples of GM and isogenic line seeds for the independent verification of these claims. A possible reason for this reluctance is that independently carried out safety investigations so far have raised a number of worrying health concerns with GM crops and the industry certainly does not want to contribute to their own problems. When negative findings are published the industry's predictable response is that these studies have not been performed with their genuine GM and corresponding non-GM crops. All the same, evidence is increasing to indicate that for reasons that are not completely understood the presently used crude genetic transformation techniques are not producing GM crops that have health-promoting properties in a predictable way as claimed but the case is rather the opposite. The results of two major lines of research have recently indicated that foods based on GM crops have a tendency to set up potentially damaging immune responses in the animals used for testing and, even more worryingly, they do also interfere with their reproduction. There are also more results to show that allergenicity is a possible acute health problem with GM food crops. Indeed, allergenicity is the Achilles heel of GM food safety. In our talks we shall be enlarging upon these themes in the light of published factual information and will also try to point out how people can avoid to be on the suffering end of this unwanted and product-driven technical "development" by the GM biotechnology industry.