

WHY “BIOENGINEERING” IS REALLY BIOHACKING

*EXAMINING HOW THE GENETIC ENGINEERING OF OUR FOOD IS UNSOUND
FROM THE PERSPECTIVES OF BOTH BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE AND COMPUTER SCIENCE*

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Altered Genes, Twisted Truth

*How the Venture to Genetically Engineer Our Food Has Subverted Science,
Corrupted Government, and Systematically Deceived the Public*

Contrary to the claims of its proponents, the massive venture to reconfigure the genetic core of the world’s food supply has not been conducted in alignment with science but in significant conflict with sound scientific principles. For instance, its purported safety was initially based on assumptions about the nature and dynamics of DNA that have been decisively discredited, and yet its advocates continue to assert its safety as if those assumptions are still somehow legitimate. Further, although a substantial number of well-conducted studies published in peer-reviewed journals have detected statistically significant harm to the laboratory animals that consumed genetically engineered (GE) food, the proponents either ignore or unjustly attack this evidence.

Moreover, besides being both theoretically and empirically unsound from the standpoint of biological science, the GE food venture is outright reckless when assessed from the perspective of computer science. While computer scientists have gained substantial knowledge about the inescapable risks of altering complex information systems, and established precautionary measures for managing those risks, the biotechnicians routinely disregard this knowledge and violate the related precautionary principles – despite the fact that the cellular information systems they reconfigure are far bigger, far more complex, and far less understood. Indeed, compared to the meticulous manner in which software engineers revise life-critical information systems that they themselves have created, the radical way in which biotechnicians alter complex cellular information systems is not really “bioengineering” but *biohacking*.

PRAISE FOR ALTERED GENES, TWISTED TRUTH

“Without doubt, one of the most important books of the last 50 years.”

— **Jane Goodall, PhD, DBE, UN Messenger of Peace** (*from the Foreword*)

“This incisive and insightful book is truly outstanding. Not only is it well-reasoned and scientifically solid, it’s a pleasure to read – and a must-read.”

— **David Schubert, PhD** Molecular biologist and Head of Cellular Neurobiology,
Salk Institute for Biological Studies

“A beautiful job. The examination of genetic engineering from the standpoint of software engineering is especially insightful, exposing how the former is more like a ‘hackathon’ than a careful, systematic methodology for revising complex information systems.”

— **Thomas J. McCabe**, developer of the cyclomatic complexity software metric,
a key analytic tool in computer programming employed throughout the world