



Sciences, called for more clinical tests of humans exposed to pesticides and other hormonally active environmental chemicals. Said one panelist, **Dr. Ana M. Soto**, "few studies have probed for effects in humans. . . . Most people face coincident exposures to several hormone mimics--such as nonylphenols, phthalates, and PCBs." Her own studies indicate that the effects can be "at least additive"--from the Aug. 4 Wall Street Journal, sent by *Karen Truskowski*, and the Aug. 14 Science News, sent by *Scott Spiegel*.

➤ **Small victories:**

(1) **Baxter International**, one of the largest manufacturers of medical supplies, will phase out the use of polyvinyl chloride in its IV bags and tubing; and **Kaiser Permanente**, the nation's largest nonprofit HMO, will stop using vinyl gloves--from the July Green Guide.

(2) **Unilever Home & Personal Care USA** has been prohibited by the Federal Trade Commission from claiming that its Vaseline Brand Intensive Care Antibacterial Hand Lotion "stops germs longer than washing alone. No marketing claims will wash without adequate substantiation"--from the Sept. 16 Chicago Tribune. [*Hooray!*]

(3) In what is possibly a large victory, about 600 NGOs (nongovernmental organizations) defeated an attempt by 29 of the world's richest nations, including the US, to write a treaty on foreign investment (MAI, the Multilateral Agreement on Investment). The NGOs charged that the proposed global treaty, seemingly a technical exercise, would override local and

national laws on the environment and the rights of women and minorities--from the July 5 Chicago Tribune.

(4) "The Codex Alimentarius Commission, the UN Food Safety Agency representing 101 nations worldwide, has ruled unanimously in favor of the 1993 European moratorium on Monsanto's genetically engineered hormonal milk (rBGH). This unexpected ruling, revealingly greeted by the US press with deafening silence, is a powerful blow against US global trade policies which are strongly influenced by powerful multinational corporations, such as Monsanto. . . . [This] ruling represents the first large-scale defeat of genetically modified foods on unarguable scientific grounds, apart from ethical and ideological concerns"--from an Aug. 18 press release by **Samuel S. Epstein, MD**, Professor of Environmental Medicine, University of Illinois at Chicago, e-mailed by **Anne Jackson**.

➤ **On genetically modified food:** In the last two months, the US mainstream press has begun to tackle this topic. Consider the following headlines: "Altered food might mutate trade" (July 14 *USA Today*); "USDA beefs up biotech regulatory process" (July 19 *Chemical & Engineering News*); "The Curse of Frankenfood" (four pages in the July 26 *U.S. News & World Report*); "Bugs May Develop Resistance to New Crops Faster Than Expected" (Aug. 5 *Wall Street Journal*); "Reflecting Europe's view, British militants destroy altered crops" (Aug. 5 *Chicago Tribune*); "Aversion to gene-altered crops spreading to international buyers" (Aug. 29 *Denver Rocky Mountain News*); and "Seeds of Change" (six pages in the September *Consumer Reports*). Opposition is growing!

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