

scientifically justifiable and such results certainly cannot be considered as definitive evidence for GBF-induced human genotoxic effects.

Two published studies focused on populations believed to be exposed to GBFs by their presence at or near aerial or manual spraying operations. One publication reported induction of alkaline SCGE effects in blood lymphocytes of populations living within 3 km of areas sprayed with glyphosate formulation for illicit crop eradication (2007, ASB2012-11992). The populations studied were relatively small (24 exposed individuals and 21 non-exposed individuals). The sprayed material was reported to be Roundup Ultra, a GBF containing 43.9 % glyphosate, polyethoxylated surfactant and a proprietary component, Cosmoflux 411F. Specific methods for collection, storage, and transport of blood samples are not described for either the exposed population or control group. The publication also does not indicate that slides were coded for scoring which consisted of visual classification into damage categories and measurement of DNA migration (tail length). There were fairly large differences in ages and sex distribution of the exposed and control populations but these did not appear to be statistically significant. The study reported increases in damaged cell categories and statistically significant increases in DNA migration (tail length) in the presumably exposed population. Interpretation of the results of this study should consider numerous reported signs of toxicity in the exposed population and the reported application rate of 24.3 litres/ha which was stated to be 20 times the maximum recommended application rate. Some of the reported human health effects described by (2007, ASB2012-11992) appear to be consistent with severe exposures noted in clinical reports of acute poisoning incidents with GBFs and other pesticide formulations (often self-administered) rather than typical bystander exposures. Given the considerably favorable general toxicology profile of glyphosate as reported by the WHO/FAO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues (WHO/FAO, 2004, ASB2008-6266) and in Williams et al. (2000, ASB2012-12053), factors related to either high surfactant exposure, unusual GBF components in this formulation or other undocumented variables appear to be confounding factors in this study. It appears that the reported alkaline SCGE effects could well have been secondary to the ailments reported in this study population.

A second publication reported results for a blood lymphocyte cytokinesis-block micronucleus study of individuals in areas treated with glyphosate formulation by aerial spraying or manual application (2009, ASB2012-11570). Although the title of the publication contains the term “agricultural workers”, most of the populations studied do not appear to be agricultural workers who are involved in application of GBFs. The human lymphocyte culture and scoring methodology employed in the (2009, ASB2012-11570) study appear to be generally consistent with commonly used and recommended practices for this assay. However, there is a significant question as to how long the blood samples used in the study were stored prior to initiating cultures and this may have affected the micronucleus numbers observed in the different sets of samples and populations. Also, the populations in the aerially sprayed regions had a second sampling a few days after the first sampling and this second sampling was not performed in the control populations. The publication reported a small increase in the frequency of binucleated cells with micronuclei and micronuclei per cell in samples collected from people living in three regions after spraying of GBFs compared with control values of samples collected just before spraying. However, the pattern of the increases did not correlate either with the application rate or with self-reported exposure. The largest post-spraying increase in binucleated cell micronucleus frequency was reported for a population with a much lower glyphosate active ingredient application rate and only 1 of 25 people in this region reported contact with sprayed glyphosate formulation. Increases in binucleated cell micronucleus frequency did not have a statistically significant relationship with self-reported exposure for two other populations. Some interpretative statements in