

GLP podcast/video: Dangers of slanted science coverage; Media falsely claims glyphosate could harm pregnant women

Exaggerated media coverage distorts the public's understanding of critically important scientific issues, and the consequences can be dire. How do we combat the harmful effects of sloppy science journalism? There's no evidence that the weedkiller glyphosate harms pregnant women (or anyone else for that matter), but that hasn't stopped reporters from trying to embroil the controversial pesticide in yet another scandal.

Podcast:

Video:

Join hosts Dr. Liza Dunn and GLP contributor Cameron English on episode 247 of Science Facts and Fallacies as they break down these latest news stories:

- [Viewpoint: 'Following sensationalism' — How media distort science, influencing courts and regulators](#)

It's a familiar formula: questionable study makes an exaggerated claim about a chemical; reporters uncritically promote the study's conclusion; courts and regulators restrict or ban said chemical in a bid to appease consumers misled by the hyperbolic media coverage. Reporters need to do a better job of conforming their science and health coverage to the available evidence. Since they won't do it themselves, what can scientists and informed laypeople do to hold the media accountable?

Follow the latest news and policy debates on sustainable agriculture, biomedicine, and other 'disruptive' innovations. Subscribe to our newsletter.

[SIGN UP](#)

- [Glyphosate can harm pregnant women living near farms? Carelessly-written article based on the same authors' more sober academic study shows how misinformation metastasizes](#)

Glyphosate is arguably the most-studied chemical in history, with thousands of papers published over five decades showing that it poses minimal risk to the public, including pregnant women. Nevertheless, headlines routinely assert that mothers and their unborn children could be harmed by exposure to the herbicide. The claim is usually based on low-quality research unworthy of the glowing media coverage it receives. Let's examine a textbook example of a recent study involving women who live near farms and the Conversation's misleading reporting about the research.

Dr. Liza Dunn is a medical toxicologist and the medical affairs lead at Bayer Crop Science. Follow

her on X [@DrLizaMD](#)

Cameron J. English is the director of bio-sciences at the [American Council on Science and Health](#). Visit [his website](#) and follow him on X [@camjenglish](#)