



DECEMBER EDITION 2009

EME UPDATE

MOBILE TELECOMMUNICATIONS HEALTH AND SAFETY NEWS

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FORMER WHO EXPERT ADVISES CAUTION IN INTERPRETING INTERPHONE RESULTS

The former head of the World Health Organisation's EMF project has sought to reassure mobile phone users that their use of the device is "not associated with an increased risk of cancer" ahead of the anticipated release of INTERPHONE later this month.

Professor Michael Repacholi, a visiting professor of electronic engineering at the Sapienza University of Rome and chairman emeritus of the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection, made the comments in leading science magazine *New Scientist* in December ahead of the long awaited publication of the INTERPHONE project results anticipated before year's end.



Professor Michael Repacholi has warned people to treat what they read about INTERPHONE with caution, because mobile phone use is not associated with an increased risk of cancer.

The INTERPHONE project is the largest case-control study investigating the risks related to mobile phone use and cancer.

Coordinated by the International Agency for Research on Cancer,

it comprises 16 studies in 13 countries that aim to determine whether mobile phone use is associated with tumours of the brain, ear nerve or salivary glands.

"Given the public health implications, we can expect it to get a lot of media attention. But you should treat what you read and hear with caution. A decade ago, when the study was being set up, there were great expectations that it would produce a definitive answer. It is now clear that it cannot," Prof Repacholi said in *New Scientist*.

Prof Repacholi's article in *New Scientist* can be found at:

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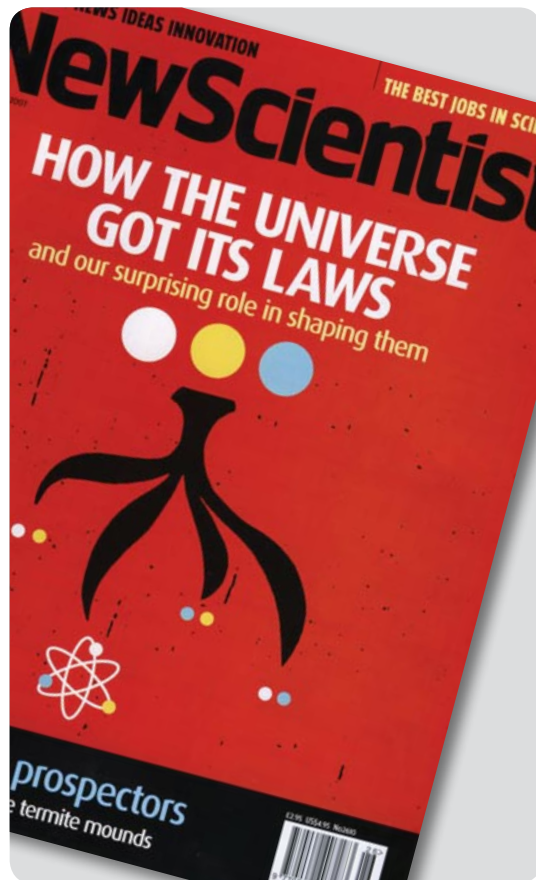
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“The studies were designed to work out whether those with cancer had used their mobiles for longer or more intensively than the others... It is therefore likely that INTERPHONE will give cellphones a clean bill of health except for the small possibility of a risk of glioma or acoustic neuroma from intensive and long-term use, which requires further study before reaching any such conclusion.

“Unfortunately, it is also likely that the media will report this possible risk without any caveats, such as it probably being due to the limitations of the study, of which there are many.”

Prof Repacholi said it is important to recognise the impact these

limitations had on the results of the INTERPHONE project.

“It is widely recognised that the design of INTERPHONE was the best available at the time. Even so, it has major flaws that cast doubt on its ability to identify any cancer risk from cellphones... Can you recall how much you used your cellphone five or 10 years ago? Of course not, and that is INTERPHONE’s biggest flaw.

“Recall bias is made more likely by the widespread dissemination of the hypothesis that INTERPHONE was set up to test – that cellphone use causes cancer. There is evidence that people with tumours

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'The vast majority of laboratory studies, when considered collectively, find no relationship between RF field exposure and any form of cancer...'

overestimate their past use of a phone, perhaps because they 'know' that their tumour may have been caused by mobile phones.

"A similar bias is seen in subjects' recall of which side of the head they held their phone: those with tumours localised on one side tend to overestimate how much they used the phone on that side," Prof Repacholi said.

"INTERPHONE's results must be seen in the light of what is already known about the effects of RF on cells. The vast majority of laboratory studies, when considered collectively, find no relationship between RF field exposure and any form of cancer. All rigorous reviews of all the scientific literature have concluded that exposure to RF fields is not

associated with an increased risk of cancer.

"Nor has any mechanism been found by which RF exposure from mobile phones could cause cancer. RF fields do not have enough energy to break chemical bonds in DNA, so they simply cannot cause the mutations required to initiate cancer. Further, from a theoretical analysis of all possible ways that RF fields could act on cells and tissues, it does not seem possible for RF exposures at levels below the international limits to cause adverse health consequences," Prof Repacholi said.

Note: Prof Repacholi is commissioned by AMTA to provide independent advice on the accuracy of scientific information which appears on the EMF Explained website.

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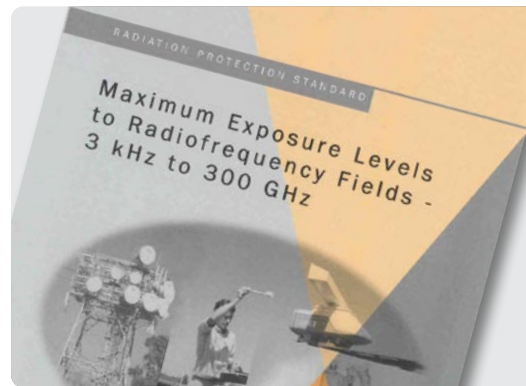


ICNIRP RECONFIRM MOBILE PHONE SAFETY GUIDELINES

The global body which sets the safe exposure levels for mobile phones has published a statement on their 1998 radiofrequency safety guidelines to reconfirm that they still protect all mobile phone users.

The International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) released the two-page statement to reconfirm that their guidelines – which were first published in 1998 – are still valid until further notice.

“...it is the opinion of ICNIRP that the scientific literature published since the 1998 guidelines has provided no evidence of any adverse effects below the basic restrictions and does not necessitate an immediate revision of its guidance on limiting exposure to high frequency electromagnetic fields [emitted by mobile phones],” the review said.



The ICNIRP statement can be downloaded here:

[WEB LINK >](#)

ICNIRP’s safety guidelines form the basis of the Australian safety standard which is set by the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA).

Importantly, the review of the guidelines considered all the most recent studies into mobile phones and brain cancer.

“However, individual national and multinational results published thus far do not indicate an elevation of the risk of cancers in the head with cell phones within 10 years of first use. More data are needed before conclusions can be drawn for longer durations,” ICNIRP said.

Also, the ICNIRP statement recognised the difficulty in conducting studies on base stations but that exposure levels are generally very low.

“Epidemiological data on possible health effects of chronic, low-level, whole-body exposure in the far-field of radiofrequency (RF) transmitters are poor, especially because of lack of satisfactory individual exposure assessment. The few studies with adequate exposure assessment did not reveal any health-related effects. Exposure levels due to cell phone base stations are generally around

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one-ten-thousandth of the guideline levels.”

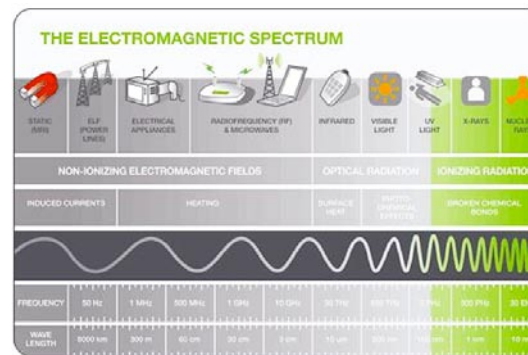
The statement follows a recent ICNIRP review of mobile phones and brain tumour risk published in *Epidemiology* which concluded the experimental data shows no adverse health effects below current safety standards and no evidence that children are more susceptible than adults are.

The 300-page ICNIRP review can be downloaded here:

[WEB LINK >](#)

The ICNIRP guidelines were published in 1998; they form the basis of WHO recommendations to governments and have been widely adopted around the world.

The WHO supports the ICNIRP evaluation process which includes



The electromagnetic spectrum: Mobile phone radio signals are located in the non-ionizing radiofrequency spectrum.

independent experts from many nations and does not include any members from industry.

“The exposure limits for EMF fields developed by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) – a non-governmental organization formally recognised by WHO, were developed following reviews of all the peer-reviewed scientific

literature, including thermal and non-thermal effects,” the WHO says.

“The standards are based on evaluations of biological effects that have been established to have health consequences. The main conclusion from the WHO reviews is that EMF exposures below the limits recommended in the ICNIRP international guidelines do not appear to have any known consequence on health.”

More information on WHO and standards can be found at:

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More information of ICNIRP can be found at:

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BIOINITIATIVE REPORT NOT A RELIABLE SOURCE SAYS COMAR

A respected US expert group, the Committee on Man and Radiation (COMAR), has looked at the quality of various reviews of the science surrounding mobile phones and health and says the *BioInitiative Report* is selective and should not be relied on as a source of information for the public.

COMAR is a technical committee of the Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society (EMBS) of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and its primary area of interest is biological effects of non-ionizing electromagnetic radiation, including radiofrequency (RF) energy.

COMAR produced the Technical Information Statement because they were concerned that the public were receiving inconsistent information via the media and the internet and they wanted to



“identify quality sources of scientific information on potential health risks from exposure to RF energy”.

An abstract of the statement can be found here:

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“This report summarizes the conclusions from several major reports and comments on the markedly different conclusions in the *BioInitiative Report*,” the statement said.

COMAR reported that the *BioInitiative Report* did not provide a balanced view or comprehensive review of the science surrounding mobile phone and health.

“There is no indication of how the members of the committee were chosen or how balance was provided in the group of contributors, a majority of whom have public records of criticism of existing exposure standards and guidelines,” the statement said.

The *BioInitiative Report* contains instances of internal inconsistency; for example, it notes in one section that “a weight-of-evidence

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approach has been used to describe the body of evidence between health endpoints and exposure to electromagnetic fields (ELF and RF)” and, in another, that a weight-of-evidence approach is “unscientific,” the statement said.

COMAR reported that the *BioInitiative Report* “is a selective, rather than a comprehensive, review of the literature in various topical areas”.

“COMAR concludes that the weight of scientific evidence in the RF bioeffects literature does not support the safety limits recommended by the BioInitiative group,” the statement says.

This follows similar criticism by several government agencies and health authorities.

The Health Council of the Netherlands reviewed the



BioInitiative Report in September 2008 and concluded it is a selective review of existing research and does not present a balanced analysis considering the relative scientific quality of different studies.

The report can be found here.

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In December 2008 the Australian Centre for Radiofrequency Bioeffects Research (ACRBR) reviewed the *BioInitiative Report* and concluded:

...it merely provides a set of views that are not consistent with the consensus of science, and it does not provide an analysis that is rigorous-enough to raise doubts about the scientific consensus.

The ACRBR also noted that the state of science in this area is continually being debated and updated by a number of expert bodies comprising of the leading experts in this field and strongly urged people to consult these views for a balanced assessment of the research.

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AUSTRALIAN HEALTH EXPERTS TAKE TO TASK FALSE MEDIA REPORTS OF INTERPHONE RESULTS

Two of Australia's leading health experts on electromagnetic fields have taken to task media reports claiming the long-awaited INTERPHONE study has found a definite link between mobile phone use and health effects.

Professor Bruce Armstrong, Head of Public Health at the University of Sydney and the lead researcher for Australia's participation in the 13-nation INTERPHONE study, rejected newspaper claims that INTERPHONE had found a link between mobile phone use of more than 10 years and brain tumours. Prof Armstrong told ABC Radio in Melbourne that the media reports had got it wrong.

"There is, as far as I can see, absolutely no information circulating at the moment that is accurate and correct with respect



Professor Bruce Armstrong expects the INTERPHONE project to be published before the end of the year.

to the results of that study, and I am expecting there will be no such information until it's actually published so that everybody can read it, I hope, later this year."

He said "things are moving along well" with INTERPHONE and he hoped it would be published before the end of the year.

Dr Colin Roy of the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA), also spoke on radio to clarify the situation, and said he expected the INTERPHONE data on longer-term mobile use of more than 10 years to be "wishy-washy".

He said many of the individual studies of the 13-nation INTERPHONE project had already been published and for exposure of up to 10 years there was little evidence of any link with health effects.

Dr Roy said: "And where this speculation is coming from is just a very small number of studies – small number of cases where people have actually used it (mobiles) for 10 years a lot or more.

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“...what comes out in the final INTERPHONE will be suggestive of something, and we will end up saying, ‘Well, if people take this and are concerned, there’s a number of things they could do. Other people will call for more research,” he said on ABC Radio, Melbourne.

When asked if mobile phone safety was yet another issue to worry about in people’s complex modern lives, Dr Roy said:

“Well, I just think maybe there’s other things that we should be worrying about more. But that is not to diminish this.”

ARPANSA’s position on mobile phone safety can be found at:

[WEB LINK](#) >

THE TRUTH BEHIND THE HEADLINE

In a stunning revelation, *Microwave News*, an activist website, issued a statement suggesting the misleading media reports plagiarised material from its website.

Microwave News says the source of all the incorrect media reports is UK newspaper *The Daily Telegraph*.



Dr Colin Roy from the federal Government’s radiation protection agency says there is little evidence of any link with health effects.

Despite the *Telegraph* claiming the report was an exclusive, *Microwave News* points out the material used in the article was nearly six months old.

“In fact, the *Telegraph* had no scoop. Its reporters did not have an advance copy of the INTERPHONE brain tumour paper. The story was mostly a rehash of what has already been disclosed – a lot of it a long time ago. For instance, quotes from Elisabeth Cardis, the head of INTERPHONE, which ran three paragraphs on the front page, were exactly the same as had been reported in *Microwave News* back in June 2008,” *Microwave News* reported.

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BRAIN SURGEONS SAY CLAIMS MOBILE PHONES LINKED TO CANCER ARE EXTREME AND OUT OF CONTEXT

Senior neurosurgeons and health experts have questioned the latest controversial claims from neurosurgeon Charlie Teo, who warns of potential adverse health effects from a range of household appliances, including electric blankets and clock radios.

Dr Teo issued a warning in October that people should use the loudspeaker function of their mobiles, move clock radios to the foot of their bed and wait until microwaves had finished before opening them.

He also said electric blankets should be turned off before people got into bed.

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However, Dr Bruce Hall, Chairman of Neurosurgery at Princess Alexandra Hospital, hit back at

Dr Teo's claims, saying he was taking an "extreme" stance on these issues and there was no hard evidence that electromagnetic radiation caused brain tumours.

"It is a pet topic of Dr Teo's, and I am not sure why that is. We talk of it generally among brain surgeons in Australia, but we know of no hard evidence that any of this is related to brain tumours.



Neurosurgeon Dr Charlie Teo on Andrew Denton's *Enough Rope*.

"Dr Teo's a good colleague of mine, but he is a little bit out there and sometimes things may be taken a bit out of context.

"I am not sure ...where this one came from, but I would just like to reassure everyone that perhaps we do not need to go that extreme just at the moment," Dr Hall told 4BC radio station in Brisbane.

Professor Andrew Kay, Head of Surgery, Melbourne University and Head of Neurosurgery at Royal Melbourne Hospital, said the claims made by Dr Teo had not been proven by science.

"...you have to put this in perspective, there is electromagnetic radiation floating around us all the time, so all of these just cause a small amount of radiation. But the question is, the

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bottom line is, does it cause brain tumours, does electromagnetic radiation cause brain tumours, and there is no proof of that as yet," he told 3AW radio station in Melbourne.

"...do not turn off your electric blanket, if you use it, still watch the crap on TV, because the reality is, we do not know that electromagnetic radiation causes brain tumours, there has been no proof of that as yet."



Neurosurgeon Professor Andrew Kaye operating on a patient.

This is not the first time Dr Teo has attracted criticism for his controversial views regarding mobile phone technology.

In August, Professor Bruce Armstrong, Head of Public Health at the University of Sydney, rejected claims by Dr Teo that there has been an "exponential rise" in the incidence of brain cancer, related to increasing mobile phone use.

"I know of absolutely no evidence that there's an increase in brain tumours in teenagers," Prof Armstrong told the *Australian* newspaper.

"I've looked at both teens and adults. There is no evidence in Australia."

"Charlie Teo is convinced there's a strong association based, I assume, on his personal observation that he



Bruce Armstrong, Professor of Public Health, rejects Charlie Teo's claim that there has been an increase in brain tumours and that it's associated with mobile phone use.

had patients who are heavy mobile phone users. 'Gee, there must be cause and effect.'

"You cannot draw a conclusion from that kind of evidence," Prof Armstrong said.

The *Australian* article can be found at:

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GERMAN GOVERNMENT RESEARCH PROJECT FINDS NO REASON TO DOUBT SAFETY STANDARDS BUT STILL URGES CAUTION



The German Mobile Telecommunication Research Programme (DMF) has published its final report. The DMF found no reason to question the protective effect of international safety guideline limits for mobile phone emissions; however, because of the open question of long-term effects it continues to urge caution with wireless technologies.

“The DMF’s findings give no reason to question the protective effect of current limit values. However, as some studies found minimal physiological reactions and indications that children could be more exposed than adults, along with the constantly open question on health risks from long-term exposure for adults and in particular for children, make it necessary

to continue dealing carefully with wireless communication technologies,” the report states.

DMF’s report, in both German and English, can be downloaded from:

[WEB LINK](#)

Released by the German Department of Radiation Protection and Health in May, the report carefully considered the potential for long-term health effects.

The researchers found whole-of-life studies conducted on animals did not produce health effects for various end points tested, including different cancers, tinnitus and infertility. Even for long-term exposure of multiple generations,

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the researchers found no evidence of a health risk.

“Studies on several generations of animals do not support the hypothesis of a particular sensitivity during early developmental stages. Nevertheless, the question whether the health risk as a result of long-term exposure is higher for children than for adults, either due to age differences or due to a longer lifetime exposure, could not be answered conclusively by the DMF studies,” the report stated.

“The question of long-term effects (a period of use of more than 10 years) remains an open issue, due to the long latency periods for cancer and the comparably short-term use of mobile communication technology by the general public.”



Whole-of-life studies on several generations of animals show no long-term health effects.

Therefore the DMF says appropriate precautionary measures should be retained.

German Federal Office of Radiation Protection (BfS) advises the public to keep calls short, use a landline if possible, avoid low reception areas, use low emission mobile phones and keep the phone away from your head until the call is established.

The BfS advice can be found at:

[WEB LINK >](#)

AMTA has developed a guide – Practical Advice on Reducing Exposure from Mobile Phones – which provides additional information to the advice provided by the BfS. The AMTA guide can be found at:

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SPANISH GOVERNMENT SCIENTISTS RULE OUT MOBILE HEALTH RISKS

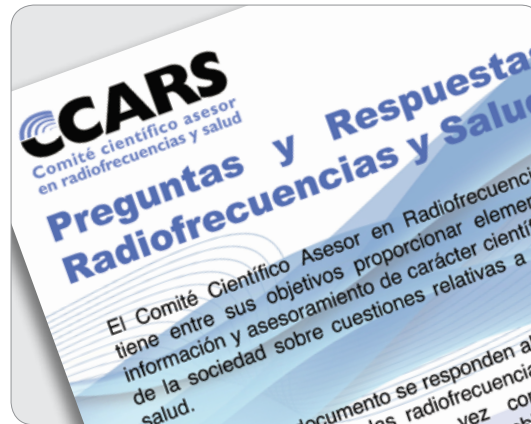
A Spanish Government expert group report published in May reviewing science published in the past two years related to mobile phone and base station safety has confirmed the current scientific consensus that no substantiated scientific evidence of a health risk exists.

Researchers from the Spanish Scientific Advisory Committee on Radiofrequency and Health (CCARS) found “exposure to mobile telephones for periods of less than 10 years by healthy adult users does not increase the risk of developing a brain tumour”.

The CCARS report can be found at:

[WEB LINK >](#)

The researchers said the exposure of the public to mobile phone radiofrequency fields (RF) is



extremely low, and much lower than the limits of the international safety standards.

The expert group found no evidence of carcinogenic effects resulting from exposure to mobile phone RF fields.

“None of the experimental “in vitro” [test tube] and “in vivo” [animal] studies conducted recently have found any conclusive evidence of genotoxic or carcinogenic effects

resulting from exposure to RF fields. In some cases, alterations in cell dynamics were reported, but the lack of standardized measurements hinders study comparisons,” the report states.

Importantly, the researchers say changes to the safety standard limits are not justified.

“As a whole, the national and international committees for protection against RF waves unanimously conclude that recent scientific/technical breakthroughs do not justify changes in the present RF benchmark levels and exposure limits for the public and for workers,” the CCARS report concluded.

More information about CCARS can be found at:

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HANDS FREE KITS REDUCE EXPOSURE BY 5 TIMES

Both wired and Bluetooth wireless portable hands-free kits reduce exposure to the radiation from mobile phones by more than five times and there is no need for separate safety tests for the devices, Swiss scientists have found.

The researchers from the Foundation for Research on Information Technologies in Society (IT'IS) in Zürich tested two models of phone – a candy bar-style phone with an internal antenna and a clam shell-style phone with an external antenna – both at maximum power outputs.

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They tested the phones with a range of wired and Bluetooth wireless Hands Free Kits (HFK) and found the kits all significantly reduced exposure and no results were higher than international safety standard limits.



“In general, a wired HFK considerably reduces the exposure of the entire head region compared to mobile phones operated at the head, even under unlikely worst-case coupling scenarios,” the researchers said.

The most important factor in exposure was the phone itself and not the hands-free kits the researchers said. Therefore, they concluded there is no need for a separate safety compliance test for hands free kits.

An abstract of the research can be found here:

[WEB LINK >](#)

However, a number of people continue to be concerned about the effectiveness of hands-free kits, following an April 2000 article published by the British Consumers' Association, which claimed hands-free kits increased exposure by three times.

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It was later shown that the procedure used was flawed in the measurement probe used and neglecting the effect of the human body.

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The study was funded by the German Office of Radiation Protection (BfS).

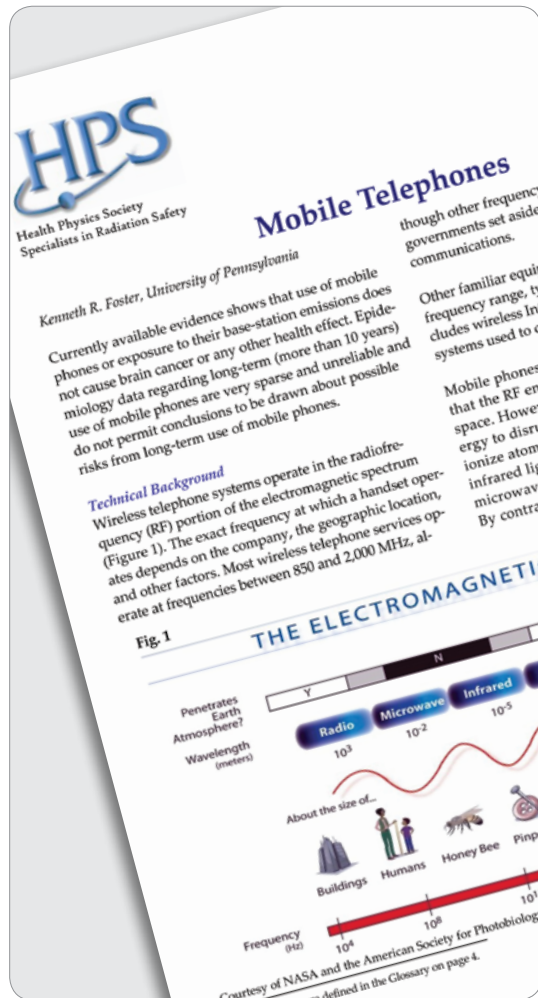
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US RADIATION SAFETY GROUP SAYS PUBLIC NOT AT RISK FROM MOBILES



A comprehensive review of all the available scientific evidence on mobile phone and base station safety indicates the public is at no greater risk of brain cancer or any other health effect, according to a new fact sheet released in September by US radiation safety organisation, the Health Physics Society (HPS).

The fact sheet states numerous animal and human studies, along with expert group assessments of these studies, have failed to show consistent evidence of any health risk.

“These analyses, together with other previous reviews by expert groups and health agencies, show there is no clear evidence for health hazards from exposures to RF fields below international (IEEE or ICNIRP)

exposure guidelines,” the fact sheet states.

The US Health Physics Society’s 2009 fact sheet can be found at:

[WEB LINK](#)

“Long-term animal studies involving extended exposures to RF energy provide no consistent evidence that exposures to RF energy at non-thermal intensities causes or promotes cancer and there is no accepted mechanism by which RF fields at levels produced by mobile phones can produce biological effects apart from those caused by heating,” the report states

The HPS explains that mobile phones operate at power levels that

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are far too low to result in thermal hazards and that international safety standards have been specifically designed to guard against any potential hazard.

“Mobile phones emit radiation, in the technical sense that the RF energy travels from the handset into space. However, this radiation has insufficient energy to disrupt chemical bonds (its photons cannot ionize atoms) so it is called non-ionizing,” the report states.

Also, commenting on the results of the highly anticipated INTERPHONE study, the Society says results

published so far “have shown no detectable association between use of mobile phones for less than 10 years and any form of brain tumor”.

However, they cautioned that more research is needed on long-term use before any conclusions can be made.

“Epidemiology data regarding long-term (more than 10 years) use of mobile phones are very sparse and unreliable and do not permit conclusions to be drawn about possible risks from long-term use of mobile phones,” the fact sheet states.



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SCIENCE DISPELS LINK BETWEEN MOBILE PHONES AND ELECTROMAGNETIC HYPERSENSITIVITY

The largest analysis of scientific studies conducted on individuals with self-reported electromagnetic hypersensitivity (EHS) has found no evidence their condition is connected with exposure to radio signals from mobile phones or base stations.

Electromagnetic hypersensitivity is a medically unexplained illness in which subjective symptoms, such as skin irritations, headaches and fatigue, are reported following exposure to electrical devices.

The review, published by Dr James Rubin and colleagues from King's College London, found of the 46 studies involving 1175 volunteers, no robust evidence could be found supporting the theory that mobile phone or base station signals cause the symptoms.

"To date, 46 studies involving 1175 volunteers with IEI-EMF



Lead author Dr James Rubin from King's College London.

have tested whether exposure to electromagnetic fields can trigger the symptoms reported by this group. These studies have produced little evidence to suggest that this is the case or that individuals with IEI-EMF are particularly adept at detecting the presence of electromagnetic fields," Dr Rubin said

The research paper can be found at:

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The authors even go as far as supporting a recommending to rename the condition 'Idiopathic Environmental Intolerance attributed to electromagnetic fields' (IEI-EMF), saying this more accurately represents the true nature of the condition and the consensus of scientific knowledge.

"The aetiology [cause] of 'electromagnetic hypersensitivity' is controversial. While most patients and some scientists believe that the condition is caused by an as yet unrecognised 'bioelectromagnetic' mechanism, most mainstream medical bodies maintain that there is not sufficient evidence to support this theory and that the symptoms experienced by sufferers are unrelated to the presence of electromagnetic fields.

"Indeed, a working group of the World Health Organisation

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has recommended that the use of terms like ‘electromagnetic hypersensitivity’ should be discontinued in favour of the more aetiologically neutral phrase ‘idiopathic environmental intolerance attributed to electromagnetic fields (IEI-EMF)’. Resolving this aetiological debate is an important task, not least because these two opposing theories have different implications in terms of identifying the most appropriate treatment,” Dr Rubin said.

Interestingly, the review also identified recent studies which suggest psychological expectations play a role in triggering, maintaining and exacerbating the symptoms.

The authors say the phenomenon known as the nocebo effect,



where negative expectations lead to undesirable physiological outcomes, is a likely explanation for the symptoms observed in patients.

“Many of these studies have found evidence that the nocebo effect is a sufficient explanation for the acute symptoms reported in IEI-EMF. Thus while continued experimental research in this area

will be required to clarify the role of chronic exposures and to test the effects of new varieties of electromagnetic emissions, the best evidence currently available suggests that IEI-EMF should not be viewed as a bioelectromagnetic phenomenon,” Dr Rubin said

The current report supports the group’s earlier findings in 2005, and is consistent with the recommendations of the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The 2005 study can be found at:

[WEB LINK >](#)

The WHO fact sheet can be found at:

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ACRBR SCIENCE & WIRELESS VIDEOS NOW AVAILABLE

Video footage is now available of the 2009 Science & Wireless conference hosted by the Australian Centre for RF Bioeffects Research (ACRBR) on 17 November at Melbourne's Swinburne University.



Science and Wireless 2009 was organised to help raise public awareness of mobile phone research and answer questions about the health effects of mobile phones and Wi-Fi in schools, home and the workplace.

The video footage will allow members of the public who could not attend to learn about the latest scientific research into telecommunications health matters and hear from scientists and advisors who discussed policy and matters of concern.

Of particular interest was keynote speaker Dr Bernard Veyret, of the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP), who spoke about ICNIRP's international safety guidelines, which are used as the basis for Australia's electromagnetic radiation exposure safety standard.

Other speakers included Dr Colin Roy, Director of the Non-Ionising Radiation Branch at the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency, and Professor Rodney Croft, the executive director of the ACRBR.

The videos can be watched online at:

[WEB LINK >](#)

CLAIMS OF MOBILE RELATED ILLNESSES DISMISSED BY SCIENTISTS

German scientists have debunked statements by a group of doctors claiming the introduction of mobile

phone technology has caused a 'soaring' rise in the incidence of some diseases.

Scientists from Lustus-Liebig University and the Bavarian Health and Food Safety Authority challenged the doctors' appeal to politicians and public health authorities, saying scientific evidence did not support their appeal to limit exposure to wireless communication technologies.

"Indeed, with the data available no time related increases and surely no 'dramatic increase' can be identified, even if the limited comparability is considered. This analysis strongly suggests that the allegations of the quoted appeals are not supported by public health data," the scientists stated.

The report can be found at:

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The scientists found no evidence of any increase in the illnesses examined and no support for the doctors' appeal. In fact, the scientists found the incidence of some illnesses actually decreased, in stark contrast to the exponential rise in mobile phone subscriptions.

"If the statements by the EMF-advocate groups and in the physicians' appeals were true a substantial increase of the mentioned health impairments should be reflected in the incidence and/or prevalence in the general population," the scientists state.

"Unnecessary hysteria helps neither patient nor physician.... To create public anxieties without solid justification clearly contradicts medical ethical standards."

UK GOVERNMENT PROGRESS REPORT ON WI-FI IN SCHOOLS

The UK Health Protection Agency's (HPA) Physical Dosimetry Department has released a progress report on the assessment of exposure to electromagnetic fields from wireless computer networks (Wi-Fi) in schools.



The project aims to review the technical standards and wireless equipment used in UK schools and conduct a health risk review based on exposure measurement results. "Currently, there are no expectations that exposure to radiowaves from Wi-Fi sources will exceed guideline levels from the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP), as recommended by the Agency for use in the UK," the report states.

"Nevertheless, this is a rapidly developing area of technology. Given the existing precautionary advice from the chief medical officer and from the Agency (as the successor to NRPB) to discourage non-essential use of mobile phones by children, it is important to quantify the exposure from Wi-Fi equipment, as used by pupils, and consider how the exposures from Wi-Fi compare with those from mobile phones and other commonly used radio equipment."

The report can be found at:

[WEB LINK](#)

The HPA's position on Wi-Fi and health can be found at:

[WEB LINK](#)

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RESEARCHERS FIND SMS NOT RADIO WAVES MAY AFFECT KIDS' BRAINS

Regular predictive texting, not electromagnetic energy, maybe affecting the brain power of mobile phone using young people, according to a new study published in the science journal *Bioelectromagnetics* in July.



Researchers from Monash University in Melbourne examined the cognitive capacities and mobile phone use of 317 children aged between 11 and 14 through the use of tests.

“We found that students who reported making or receiving more voice or SMS calls per week,

and in particular more of both, demonstrated shorter response times on learning tasks, but less accurate working memory,” the researchers reported.

Professor Michael Abramson, an epidemiologist who carried out the research, said he believed predictive texting trained children to become faster, but less accurate.

Importantly, the researchers said the amount of energy transmitted when texting is a mere 0.03 per cent of that transmitted during voice calls, suggesting electromagnetic energy is not to blame for the brain effects.

The study can be found at:

[WEB LINK >](#)

ENERGY EFFICIENT UNIVERSAL PHONE CHARGER STANDARD APPROVED

The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) has given its stamp of approval to an energy-efficient one-charger-fits-all new mobile phone solution. The announcement comes as the ITU lobbies hard to have the essential role of information and communication technologies (ICTs) recognised in the draft Copenhagen Agreement as a key part of the solution towards mitigating climate change.

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Every mobile phone user will benefit from the new Universal Charging Solution (UCS), which enables the same charger to be used for all future handsets,

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regardless of make and model. In addition to dramatically cutting the number of chargers produced, shipped and subsequently discarded as new models become available, the new standard will mean users worldwide will be able to charge their mobiles anywhere from any available charger, while also reducing the energy consumed while charging.

The new UCS standard was based on input from the GSM Association, which predicts a 50 per cent reduction in standby energy consumption, elimination of 51,000 tonnes of redundant chargers, and a subsequent reduction of 13.6 million tonnes in greenhouse gas emissions each year.

More information about the Universal Charging Solution can be found at:

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