

Hypocrisy in the GM debate: What about untested medical supplements?

Noted pharmacologist, *Forbes* blogger and North Carolina Museum of Natural History science communications director David Kroll has a good post in *Forbes* about the recent controversy regarding “Golden Rice”, a strain of rice genetically engineered to produce beta-carotene, the precursor of vitamin A. This kind of rice might be invaluable in regions with endemic vitamin A deficiency (which causes serious ailments like blindness).

Now I don’t want to take either a strongly pro-GMO or anti-GMO stance here, although I definitely deplore the vandalism of Golden Rice fields described in the article that David links to. As a scientist however I am generally inclined to side with GMOs; to an organic chemist like me, modified sequences of DNA – while not without potential to cause harm – seem much more benign when ingested than decidedly nasty things like dioxins, pyrene and botulism toxin.

Read the full, original story here: [“Ok, so you hate GMO’s because they are untested. What about feelbetteramine from the health store?”](#)

Additional resources:

- [“GMO labeling proponents now fighting their own labeling legislation on supplements,”](#) Genetic Literacy Project
- [“Is It Time For Scientist Activism Against GMO Fear-Mongering?”](#) *Forbes*
- [“From Lynas to Pollan, Agreement that Golden Rice Trials Should Proceed,”](#) *New York Times*