

# Gary Ruskin, GMO Labeling Movement Funded by Anti-Vaxxers



By Alex Berezow — May 8, 2017



We have the right to know why USRTK accepts money from anti-vaxxers. (Credit: USRTK)

Science writers have long suspected that the anti-GMO movement is linked to the anti-vaccine movement. Indeed, both are predicated upon one of the biggest myths in modern society: "Natural is better."<sup>1</sup>

In an [interview](#) <sup>[1]</sup> with *Science*, Seth Mnookin recalled how a public health official warned him that anti-vaxxers were particularly prominent in locations that had a Whole Foods. Mr. Mnookin concluded, "It's those communities with the Prius driving, composting, organic food-eating people."

So, that's why it wasn't surprising when March Against Monsanto, a group that opposes GMOs, became a [full-blown, anti-vaccine conspiracy movement](#) <sup>[2]</sup>. In general, wherever there are anti-GMOers, there is a receptive audience for anti-vaccine activism, as well.

## Organic Consumers Association Is Anti-Vaccine

The Organic Consumers Association, a trade group that promotes organic food by lying about conventional agriculture, opposes all kinds of 21st (actually, 20th) Century technology. Not only does it rail against [GMOs, pesticides, and "chemicals,"](#) <sup>[3]</sup> but it opposes basic safety measures such as [food irradiation](#) <sup>[4]</sup>. And it also opposes vaccines.

Currently, there is a measles outbreak among a Somali immigrant community in Minnesota. It happened because [anti-vaxxers have convinced this vulnerable minority that vaccines cause autism](#) <sup>[5]</sup>. Vaccination rates fell, and predictably, an entirely preventable disease has made a

comeback.

This is pure evil. There's simply no other word for it. Who is responsible? According to [NPR](#) [6], various anti-vaccine groups, such as:

*"...the Vaccine Safety Council of Minnesota, the Minnesota Natural Health Coalition, the National Health Freedom Action and Minnesota Vaccine Freedom Coalition and **The Organic Consumers Association.**" [Emphasis added]*

The Organic Consumers Association is opposed to vaccines. Why is this not a surprise?

### **Are Anti-GMOers and Anti-Vaxxers the Same People?**

The Organic Consumers Association has made a friend in Gary Ruskin, an anti-GMO activist who operates the website U.S. Right to Know. The OCA has given his organization [more than \\$400,000 to lie about GMOs](#) [7]. He was a good choice to carry out their war on modern biomedical science, since Gary isn't constrained by things like facts or even basic decency. Last week, he made news for [promoting Russian propaganda on his Twitter feed](#) [8].

All of this raises very important questions about the anti-GMO movement and Gary Ruskin in particular: Are anti-GMOers also anti-vaxxers? If not, then why do they take money from anti-vaxxers?

So far, [Gary won't answer the question](#) [9]. We don't expect him to.

### Notes

(1) Arsenic, hemlock, rattlesnake venom, scorpions, and dinosaur-killing asteroids would argue otherwise.

(2) Probably. H/T to [Stephan Neidenbach](#) [10].

## ANTI-VAXX

Fear-based  
Scientists cannot be trusted  
Anti-corporation  
Anti-profit  
Celebrity endorsed  
Deny scientific consensus  
Cite discredited "studies"  
Leaders are not scientists  
Call those who disagree "shills"  
Claims government/corporate conspiracy  
Uses appeal to nature fallacy  
Misuses precautionary principle  
Claims all manner of sickness  
Claims special knowledge  
Says vaccines untested/unregulated  
Links to Natural News & Dr. Mercola  
Main info source is YouTube videos  
Message spread through Facebook memes  
Correlation = causation  
Call those who disagree "sheeple"  
Believes talk show hosts over scientists

## ANTI-GMO

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**YOU CAN'T CRITICIZE ONE WHILE BELIEVING THE OTHER**

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### Links

- [1] <http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2011/01/why-prius-driving-composting-set-fears-vaccines>
- [2] <http://www.acsh.org/news/2016/09/19/march-against-monsanto-now-anti-vaccine-conspiracy-movement-10186>
- [3] <https://www.organicconsumers.org/essays/don%E2%80%99t-trust-feds-gmos-pesticides-and-chemicals>
- [4] [https://www.organicconsumers.org/old\\_articles/irrad/irradfact.php](https://www.organicconsumers.org/old_articles/irrad/irradfact.php)
- [5] <https://www.statnews.com/2017/05/08/measles-vaccines-somali/>
- [6] <http://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2017/05/03/526723028/autism-fears-fueling-minnesotas-measles-outbreak>
- [7] <https://usrtk.org/donors/>
- [8] <http://www.acsh.org/news/2017/05/02/dear-gary-ruskin-and-anti-gmoers-stop-being-puppets-putin-11225>
- [9] <https://twitter.com/AlexBerezow/status/861723016358633472>
- [10] <https://medium.com/the-method/10-best-gmo-memes-537f23346f4b>