



[Eating Healthy \(/eating-healthy\)](#)

[Protecting Our Health \(/protecting-our-health\)](#)

[What You Can Do \(/what-you-can-do\)](#)

#### ARTICLE

## New Aspartame Safety Review ‘Perfectly Predictable’

Statement of CSPI Executive Director Michael F. Jacobson

September 12, 2007

SHARE  
THIS

Considering the reviewers (many industry-friendly researchers) and the sponsor (an aspartame manufacturer), the review’s (<http://cspinet.org/new/pdf/aspartame912.pdf>) conclusion that aspartame “is a well-studied sweetener whose safety is clearly documented” was perfectly predictable.

The reviewers wholeheartedly endorsed studies that did not find evidence of carcinogenicity. For instance, a severely flawed epidemiology study—one in which subjects did not consume aspartame until adulthood, and exposure data were highly unreliable—that did not detect an increased cancer risk was “considered to provide definitive information.” Similarly, the review stated that the “acceptance and usefulness of transgenic mouse models in risk assessment is well established.” Tests using such models did not link aspartame to cancer, but, in fact, many toxicologists consider such models to be poor predictors of carcinogenicity.

On the other hand, the reviewers identified every possible flaw in the two (<http://www.cspinet.org/new/200706251.html>) studies (<http://cspinet.org/new/200507272.html>) by Italian researchers that found evidence of carcinogenicity. The studies, published in peer-reviewed, government-sponsored journals, had unacknowledged strengths (long duration, in utero exposure, independently funded), as well as flaws, and hardly warranted the summary statement that they “should be dismissed.”

Considering the weaknesses of studies that raised concerns and did not raise concerns about aspartame, the U.S. National Toxicology Program or other independent agency should retest in well-designed studies this controversial artificial sweetener that is consumed by hundreds of millions of people around the world.

#### RELATED LINKS AND DOWNLOADS:

FDA Should Reconsider Aspartame Cancer Risk, Say Experts (<http://www.cspinet.org/new/200706251.html>)

Aspartame: New Study Renews Cancer Concern, Says CSPI (<http://cspinet.org/new/200507272.html>)

**TOPIC:** [FDA \(/topics/fda\)](#) [Aspartame \(/topics/aspartame\)](#) [Artificial Sweeteners \(/topics/artificial-sweeteners\)](#)



## Michael Jacobson

Michael F. Jacobson, Ph.D., is a **Co-founder and long-time Executive Director** of CSPI. He is now serving as **Senior Scientist** at CSPI. Jacobson has written numerous books and reports, including *Eater's Digest: the Consumer's Fact Book of Food Additives*, *Nutrition Scoreboard*, *Salt: the Forgotten Killer*, and *Liquid Candy: How Soft Drinks are Harming Americans' Health*. He has also been honored with such awards as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Hero Award (2010), the American Public Health Association's David P. Rall award for advocacy in public health (2011), and the Food Marketing Institute's Esther Peterson Consumer Service Award (1992). His Ph.D. in microbiology is from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

**CONTACT INFO:** Contact Jeff Cronin ([jcronin\[at\]cspinet.org](mailto:jcronin@cspinet.org)) or Ariana Stone ([astone\[at\]cspinet.org](mailto:astone[at]cspinet.org)).

## News

[Press Releases \(/news/press-release\)](#)

[Statements \(/news/statement\)](#)

[Subscribe to CSPI News \(https://cspinet.org/journalists-get-news-e-mail\)](https://cspinet.org/journalists-get-news-e-mail)

[Media Contacts \(/media-contacts\)](#)

---

## Get Free Nutrition Tips

From the staff of CSPI's Nutrition Action Healthletter.

[LEARN MORE \(HTTPS://E-ACTIVIST.COM/PAGE/11895/SUBSCRIBE/1\)](https://e-activist.com/page/11895/subscribe/1)

## Take Action

Make your voice heard in the halls of Congress, in city halls, and in corporate boardrooms.

[JOIN THE FIGHT \(HTTPS://CSPINET.ORG/WHAT-YOU-CAN-DO/TAKE-ACTIONS\)](https://cspinet.org/what-you-can-do/take-actions)

## Make a Donation

Your tax-deductible gift fuels the fight for safer, healthier food.

[DONATE NOW \(HTTPS://ACTION.CSPINET.ORG/PAGE/15898/DONATE/1\)](https://action.cspinet.org/page/15898/donate/1)

TIP

## What you need to know about coconut oil (/tip/what-you-need-know-about-coconut-oil)

By Caitlin Dow

TIP

## Six Strategies to Help You Say No to Junk Food (/tip/six-strategies-help-you-say-no-junk-food)

TIP

## Two perfect side dishes for fall (/tip/two-perfect-side-dishes-fall)

By Jen Urban

(/)

▼ **Eating Healthy (/eating-healthy)**

▼ **Protecting Our Health (/protecting-our-health)**

▼ **What You Can Do (/what-you-can-do)**

▼ **About (/about)**

▼ **News (/news)**

**Resource Library (/library)**

**Contact (/contact)**



Center for Science in the Public Interest

[Reprint Requests \(/reprint-requests\)](#)   [Refund Policy \(/refund-policy\)](#)   [Privacy Policy \(/privacy-policy\)](#)

**Request permission to reuse content ([http://www.copyright.com/openurl.do?](http://www.copyright.com/openurl.do?ourl_company=Center%20for%20Science%20in%20the%20Public%20Interest&issn=08857792&WT.mc_id=pub_Center%20for%20Science%20in%20the%20Public%20Inter)**

**ourl\_company=Center%20for%20Science%20in%20the%20Public%20Interest&issn=08857792&WT.mc\_id=pub\_Center%20for%20Science%20in%20the%20Public%20Inter**

The use of information from this site for commercial purposes is strictly prohibited without written permission from CSPI.