

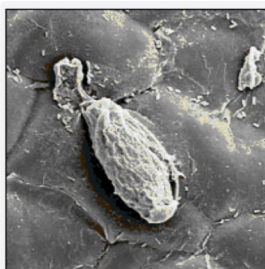
Related Categories: [Central Valley](#) | [Peninsula](#) | [U.S.](#) | [Environment & Forest Defense](#) | [Government & Elections](#) | [Health, Housing & Public Services](#) | [Labor & Workers](#)

OPED NEWS; The Future of Our Food has only just begun with Biotechnoly, by Sandi Trend

by Sandi Trend

Sunday Mar 29th, 2009 5:29 AM

A very interesting and informative article written by Sandi Trend, Mother of David Bell, former Assistant Researcher/Microbiologist of Agraquest, Inc. in Davis California. Ms Trend urges EVERYONE to watch the new documentary, "THE FUTURE OF FOOD" on LINK TV... [DIRECTV Channel 375 | DISH Network Channel 9410]



Pill-shaped bacteria (upper left) ate the head of a much-larger fungal spore, halting its attack on a leaf, in this microscope image.

Photo courtesy AgraQuest

Special: "The Future of Food" by Mark Hertsgaard - Airdates of "THE FUTURE OF FOOD"

Saturday, March 28th 03:00 pm

Sunday, March 29th 05:00 am

Sunday, March 29th 03:30 pm

Monday, March 30th 01:00 am

Monday, March 30th 11:00 pm

Tuesday, March 31st 09:00 am

Wednesday, April 1st 02:00 am

This Link TV special, hosted by celebrated environmental journalist Mark Hertsgaard, investigates the corporate dominance of our world's food systems. We are joined in the studio by the filmmaker of The Future of Food, Deborah Koons Garcia, as well as University of California biologist Ignacio Chapela, founder of The Mycological Facility in Oaxaca, Mexico, a facility dealing with questions of natural resources and indigenous rights. Koons Garcia's documentary The Future of Food offers an in-depth investigation into the disturbing truth behind the unlabeled, patented, genetically engineered foods that have quietly filled U.S.

grocery store shelves for the past decade.

From the prairies of Saskatchewan, Canada to the fields of Oaxaca, Mexico, this film gives a voice to farmers whose lives and livelihoods have been negatively impacted by this new technology. The health implications, government policies and push towards globalization are all part of the reason why many people are alarmed by the introduction of genetically altered crops into our food supply. The film also explores alternatives to large-scale industrial agriculture, placing organic and sustainable agriculture as real solutions to the farm crisis today.

Several questions were asked of me about this article:

WHAT COMPELLED YOU TO WRITE, “THE FUTURE OF OUR FOOD HAS ONLY JUST BEGUN WITH BIOTECHNOLOGY”?

TREND

I’m concerned about the safety of our food, especially when I know that live fungus and bacteria products are being put on our food and used for insect control. I have been following the outbreaks of salmonella and e-coli and to be honest with you it makes me cringe because I know that the company my son worked for, Agraquest has bio-control products on the market that are registered for use on the same crops that people have gotten sick and some have died. All of them; spinach, lettuce, tomatoes, peppers, peanuts, alfalfa and now PISTACHIOS have had biopesticides, biofungicides, and/or bioinsecticides products used on them.

I’m not saying Agraquest is to blame for the salmonella and e-coli outbreaks, there are a lot of biotechnology companies who have the same type of products on the market. I’m just saying it certainly is worth looking into if ANY biotechnology company’s bio-control products could be to blame. I don’t feel very comfortable knowing that Agraquest has a manufacturing plant in Mexico where most of their biological products are manufactured when this country is so concerned about bio-terrorist and homeland security.

ORGANIC BIO-CONTROL PRODUCTS

Some of Agraquest’s products are considered organic. What Agraquest says about one of these products, Serenade Garden’ 24 oz Ready to Use, “New category - first certified organic in Wal-Mart.”

When a product is submitted to the EPA for registration the EPA evaluates the product and tests it. Right on the EPA’s, Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division preprinted Form; 8570-6 it says, “After fermentation and prior to further processing, each batch must be tested for the following microbial contaminants and have levels below those listed.”

Now, e-coli and salmonella are the very first pathogens that are listed! So you see, I don’t buy this nonsense that farm animals or humans contaminated the crops that salmonella and e-coli have tested positive. I guess I would’ve accepted that theory if I didn’t know what the EPA’s form said. Why should any of us have to worry about even the slimmest possibility of a human or animal disease producing bacteria or fungus being used on our food crops or for insect control?

Evidently the EPA is concerned about it because they have not only e-coli and salmonella, but other disease producing pathogens listed on the form that is sent to the bio-control product manufactures.

Agraquest has products on the market that are used to treat human diseases. Arabesque TM BioFumigant, a new fungal species was isolated from the bark of a cinnamon tree in Honduras. This is what Agraquest says about Arabesque, “controls fruit rot (and many other molds and bacteria, including human pathogens E-coli, Salmonella and others)”.

DO YOU TRUST AGRAQUEST?

TREND

Not at all. How can you trust a company that scours the world for “novel” microorganisms, brought them into a converted medical doctors office and dumped liquid in a concrete slab that dumps directly onto the ground in a residential neighborhood neighborhood?

This Agraquest location, 1105 Kennedy Place in Davis California, where my son got sick, wasn’t zoned for this type of business to the best of my knowledge.

When David got sick after working for Agraquest for only 5 months and 9 days I didn’t think we would all go through hell for the last 10 years like we have. I suspected his employment had something to do with his 1st major sinus surgery when he continued to have infections in his sinuses.

WHAT HAPPENED?

TREND

Well, he was sick prior to the day he had to leave work early, he was nauseous and was having pretty bad headaches. The day he left work early he had bloody pus draining from his nose and he went to Immediate Care Medical Clinic, where he was put on Zithromax and told to see an ENT immediately. By the time he got to the ENT the left side of his face and teeth were numb and it was only 7 days after he had first sought emergency medical care that the first major sinus surgery was scheduled.

David’s health has never been the same since he got sick from working at Agraquest. He’s had 4 major sinus surgeries, he stopped producing B-cells for an intact immune system and was hooked up to an IV infusion pump at the hospital every 28 days for 3 years receiving IMMUNOGLOBULIN infusions, he has been on countless antibiotics and anti fungals, and not only does he still have infections in his sinuses but his lungs, heart, liver, spleen and GI tract have been affected.

As of the end of 2005 David’s medical expenses were over \$333,000 and I stopped counting.

WHEN DID YOU REALIZE THAT IT WAS WHAT DAVID HAD BEEN EXPOSED TO AT AGRAQUEST THAT HAD MADE HIM SO SICK?

TREND

David was told by his wife's Dr., after he examined him, that he "needed to get away from this group of Doctors, something was wrong here". So he scheduled David for a full work-up at the Mayo Clinic in Arizona. David researched the Mayo Clinic library and found that one of Agraquest's main products, which the active ingredient was the bacteria bacillus subtilis wasn't as safe as he had been told when he worked with and around it at Agraquest. It had been known that this bacteria was an occupational hazard since 1969. Then we found out that histoplasma had been identified in David's blood serum. That was a shock because histoplasma fungus isn't endemic to this area.

I had a hard time connecting histoplasma to even being at Agraquest when David worked there, until I started searching on the internet using the Agraquest scientists names instead of Agraquest. What I found was that 3 months and 15 days after David began employment at AQ Pam Marrone filed an application (number 09/199,871) for United States patent 6,004,774 which said the invention "may be used to treat human fungal diseases in which the disseminated disease is a condida, for example, Aspergillus sp, Histoplasma sp. and Tinea sp." . I also discovered that Pam Marrone was listed as "first named inventor" on this patent.

It was also discovered that on 1/22/1999, four days after David first sought emergency medical care, the four AQ scientists who are listed as inventors on this patent started signing away their interest rights on the patent to the company, Agritope in Beaverton, Oregon.

<http://www.biotechawareness.com>

DRAIN WHERE EMPLOYEES DUMPED LIQUID/FERMENTATIONS ON THE GROUND

§

by Sandi Trend *Sunday Mar 29th, 2009 5:29 AM*



[original image](#) (1600x1200)

<http://www.biotechawareness.com>

AGRAQUEST LOCATION IN A RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD

§

by Sandi Trend *Sunday Mar 29th, 2009 5:29 AM*



[original image](#) (1600x1200)

This Agrquest location, at the corner of Kennedy Place and J Street in Davis California is where David started working and was in a residential neighborhood with apartments and single family dwellings. Behind the office park where Agrquest was located are senior housing.

<http://www.biotechawareness.com>

AGRAQUEST PATENT APPLICATION # 09/199,871 FILED 11,25,1998

§

by Sandi Trend Sunday Mar 29th, 2009 5:29 AM

United States Patent [19]

Patent Number: 6,004,774

Date of Patent: Dec. 21, 1999

Inventors: Pamela Gail Marrone; Sherry D. Heins; Denise C. Manker, all of Davis; Desmond R. Jimenez, Woodland, all of Calif.; Richard K. Bestwick, Portland, Oreg.; George J. Vandemark, Prosser, Wash.

Assignee: Agritope, Inc., Portland, Oreg.

Filed: Nov. 25, 1998

Related U.S. Application Data

NOTE: AGRAQUEST INVENTORS; PAM MARONE, SHERRY HEINS, DENISE MANKER and DESMOND JIMINEZ

NOTE: DAVID BELL HIRED AT AGRAQUEST 8/10/1998

[54] BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF PLANT FUNGAL INFECTIONS

[75] Inventors: Pamela Gail Marrone; Sherry D. Heins; Denise C. Manker, all of Davis; Desmond R. Jimenez, Woodland, all of Calif.; Richard K. Bestwick, Portland, Oreg.; George J. Vandemark, Prosser, Wash.

[73] Assignee: Agritope, Inc., Portland, Oreg.

[21] Appl. No.: 09/199,871

[22] Filed: Nov. 25, 1998

Handelsman et al., "Biological control of damping-off of alfalfa seedlings with *Bacillus cereus* UW 85" *Appl. Environ. Microbiol.* (1990) 56:713-718.

He et al., "Zwittermicin A, an antifungal and plant protection agent from *Bacillus cereus*" *Tetra. Lett.* (1994) 35:2499-2502.

Johnson et al., "Emmycin-a new antibiotic active against pathogenic fungi and higher bacteria, including bacilli of tuberculosis and diphtheria" *J. Bacteriol.* (1946) 51:591.

Landy et al., "Bacillomycin: An antibiotic from *Bacillus subtilis* active against pathogenic fungi" *Proc. Soc. Exp. Bio Med.* (1948) 67: 539-541.

Leifer et al., "Antibiotic production and biocontrol activity by *Bacillus subtilis* CI.27 and *Bacillus pumilus* CI.45" *J. Appl. Bacteriol.* (1995) 78-97-108.

McKeen et al., "Production and partial characterization of antifungal substances antagonistic to *Monilinia fructicola*" *Phytopathology* (1995) 85:1000-1004.

[original image](#) (1125x506)

THIS IS THE PATENT APPLICATION THAT WAS FILED 3 MONTHS AND 10 DAYS AFTER DAVID STARTED WORKING FOR AGRAQUEST.

<http://www.biotechawareness.com>

1ST PAGE SHOWING PROOF HISTOPLASMA WAS TESTED AT AGRAQUEST

§

by Sandi Trend Sunday Mar 29th, 2009 5:29 AM

6. Additionally, an antifungal composition comprising an extract produced by *B. subtilis* strain ATCC 55614 may be used to treat human fungal diseases in which the dissemi-

QUOTE: "Additionally, an antifungal composition comprising an extract produced by *B. subtilis* strain ATCC

55614 may be used to treat human fungal diseases in which the dissemi-"

<http://www.biotechawareness.com>

2ND PAGE SHOWING PROOF HISTOPLASMA WAS TESTED AT AGRAQUEST

§

by Sandi Trend Sunday Mar 29th, 2009 5:29 AM

NOTE: HISTOPLASMA, ASPERGILLUS

6,004,774

13

nated disease propagule is a conidia, for example, *Aspergillus* sp., *Histoplasma* sp., and *Tinea* sp.
The following examples illustrate, but in no way are intended to limit the present invention.

Base
5561
bioc
strain
TI

MATERIALS AND METHODS

continued QUOTE: "nated disease propagule is a conidia for example, *Aspergillus* sp., *Histoplasma* sp., and *Tinea* sp.

The following examples illustrate, but in no way are intended to limit the present invention.

Please be advised that ATCC 55614 is Agraquest's *Bacillus Subtilis* Strain QST 153 AND NOT Agraquest's *Bacillus* Strain QST 713 as is found in the company's Serenade Products

<http://www.biotechawareness.com>

Pam Marrone is First Named Inventor

§

by Sandi Trend Sunday Mar 29th, 2009 5:29 AM

Select Search Method: Enter Number: Application Number: SUBMIT

Order Certified Application Filed Order Certified File With View Order List

09/199,871 BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF PLANT FUNGAL INFECTIONS

Application: 09/199,871 Customer Number: -

Filing or 371 (c) Date: 11-25-1998 Status: Patented Case

Application Type: Utility Status Date: 12-10-1999

Examiner Name: LILLING, HERBERT J Location: FILE REPOSITORY (FRANCONIA)

Group Art Unit: 1651 Location Date: 07-11-2002

Confirmation Number: 4162 Earliest Publication No:

Attorney Docket Number: 4257-0009.10 Earliest Publication Date:

Class / Subclass: 435/041 Patent Number: 6,004,774

First Named Inventor: Pamela Gail Marrone, Davis, CA (US) Issue Date of Patent: 12-21-1999

[original image](#) (574x713)

As you will note, Pam Marrone is listed as FIRST NAMED INVENTOR on her application submission

(#09/199,871) which was filed on 11/25/1998 to the United States Patent Office. This application became United States Patent # 6,004,774 and was issued on 12-21-1999

<http://www.biotechawareness.com>

All of Agrquest's scientists started signing away their interest rights to this patent §

by Sandi Trend *Sunday Mar 29th, 2009 5:29 AM*

United States Patent and Trademark Office
Home Site Index Search Guides Contacts eBusiness eBiz alerts News Help

Assignments on the Web > **Patent Query**

Patent Assignment Abstract of Title
NOTE: Results display only for issued patents and published applications. For pending or abandoned applications please consult USPTO staff.

NOTE: DAVID BELL HIRED AT AGRAQUEST ON 8/10/1998

Total Assignments: 4
Patent #: 6004774 Issue Dt: 12/21/1999 Application #: 09199871 Filing Dt: 11/25/1998
Inventors: PAMELA GAIL MARRONE, SHERRY D. HEINS, DENISE C. MANKER, DESMOND R. JIMENEZ et al
Title: BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF PLANT FUNGAL INFECTIONS
Assignment: 1
Reel/Frame: 009758/0111 Recorded: 02/16/1999 Pages: 9
Conveyance: ASSIGNMENT OF ASSIGNORS INTEREST (SEE DOCUMENT FOR DETAILS).
Assignors: MARRONE, PAMELA GAIL Exec Dt: 01/22/1999
HEINS, SHERRY D. Exec Dt: 01/26/1999
MANKER, DENISE C. Exec Dt: 01/26/1999
JIMENEZ, DESMOND R. Exec Dt: 01/25/1999
Assignee: AGRITOPÉ, INC.
16160 S.W. UPPER BOONES FERRY ROAD
PORTLAND, OREGON 97224

[original image](#) (772x608)

David Bell first sought emergency medical care on 1/18/1999, only 4 days later all four scientists; listed as inventor on U.S. patent application 09/199,871 started signing away their interest rights on this patent.

*Pam Marrone, founder, CEO, inventor and scientist of Agrquest assignment of interest; 1/22,1999

*Sherry Heins, inventor and scientist with Agrquest assignment of interest; 1/26/1999

*Denise Manker, scientist with Agrquest assignment of interest; 1/26/199

*Desmond Jimenez, inventor and scientist with Agrquest assignment of interest; 1/25/1999

When it was question whether Histoplasma had been at Agrquest the answer was always no.

<http://www.biotechawareness.com>

[Add Your Comments](#)

LATEST COMMENTS ABOUT THIS ARTICLE

Listed below are the latest comments about this post.

These comments are submitted anonymously by website visitors.

TITLE	AUTHOR	DATE
Dina J. Padilla	Dina Padilla	<i>Sunday Mar 29th, 2009 12:42 PM</i>
URL FOR OPED NEWS ARTICLE	Sandi Trend	<i>Sunday Mar 29th, 2009 6:29 AM</i>

Support Independent Media

We are 100% volunteer and depend on your participation to sustain our efforts!

Donate

Donate

\$ 267.00 donated
in the past month

Get Involved

If you'd like to help with
maintaining or developing the
website, [contact us](#).

Publish

Publish *your stories* and
[upcoming events](#) on Indybay.

Regions

[North Coast](#) [Central Valley](#) [North Bay](#) [East Bay](#) [South Bay](#) [San Francisco](#) [Peninsula](#) [Santa Cruz](#)
[California](#) [US](#) [International](#)

Topics

[Animal Lib](#) [Anti-War](#) [Arts + Action](#) [Drug War](#) [Education](#) [En Español](#) [Environment](#) [Global Justice](#)
[Government](#) [Health/Housing](#) [Immigrant](#) [Media](#) [Labor](#) [LGBTI / Queer](#) [Police State](#) [Racial Justice](#)
[Womyn](#)

International

[Americas](#) [Haiti](#) [Iraq](#) [Palestine](#) [Afghanistan](#)

More

[FAQ](#) [Make Media](#) [Get Involved](#) [Photo Gallery](#) [Feature Archives](#) [Fault Lines](#) [Links](#)

Search Indybay's Archives

Search

[Advanced Search](#)

► IMC Network

© 2000–2021 San Francisco Bay Area Independent Media Center. Unless otherwise stated by the author, all content is free for non-commercial reuse, reprint, and rebroadcast, on the net and elsewhere. Opinions are those of the contributors and are not necessarily endorsed by the SF Bay Area IMC.

[Disclaimer](#) | [Copyright Policy](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Contact](#) | [Source Code](#)