

# Corrupt to the Core

by Shiv Chopra

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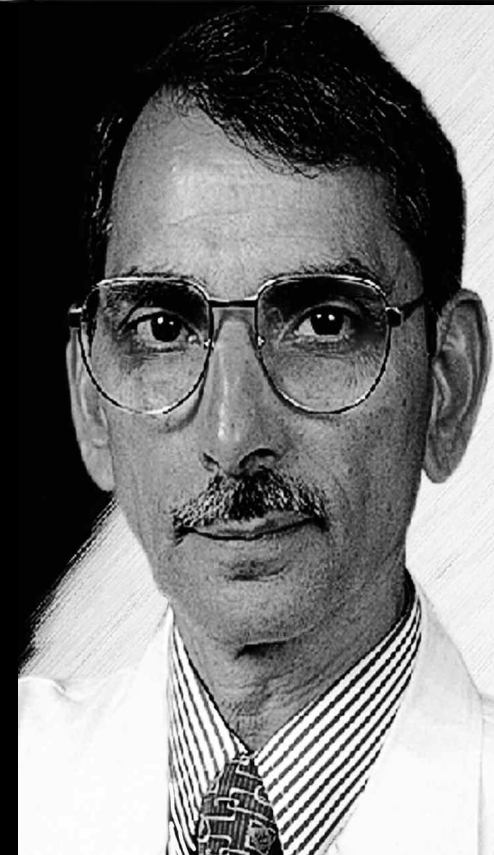
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## Memoirs of a Health Canada Whistleblower SHIV CHOPRA

Prefaces by Maude Barlow, Paul  
Dewar, MP, Samuel S. Epstein,  
Vandana Shiva, David Yazbeck



## From the Prefaces to this Book:

“Shiv Chopra is a Canadian hero. He was guided by science to conclusions that were not politically convenient. I’m grateful that he was not deterred and continued to speak out. Do you think our governmental institutions keep our health and best interests as their uppermost priorities? Read this eye opening book for a shocking answer.”

—David Suzuki, Canadian environmentalist and geneticist

“Shiv Chopra is a hero. So are his five scientist colleagues who took on the powers at Health Canada’s food inspection bureau. My best memory of Shiv is sitting on a platform with him and Ralph Nader at a huge conference in Ottawa called “Science in the Public Good” when, after receiving our “Whistleblower of the Year” award, he announced to the audience that he would whistle blow “again and again and again” until the abuse stopped. Ralph Nader doubled over with laughter and declared that in all his years as a rabble-rouser, he had never heard anyone announce publicly, in advance, that they were going to blow the whistle.”

—Maude Barlow, Chair, *Council of Canadians*,  
recipient of the Swedish Right Livelihood Award

“The cancer of corporate corruption of science and safety regulations is becoming a major threat to the planet’s health and to public health. Dr. Shiv Chopra’s book describes a leading scientists’ witnessing of this corruption. His courageous writing provides a dose of resilience to all who care about the integrity of science, the independence of government regulations from corporate influence, and the freedom of citizens from hazardous food and medicines.”

—Vandana Shiva, Environmental activist in India,  
recipient of the Swedish Right Livelihood Award

“As scientists and public citizens, both Dr. Shiv Chopra and I have fought for the freedom of science and government from corporate corruption ... I have been privileged to have been, and to continue to be, his legal advisor in those areas. Dr. Chopra and his colleagues seek to uphold the law: the law that requires that drugs, which are allowed or maintained to be used by Health Canada, must meet the human safety requirements of the Food and Drugs Act and its Regulations. I admire his tenacity, his love for the law, his love for science ... I am amazed that, in spite of all that has been thrown at him, he continues to pursue these issues without bitterness and with a determination ...”

—David Yazbeck of Ottawa-based law firm  
*Raven Cameron Ballentyne & Yazbeck*

“Independent research and publication by agency scientists, which conflict with internal policy more often than not, results in punitive let alone disciplinary action and sidelining or even dismissal. So, it takes heroic personal courage to research and publicize adverse or critical findings on products and policies endorsed by the governments involved. Dr. Chopra more than exemplifies such qualifications.”

—Samuel S. Epstein, University of Chicago,  
recipient of the Swedish Right Livelihood Award

## *Corrupt to the Core* *Memoirs of a Health Canada Whistleblower*

Dr. Shiv Chopra

Dr. Shiv Chopra’s name has become synonymous with food safety. To protect the integrity of our food, Dr. Chopra and some of his fellow scientists waged many battles over three decades against a succession of Canadian federal ministries of health.

With full support of *The Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada*—a 50,000 member union of scientific and professional public service employees, Dr. Chopra and his colleagues refused to approve various harmful drugs to be used in meat and milk production. Holding fast to sound science, they opposed a series of prime ministers and health ministers who had little or no regard for public safety. They defied gag orders, spoke publicly to the media and testified at many Senate and parliamentary committees.

Time and again the courts supported Dr. Chopra and his fellow scientists and ruled against government attempts to shut them up. Also, time and again the government overruled these scientists for the benefit of corporations – the public good be damned—and allowed dangerous drugs, agricultural practices, and pesticides to enter the food supply. Today, the dangers of these are internationally recognized and many countries have forbidden their use. In 1999, **Bovine Growth Hormone** was stopped in Canada (in the EU in 1988). Dr. Chopra, his scientist wife Nirmala, and their colleagues opposed dangerous antibiotics such as **Baytril**, **Revalor-H**, and **silicon breast implants**. His fight against the totally avoidable sources of **Mad Cow Disease**, calling the bluff on the **Anthrax scare**, and warning about **the myth of safe and effective vaccines** are equally inspiring stories.

Here is the full account of how government corruption endangers the public food supply and how Dr. Chopra and his colleagues fearlessly continue to “to speak truth to power.”

**Most importantly, this book contains a blueprint for the establishment of food safety and security: Dr. Chopra’s “Five Pillars of Food Safety,” in April 2008 was presented to the Canadian Parliament by MP (NDP) Paul Dewar. This book includes information on how to join in this campaign to make our food safe from carcinogens, hormone disruptors, and stop antibiotic resistance.**

Everybody who eats should read this book!