

## **The “dark side” of Professor Séralini**

Of the many people in the entourage of Professor Gilles-Eric Séralini, there are his friends from Sevene Pharma, a discreet company owned by the leaders of a strange movement.

The controversial study by Gilles-Eric Séralini reporting on NK603 transgenic maize has had extensive media coverage, and so has the million euros from the Fondation pour le progrès de l'homme (FPH - Foundation for the Progress of Humankind), a foundation with a reputation for generosity towards an assortment of anti-GMO groups. Comments were also made on the 2.2 million euros in funding from CERES, an association where the honorary president is Gérard Mulliez, the same man who is currently chair of the strategy committee of the Auchan retail group.

In Séralini's book *Tous Cobayes!* [All Guinea Pigs], released to coincide with the publication of his study, the author reviews the circumstances of this joint financial arrangement: “*We could not let ourselves be seen by our detractors as scientists with direct funding from the retail lobby, in a set-up symmetrical to the situation of the experts influenced by the farming and food industry lobby. [...] CRIIGEN [the Committee for Research & Independent Information on Genetic Engineering] played a key role in setting up the experiment as it was the interface between the donor associations (CERES and the FPH) and the steering committee running the experiment.*”

The message is clear: Mr. Séralini decided to opt for transparency; well, almost. There is no point in searching through his book, or anywhere else, to find explanations on the related interests he has via a small company named Sevene Pharma producing homeopathic products, with a network of a completely different kind: a movement named Invitation à la Vie (IVI – Invitation to Life) which, in 1995 and 1999, was classified in the category of “*pseudo-Catholic healing sects*” by the French parliamentary commission of enquiry into sects.

### **About Invitation to Life**

Gilles-Eric Séralini is a consultant for Sevene Pharma, based in the Cévennes region in France, and conducts most of the company's “experimental” research. He also spends a significant part of his time promoting so-called detoxification products, for example at a training seminar organised by Corinne Lepage's CRIIGEN, with lectures organised by Sevene Pharma and at symposiums on alternative medicine where speakers also include IVI figures.

To carry out his studies commissioned by the small company based in the Cévennes region, Gilles-Eric Séralini took on Cécile Decroix-Laporte, the former HR director of Sevene Pharma, as a member of his research team in Caen, together with Claire Laurant-Berthoud, her “*scientific colleague and coordinator of clinical data*”, who is also a supporter of Invitation to Life and has been for more than twenty years<sup>1</sup>. Other IVI supporters have also provided him with substantial funding, thus making it possible for him to carry out eight of his studies. There is, for example, Anne de Constantin who runs the Denis Guichard Foundation and who, in 2010, wrote the preface to a book by Yvonne Trubert the founder of Invitation to Life; Anne de Constantin is a shareholder in Sevene Pharma, as are other well-known figures in Invitation to Life, including the current president, Daniel Chauvin, the current vice-president, Maud André-Vilgrain, and the former president, Georges Dulaurans. And that's not all. The sales and marketing department of Sevene Pharma is located at IVI headquarters in Boulogne-Billancourt. The production plant and head office of Sevene Pharma are at the Domaine de Mazet, a property belonging to Marie d'Hennezel, a long-time IVI supporter who told her story in the book *Invités à Vivre* [Invited to Live], published in 2003.

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1. Claire Laurant-Berthoud, when contacted by the A&E, claimed to have no knowledge of the existence of Invitation to Life, and yet, as Anne de Constantin told us, the ethnobotanist was co-author, together with the IVI vice-president, Maud André-Vilgrain, of *Homme nouveau – Nouvelle médecine*, a book for internal use by the association.

## “Overcoming the Kingdom of Satan”

The association Invitation to Life was founded in 1983 by a certain Yvonne Trubert (1932-2009) and soon had thousands of followers, mostly from upper middle-class backgrounds, often doctors, prominent figures in show business, directors, corporate managers and executives, and diplomats. This amazing success aroused the curiosity of the media and in 1987, Chantal de Rudder, a journalist with the weekly magazine, *Le Nouvel Observateur*, looked into the sort of “Christ-like-charismatic-Hindu-naturopathic-bio-energetic-like IVI system”, describing how “Granny Yvonne, previously an overlock seamstress, has the kingdom of Satan and cancer scoured clean.” As one female follower explained: “With everything that’s happened, the Earth has been asphyxiated by negative forces. It’s an orange with the pores clogged up. Yvonne’s job is to open up the pores in the orange once more so that the light can come down to earth.” And how does she do it? There is prayer, plus two essential spiritual tools which Yvonne Trubert has: harmonisation and vibrations. Explanations can be found in the IVI manuals: “Following a specific system of movements, harmonisation focuses on certain areas of the body which correspond to energy centres known as chakras, related to a certain number of organs and physiological functions. [...] Harmonisation means that physical symptoms such as pain can be relieved, and we know that there is subjective involvement in pain. Results seen with first and second degree burns are relevant as they are objective, systematic and irrefutable: reports on burns victims and their injuries provide concrete evidence that harmonisation is effective.” And there are vibrations which “emit a chorus of sounds like mantras being chanted, having an effect on energy, helping release inner tensions in the person who is then reconnected with the earth. By calling on “breath and sound” it is possible to create an “opening onto a vibration frequency affecting both earthly and cosmic forms of energy.”

## The Hidden Side of IVI

In 1988, a TV crew from France’s second national station did a report on Yvonne during a seminar in the town of Cros in the Cévennes region where she was introducing followers to harmonisation. The report included recommendations which she had given at a previous seminar: “For bone cancer, you give virtually nothing. Just magnesium with trace elements, one ampoule, and there’s always the calcium binder. And the miracle goes on: the holes, which are usually in the thighbones or arms or spinal column, disappear, recalcifying by themselves, and often in record time. So you don’t need to worry about how the bone will regenerate. Don’t worry. God looks after it and he certainly knows how to do it.”

Parkinson’s disease, multiple sclerosis, shingles – there’s nothing that can stand up to Granny Yvonne. “Leukaemia? With the care you’ll be able to give, you end up completely irrigating and destroying the disease. Metastasis will disappear beneath your fingers.” Yvonne Trubert’s lessons are printed in a booklet under the title *Homme nouveau – Nouvelle médecine* [New Man – New Medicine], written in 1985 by Dr. Maud André-Vilgrain and Claire Laurant; they announce the advent of a new era: “Now, leaving the era centred on chemistry, biochemistry and physics which was the 20<sup>th</sup> century, we are moving onto the century of alchemy, i.e. of the possibility of transforming all matter, solely through the energy of love.”

IVI activities were cause for more and more concern. The weekly magazine *L’Express* reported that the National Day for the Prevention of Suicide “had almost been taken over by a sect.” “This would have been so if there had not been revelations in the magazine *Le Canard enchaîné*: Agnès and Bernard Loiseau, senior IVI figures, infiltrated the organisers, posing as representatives of the magazine *Psychologies*. [...] Confronted with the scandal, the magazine *Psychologies*, which refuses to have any associations with the IVI sect or with Mr. & Mrs. Loiseau, withdrew from the event”, as was reported by *L’Express*.

Two years after the article was published, the magazine noted that IVI, “despite its ‘miraculous’ prayers, has its dark side.” In a feature article under the title “The Sects that Claim to Cure”, the magazine *L’Express* warned readers: “Are these wild dreams of cures surrealistic? No, they are tragic. Sects kill.” Then the magazine told the story of Nadine Schuster. “She was an IVI follower from the very beginning and was struck off the medical register of practising doctors by the French medical board for serious professional misconduct and charlatanism, her victims being an AIDS patient and two women suffering from cancer.” These three cases were not the only ones cited by *L’Express* which also reported the case of a female patient treated by two IVI doctors; she had a tumour on her hand: “They placed their hands over chakras, to open them and cause energy to be released; but a large number of these ‘harmonisations’ and the homeopathic treatment specially prepared by the company *Theophane* clearly did not solve the problem. No cancer expert had ever seen such a huge tumour, weighing more than one kilo, a monstrous object reminiscent of the Middle Ages. And [the patient] was suffering, atrocious pain. Before dying she told the story of how she had discovered IVI, in a pathetic letter written to Yvonne Trubert who was the leader of her prayer group.”

## IVI organises its defence

When confronted with this criticism, Georges Dulaurans, a gynaecologist and the president of Invitation to Life from 1995 to 2000, replied that their critics had believed that they wanted to have substitute treatments through harmonisation or a spiritual approach, even though that had never been their goal. Their argument was that “spiritual elements can help improve a condition, but can definitely not guarantee a cure.” He continued: “Between 1995 and 2000, as the person in charge of Invitation to Life administrative matters, I did everything so that the authorities would know who we were and what state of mind prevailed over our work.”

Daniel Chauvin, who took over from him and who is still leading the movement which he now presents as “a Christian-based secular association” and no longer as a “religious movement”, has the same arguments: “We have stated and repeated that Invitation to Life can make absolutely no claim to have a therapeutic approach and does not have one.” The argument is barely convincing when we see that at the same time, the two IVI leaders tell of their own cures (Mr. Dulaurans

from kidney stones and Mr. Chauvin from spasmophilia) achieved through harmonisation. *"IVI looks to cure the most serious diseases by the laying of hands – cancer, AIDS or multiple sclerosis"* as stated in the report by the French interministerial mission for monitoring and preventing excesses by sects (MIVILUDES) published in 2005.

Today, three years after Yvonne Trubert's death, IVI claims to have some 900 members; it has 18 centres in France and says it is present in 35 different countries. MIVILUDES, when contacted by A&E, stated that it was continuing to monitor IVI activities with *"great attention"*, in particular *"therapeutic activities involving risks for vulnerable people who may be led to abandon traditional healthcare treatment."* MIVILUDES also stated that it had received *"reports of family break-ups."* Basically, when off camera, IVI has never stopped its *"curing"* practices; quite the opposite, it has developed some of its activities with a complete lack of transparency, doing so through a *"trade name"* which, in theory, is less controversial.

## Behind the scenes at Sevene Pharma

Daniel Chauvin, the IVI president, devotes part of his energy to the small pharmaceutical company, Sevene Pharma, where he chairs the management board. He is a long-time friend of an original IVI supporter, Marie d'Hennezel, and obviously responded to the call made by the former journalist who has embarked on a new career as a medicinal plant grower. *"Sevene Pharma emerged from this plant farming,"* explained Marie d'Hennezel who was less secretive about her *"unhappy childhood in a well-intentioned middle-class background"* than she was about belonging to IVI. *"Many people have joined us since,"* she added. There are names such as Maud André-Vilgrain, Georges Dulaurans and even Hedwige Gendebien from the Belgian IVI.

Marie d'Hennezel is also manager of the company Plantes de Marie Sevene marketing a range of detoxifying drinks, honeys, herbal teas and jams under the brand name Marie de Mazet. And of course all products are certified as organic. She manages another company too, Les Jardins de Mary, set up in 2009 with Fabienne Trubert, Yvonne's daughter. Basically, it's a family circle, whether to provide vibrations and harmonisation services or to procure *"organic remedies for healthy humans and a healthy earth."*

## Mister Wise's Money...

Such a high level of business activity has not stopped Sevene Pharma from losing substantial amounts of money every year. Annual sales income was approximately 300 000 euros in fiscal 2011, but the income statement recorded a loss of 2.4 million euros. After ten years of repeated negative results, there have been a number of recapitalisations via various loans and financial packages arranged by an experienced British businessman named Christopher Wise, the man who chairs the Sevene Pharma supervisory board and who happens to be its main purveyor of funds.

While his name does not appear in the IVI management entities (his son David is the only name, listed as a member of the board), his positive attitude towards Yvonne Trubert's movement is quite clear. In fact he founded the non-profit association, Le Vivant, a Belgian association similar to IVI, with most of the board members recruited from Yvonne Trubert's association.

Sevene Pharma may be losing money, yet there is absolutely no doubt that Mr. Wise has excellent management experience. He was assistant director of Burberry in New York, then director of Burberry stores (Europe) in Paris. He was also managing director of the European subsidiaries of Rémy-Cointreau, a position he held for seven years, and director of Rémy Cointreau SA for a three-year term. He is married to the daughter of Robert Cointreau, the man behind Rémy-Cointreau spirits, and with his father-in-law he founded a non-trading company [société civile] named Cowis Finance, a family holding that received a contribution of 350 000 Rémy-Cointreau shares in 1995 and which now has a one-third shareholding in Sevene Pharma.

And Christopher Wise came with more than just the capital! His friend Ari Zaphiriou-Zafiri, a British financier, is also involved in the adventure. Together the two men set up two companies – the Living Finance Company and the Living Trust Company. Ari Zaphiriou-Zafiri is chairman of Kestrel Investment Partners and has also been involved with a number of other large international investment companies. He is treasurer of the non-profit organisation, Le Vivant, and he is also a Sevene Pharma shareholder.

## And Wagram

The story would not be complete without reference to a mysterious investment company in Luxemburg: Wagram Investment S.A., founded in 2001. Wagram, like Cowis Finance, has a one-third capital holding in Sevene Pharma. The three main board members live in Monaco, two of them manage the company Landmark Management SAM which has offices including locations in the Bermudas and Hong Kong. While there are no Invitation to Life supporters in the Wagram entities, virtually all of the 3.1 million euros in assets (figures for 2010) are related to the IVI network: 2.4 million in Sevene Pharma and 525 000 in two real estate companies [SCI], one managing the building where Invitation to Life has its headquarters, and the other managing the building housing a medical centre where a number of Invitation to Life doctors practise. Basically this means that Sevene Pharma and its related companies are in a comfortable position. While all the plants they use are *"local"*, the evidence suggests that the same cannot be said for all the capital backing them. There is capital which has helped fund some of the work done by the professor from Caen. *"I have known Gilles-Eric Séralini for a very long time,"* said Marie d'Hennezel, before continuing: *"He provides the scientific endorsement for what we are doing."* In recognition of services rendered, the professor never misses an opportunity to promote the business of his *"friends from the company Sevene Pharma."* But this *"friendship"* is more than just scientific collaboration.

# Invitation to Life & its Network

## SCI Les Princes de la Tourelle

(Medical centre with IVI doctors)

Manager: Jean-Paul Brunot

Shareholders:

- Société Wagram
- Wisco Immobilier (Christopher Wise)
- the doctors at the medical centre

## Invitation to Life

President: Daniel Chauvin

Vice-President: Maud André-Vilgrain

Former President & VP: Georges Dulaurans

Followers/Supporters:

Anne de Constantin, Marie d'Hennezel, Claire Laurant-Berthoud, Marie-Claire Ricci, Hedwige Gendebien, David Wise (Christopher et Irène Wise's son), et al.

## SCI Les Enfants du Paradis

(real estate company managing IVI headquarters)

Manager: Jean-Paul Brunot

Shareholders:

- Société Wagram
- Wisco Immobilier (Christopher Wise)
- Anne de Constantin, and other IVI followers

## Les Jardins de Mary

Manager: Marie d'Hennezel

Shareholders:

- Marie d'Hennezel (50%)
- Fabienne Lopez, née Trubert, Yvonne Trubert' daughter (50%)

## Sevene Pharma Marie de Mazet

President, Supervisory Board :

Christopher Wise

President, Management Board:

Daniel Chauvin

Shareholders:

Christopher & Irène Wise and Cowis Finance, 33%, Société Wagram, 33% (Luxemburg), Daniel Chauvin, 10%, Anne de Constantin, 3,5%, Marie d'Hennezel, 2%, Georges Dulaurans, Marie-Claire Ricci, Maud André-Vilgrain, Hedwige Gendebien, Ari Charles Zaphiriou-Zarifi, at al.

Professor Séralini is consultant for Sevene Pharma

## Plantes de Marie Sevene

Manager: Marie d'Hennezel

Shareholders:

- Marie d'Hennezel (0.0025%)
- Sevene Pharma (99.0075%)

## Denis Guichard Foundation

President: Anne de Constantin

Former President: Jean-Marie Pelt

The DG foundation has sponsored eight of Professor Séralini's studies.

## SCI Mazet des Plantes

Manager : Christopher Wise

Shareholders :

- Christopher Wise (33%)
- Anne de Constantin (33%)
- Marie-Marion Langlois (33%)



## An IVI person in Mr. Séralini's team

The managing director of the company in the Cévennes, Geoffroy Waroqueaux, states that "Professor Séralini has nothing to do with Sevene Pharma", pointing out that "he has never been on the payroll. He is a consultant." Indeed he is; but a consultant with special motivation. A company in Marseilles has been given the responsibility for the strictly regulated side of Sevene Pharma homeopathic production, and Professor Séralini's research laboratory has been doing most of the "experimental" research conducted by Sevene Pharma. Gilles-Eric Séralini has already published two studies funded by Sevene Pharma on the use of the company's drugs (Dig1, Dig2, Sp1 and Uro1) and which have apparently proven that they can protect against different pollutants, including Roundup. To carry out the research work, the professor in Caen called on Sevene Pharma employees: Cécile Decroix-Laporte, at that time the staff manager, and two others, Frédéric Langlois and Claire Laurant-Berthoud.

Claire Laurant-Berthoud has a bachelor's degree in psychology and a one-year higher degree [DEA] in ethnobotany; she holds a position with Sevene Pharma as "scientific collaborator and clinical data coordinator." There is no reference in her professional CV to any degree in chemistry or medicine. In her practical manual entitled *Prévenir, soulager et se soigner au naturel* [Natural prevention, relief and care] (2010), she describes herself as a specialist in medicinal plants and traditional medical practices. Some explanation of the term "traditional" is needed, particularly so in the light of what is in her first book

*Homme nouveau – Nouvelle médecine*, published jointly with a leading figure of Invitation to Life, Maud André-Vilgrain. The booklet, allegedly “*completing the teachings of Yvonne [Trubert] as conducted in the course of her seminars*” and published in 1985, provides an insight into the role of the Sevene Pharma “preparations” and Marie d’Hennezel’s herbal teas as part of the vibratory treatment arrangements of the Invitation to Life movement.

“*Providing healthcare means inducing harmony in the human being, for disease is disharmony that has moved into the body*”, as explained by the authors. And “*our diet is made deficient because we no longer have the natural cycle of trace elements absorbed by animals being eliminated into animal fertilizer*.” Furthermore “*the air we breath is depleted of solar [sic] particles and has high levels of toxic substances caused by pollution*.” “*In our life, therefore, a fuel has to be taken every day*,” argues Claire Laurant; and this is especially important as these trace elements “*act like a ‘magnet’ holding onto the energy flows that have been reharmonised*.”

These trace elements can be provided to the body through supplements, in the form of ampoules or herbal teas. “*Each herbal tea has a specific, clearly determined effect on an organ which it drains, thus releasing its toxins and restoring the possibility for it to vibrate and start up again or to have the chakra which the organ relies on to operate at full capacity*.” This is the explanation given by the authors of *Homme nouveau – Nouvelle médecine*, who then give details. “*These combinations will be much better and more effective once the person has been reharmonised and the main chakras concerned have been found again*.” All that’s needed then is a touch of pseudo-Christian spirituality: “*These combinations of herbal teas are taken over a 21-day cycle, with a three-day break in the middle of the cycle*.” Why 21 days? Claire Laurant has the answer: the figure 21 is comprised of 3 times 7, three being the Trinity and seven the figure of perfection, the divine figure par excellence.” Vibration, harmonisation, detoxification and an esoteric touch – and you’re ready to go! The theory had been perfected by 1985.

## New packaging

Today, the argument has changed. The terms “scientific study” and “quality control” have mostly taken over from “love” and “harmony”. Irène Wise, the wife of the main shareholder of Sevene Pharma, was asked how the company operated and gave her explanation: “*Our mindset is different from other people’s, as we have quality control from beginning to end. That means our plants are completely organic, are hand-picked, and have exceptional vitality*.” To find out what is behind this “*exceptional vitality*”, we need to go back to the book *Homme nouveau – Nouvelle médecine* which provides all the secrets: “*The attitude prevailing when the remedy is made, when it is prescribed and is taken, is as important as the remedy itself. At each stage in the chain, the vibration may be annihilated, diverted or, conversely, increased*.” This knowledge which takes root in “love” (for “*Love is all that is needed for all these negative forces to be broken and for the remedy to achieve its full scope, and even beyond when in action*”) is not available to the other manufacturers of homeopathic products, such as Boiron, who are naturally on the wrong track. “*Most homeopathic products are made with plants of uncertain quality, for the people making them are not primarily interested in that*”, explains Irène Wise. Geoffroy Waroqueaux maintains that he chose the path of medication as “*it offers greater credibility than dietary supplements which anyone can find in the local health food store, and for which there are no studies, nothing at all*.”

## Sevene Pharma Ambassador

“*What we don’t have is visibility*” according to Irène Wise. “*We would need crop growers to take our Digeodoren, our star medication for cellular detoxification. It’s our job to convince them, but it’s complicated. The message gets through to their minds, but they don’t act on it*” comments Geoffroy Waroqueaux, regretting this. That is why it is useful to have the regular presentations by Gilles-Eric Séralini, a genuine Sevene Pharma ambassador.

When Sevene Pharma held an event in Paris on May 24, 2012 – a “*symposium on environmental pollution, its impact on health and solutions offered by cellular depollution*” – the professor brought the scientific endorsement that is indispensable. He reviewed pollutants “*starting with the quality of air in the Paris region (Airparif)*. It was a sad realisation that it was above the threshold of acceptable residual levels for the human body”; this can be read in the report on the meeting. Of course, the case of Roundup was cited: “*He has worked on the pesticide, Roundup, now proven to be toxic. To cope with this attack, he experimented with pollution-removing agents, including Digeodoren (made by Sevene Pharma), with an effect on the liver system that may have a possible preventive action*.”

After an exposé like that, who would have any doubts about the usefulness of Sevene Pharma products? Indeed, this usefulness was the subject of a second presentation given by the president of the Institut Homéopathique Scientifique [Scientific Homeopathy Institute], Albert-Claude Quemoun, a doctor in pharmacy who presented Digeodoren as a “*multipurpose draining agent for the liver-kidney-skin axis*” and Uroden as a product to facilitate “*urinary elimination functions by stimulating the excretion of toxins*”, claiming that Uroden was excellent for gout attacks. Albert-Claude Quemoun also recommended Spirodrine for congestive conditions, and maintained that Calmodren had a “*soothing effect on stress conditions inherent in modern lifestyle*.” He went on to say that it was even a very good treatment for “*a good number of chronic conditions*.” At the same symposium, Dr. Sophie Scheffer put the finishing touch to the picture with reports of clinical cases, noting that for each observation made “*the prescription of Digeodoren, alone or in combination therapy, produced a noticeable improvement*.” According to information on the Website [Viesaineetzen.com](http://Viesaineetzen.com), Sophie Scheffer “*is a member of the Medical Committee of the homeopathic company, Sevene Pharma*.” Is it a coincidence that her address, in Belgium, is the same address as the office of the Belgian non-profit association, Le Vivant ?

One month later, Gilles-Eric Séralini was running a training seminar, this one organised by CRIIGEN where he is president of the Scientific Board. The subject chosen was “*Ecomedicine and Detoxification*” – yet another opportunity to promote Sevene

Pharma and Sevene Pharma products. According to the programme: "Presentations in the course of the seminar will be on work by CRIIGEN and Sevene Pharma; on growing its organic and detoxifying plants in Monoblet." The event included a visit to the Sevene Pharma site at the Domaine de Mazet, but only after three speakers had given their lectures: Gilles-Eric Séralini, Joël Spiroux, a homeopathic doctor and president of CRIIGEN, and, of course, Claire Laurant-Berthoud. In fact the three friends get together on a regular basis for other presentations, e.g. for the Symposium on Aromatherapy and Medicinal Plants held in Grasse in March 2012, for the symposium on "Medicine in the Third Millennium – the role and issues for Ecomedicine" in October 2012, and for discussions organised by the NGO Rencontre des Médecines, the vice-president of which is Anne de Constantin.

## A Logical Friendship

It is, after all, only logical that the researcher from Caen should be friends with the faithful supporters of Yvonne Trubert, for Gilles-Eric Séralini is more than just a keen anti-GMO activist; he, like Invitation to Life, is overtly militant in his advocacy for a new approach to medicine in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. "Twenty-first century medicine will have to detoxify the human body, removing the pollution corrupting it, the stress oxidising it and disturbing the general metabolic mechanisms" as he wrote in his book *Après nous le déluge* (2006), co-authored with his friend Jean-Marie Pelt, a member of CRIIGEN and president, for twenty years, of the Denis Guichard Foundation. The book tells the reader that the "person who discovers the process of combined actions and finds the way of reducing the ability of pollutants to accumulate in the body will be the Pasteur of the 21<sup>st</sup> century." But for the moment, Gilles-Eric Séralini has not reached that stage. "People label me as a militant and a whistle-blower, but I'm just doing my job as a researcher and teacher, and that is to tell society what I find." Such was his humble statement to the newspaper *Le Monde*. "A jovial face, an average silhouette with a generous waist, an easy talker. And along with that is a dark side, with tinted glasses concealing his eyes, a moustache covering his lip, a slightly nasal voice pouring forth evidence that nothing or no one could divert him from." This was how he was seen by the journalist, Pierre Le Hir, who was obviously charmed by him; particularly after the massive media interest aroused by his study on Monsanto's NK603 transgenic maize, even though the findings have been dismissed by the scientific community. According to one of the doctoral students at Caen University, "It was crazy in the research laboratory: a procession of reporters, cameras and microphones." The professor's cramped office at the end of a corridor is described: there is the diploma for his decoration by the French State – Chevalier de l'ordre national du Mérite – and a photo of his children, Harmonie and Alexandre (a Greek name meaning he who protects men), "summing up his commitment very nicely" for the reporter whose investigation obviously stopped at the laboratory door. It is a pity that he did not want to find out any more about the background to this commitment, or to the "dark side" of Gilles-Eric Séralini.

## ----- The Denis Guichard Foundation Invitation to Life and Gilles-Eric Séralini

Sevene Pharma is not the only bridge connecting Invitation to Life followers and Gilles-Eric Séralini. Mr. Séralini, the researcher in the city of Caen, also benefits from the generosity of a quite unusual foundation – the Denis Guichard Foundation [FDG – Fondation Denis Guichard], under the management of Anne de Constantin de Châteauneuf, who also happens to be a Sevene Pharma shareholder. Between 2005 and 2012, no fewer than eight of Mr. Séralini's studies were jointly funded by the FDG, and specifically the studies on detoxification of human cells, needed for Sevene Pharma research.

Gilles-Eric Séralini has been in regular contact with the FDG since 2001, if not earlier; it was in 2001 that he was given the prize awarded by the foundation to persons and associations "who have distinguished themselves through their research, work and action in areas supported by the Foundation." Since then, he has been a speaker at meetings [Rencontres dans les Cévennes] held by the Foundation at the Domaine de Mazet between 2002 and 2008, and at some of the foundation's seminars. The subjects of the lectures (A New Look at the Living Organism, The Flesh of the Living Organism, The Fullness of the Living Organism, Safeguarding the Living Organism) accurately convey the philosophy of the small foundation that was set up in 1984 after Denis Guichard died, Denis Guichard who was the brother of Anne de Constantin and who, at the time, was 33 years old. "While a pharmacy student, he developed an interest in medicinal plants which later became subjects for research and experimentation. He had to go further and at the age of 28 he embarked on medical studies. He wanted to combine spiritual research and health research.» This text can be found on the FDG Website.

Anne de Constantin holds shares in Sevene Pharma and also in Mazet des Plantes and the real estate company Enfants du Paradis which owns the premises where Invitation to Life has its headquarters. In 2010 she even wrote the preface to a book by Yvonne Trubert who founded Invitation to Life "In this book you will find the feedback with views from the seminars as she wished them to be. They were prophetic adventures. I was part of it. They were the starting point and the basis for the ones I hold today as I do my very best to apply what I learnt in them." (Anne de Constantin) "I met Yvonne by complete chance when my brother died. Everything that's been reported about her in the press is totally wrong. She was a simple woman and always said that science, in particular quantum physics, was going to find God again. And that suited me perfectly.» This was the story told by the woman managing the FDG during an interview with A&E. Officially Anne de Constantin keeps a

distance from Invitation to Life, her foundation “not having taken that path at all.” Well, not altogether, for the manager did admit that “harmonisation is not talked about, but it is something that’s quite extraordinary.” But she preferred not to dwell on the subject. “You know, we have had a great deal of criticism,» she explained, then brought the conversation to an end.

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