Scientists smell a rat in fraudulent genetic engineering study

Last week French microbiologist Gilles-Eric Séralini and several colleagues released the results of a longterm study in which rats were fed genetically engineered (AKA genetically modified, or "GM") corn that contains enhanced resistance to insects and/or the herbicide glyphosate. They took the unprecedented step of pre-releasing the paper to selected media outlets under an embargo on the condition that they sign a non-disclosure agreement. (That prevented the journalists from seeking scientific experts' opinions on the article.) At a carefully orchestrated media event they then announced that their long-term studies found that the rats in experimental groups developed tumors at an alarming rate. Within hours news of their "discovery" echoed around the world. As we say today, the story "went viral."

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