

Letters to the Editor

The overlooked risks of genetically modified food

February 12

Regarding Fred Hiatt's Feb. 9 op-ed column, "[Science that is hard to swallow](#)":

Fred Hiatt is right that foods made from genetically engineered crops are safe. But the Food and Drug Administration exercises minimal oversight over biotech crops; it merely conducts a [cursory review](#) of companies' safety data. Many consumers might think differently about genetically engineered crops if the FDA were to carry out a pre-market approval process that prohibited biotech crops from entering the food supply until deemed safe.

The gap between scientists and the public could be narrowed if seed companies were better stewards of the technology and more transparent about its potential risks. As Mr. Hiatt indicated, denying the science on the safety of genetic engineering makes it less likely that the world will reap this technology's benefits.

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