

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**7<sup>th</sup> May 2005**  
**For immediate release**

## ***IRISH ASSOCIATION OF HEALTH STORES***

Carrownalassan, Four Mile House, Roscommon.  
Tel. 09066-29981

### **HEALTH STORES SAY ‘NO!’ TO IRRADIATED SUPPLEMENTS AND GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOODS**

Member stores of the Irish Association of Health Stores have long had a policy of not stocking products which have been irradiated or found to contain genetically modified (GM) material. It is clear to our members that consumers do not want such products on the grounds that their long-term safety has not been assured.

Many people will remember that it was the IAHS which first brought the GM issue to public attention in this country a number of years ago, following which the campaign group ‘Genetic Concern’ was formed

Indeed, the IAHS endorses the work of GM-free Ireland Network, which is currently spearheading a campaign to ensure that the island of Ireland remains a GM-free zone within the EU.

The Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) have carried out a number of surveys in recent years and have found a small number of products to be in repeated breach of the regulations that apply to both irradiated products and to foods which contain GM material. After the first survey, the IAHS wrote to each of the manufacturers concerned, highlighting our concerns and stating our policy.

The IAHS wish to make it very clear that it thoroughly supports the FSAI in the withdrawal of these products and will do all in its power to prevent irradiated or genetically modified products reaching our shelves. We will now be asking each of our suppliers for written guarantees, backed up by properly validated certificates which firmly establish that their products comply not only with the law, but also with our stated policy.

ENDS

The Irish Association of Health Stores, which was founded in 1986, represents over 95 independent health stores throughout the Republic of Ireland. It is committed to empowering people to make informed choices in relation to all aspects of health.

**For further information please contact:**

**Erica Murray**  
**Spokesperson,**  
**Irish Association of Health Stores.**  
**Tel. 086-8245254**