

## **Gary Taubes (SA-preview)**

There is a fact that we have a huge obesity epidemic  
and what we're trying to do is not working  
and you have a very different idea about what to do,  
that might be much closer to the truth--  
Well, this is one of the arguments we make,  
the nutrition science initiative, the NuSI, we call it,  
is we've got this massive increases in obesity and diabetes  
and over the past 50 years during this period of time,  
where the understanding the research community is that they fully understand  
the cause of obesity and for the most part the cause of type II diabetes  
and they know what we should all be doing about it,  
we've been getting the same advice, lifestyle and diet advice for 50 years  
and while this has happened, obesity and diabetes rates have skyrocketed.  
So our argument is that perhaps a little bit of scientific community is in order.  
If this was, let's say HIV-AIDS we were talking about  
and in 1984 you identify HIV as the cause of the disease,  
you create antiretroviral drugs to treat it  
and then you start giving people this retroviral drug,  
you start advocating for safe-sex and condom usage  
and has absolutely no effect on the prevalence of the disease

and more and more people keep getting it and nobody's living any longer,  
then you would have scientific organizations around the world,  
the health organizations like WHO and the Centers for Disease Control  
would be having task force and committees and investigations to try and figure out  
what it is we don't understand about the etiology of this disease,  
because we certainly don't understand something.

In diabetes we do nothing - we just blame the public and the food industry  
and we say it's McDonald's and Coca-Cola and they just may going to see too much  
and the public won't listen to us,  
but surely the scientific community has it right  
and the argument I've been making  
since I got the opportunity to do research in this field  
it seems pretty clear the scientific community does not have it right,  
so the idea's that we get fat because we eat too much,  
and we get diabetic because we get fat,  
it's a pretty naive,  
almost anti-intellectual explanation  
for a physiological disorder...