

Arthur Firstenberg, an advisor to the committee examining whether to install **WiFi in Santa Fe**, California, **advised against** it, based on his own experience of becoming ES, the scientific evidence showing harm from EMR, and the 1998 Californian survey which found that 3.2% stated that their health was seriously affected by electromagnetic fields.

In **Canada** Thorold's Confederation Heights city council decided in July to **pull out** of a one-year pilot project with ReliaClear Canada Inc. to provide free wireless broadband Internet service, just 3 months after a narrow vote in favour. The city can end the agreement at any time. Some Niagara residents asked the council to reconsider its decision because of potential ill health effects from radiation.

In April Marilyn Idle, LLB, wrote to the Auditor General of Canada expressing concern for the **lack of legal control in EMF pollution** on the part of both **government and industry**. 'The only thing more obsolete or non-existent in Canada and the US than current adequate emissions safety standards and the policing of those standards are adequate laws to ethically guide techno-corporations. Old industrial-corporate laws in Canada are currently being used to guide technologic corporations. They are wholly inadequate to protect the population given the new technologies and their all-pervasive and unique airway 'pollutions' which are persistent 24/7.' 'Emissions of the vibratory-frequency type, emitted 24/7 from wireless emitter towers and wired technologies are a greater threat to unconsenting people, than the last 100 industrial years of corporate chemical smog which you could at least avoid because you could see it in the airways/waterway pollutions. These new emission can't be avoided, they are invisible. You can't smell and see them and then choose to leave the area. The harms or deaths caused by techno-emissions are more stealthy. It is almost impossible for the average person to prove gross, extreme or any negligence from a corporation.'

A report by Dr. Katherine Albrecht, director of CASPIAN, *Microchip Implants: Answers to Frequently Asked Questions*, in a section called 'Cancer Cover-up', reportedly describes a the **alleged deception** used by VeriChip executives in an effort to downplay the fact that **implantable microchips cause cancer** in laboratory animals. It reveals how *Time Magazine*, *Business Week*, and the *RFID Journal* were used as to spread misinformation about the cancer studies. 'Since research linking the product to cancer first surfaced last year [revealed by the *Associated Press* in September 2007], each of these publications has repeated misstatements from VeriChip company executives, in many cases printing the inaccurate statements verbatim and unchallenged.' VeriChip now hopes to sell its 'human implantable chip' division or 'cancer chip', as it has been dubbed. The report is available on AntiChips.com website along with an overview of the studies, 'Microchip-Induced Tumors in Laboratory Rodents and Dogs: A Review of the Literature 1990-2006'.

In 2005 the **US Supreme Court** refused to reject a number of class-action lawsuits that challenge radiation emissions from cell phones. 'Class-action lawsuits currently pending in Maryland, New York and Pennsylvania allege that cell phone radiation can cause brain tumors. The suits allege the manufacturers are aware of the danger and have deliberately kept consumers in the dark.' The Verizon contract apparently now reads: 'Upon signing this contract you agree not to sue the Cell Phone Maker or participate in a Class Action Lawsuit.'

Professor Dr. Franz Adlkofer, head of the REFLEX study which confirmed DNA damage by EMR, has stated that the German Federal Radiation Protection Bureau's research programme on mobile phone radiation failed to 'offer a sound scientific basis' on the health risks of mobile phones because it concludes that all biological effects are exclusively thermal. 'This assumption of only thermal effects is contradicted by the results of numerous investigations which have been carried out independently.' Given athermic effects, **the present safety levels for mobile phone radiation would be 'absolutely unfounded from a scientific point of view and a long-term risk to the**

health of people could in no way be excluded. 'It would have been much more appropriate for the GFRPB to recommend precautionary measures.'

The **CAVI** (Children as Victims Inquiry/Children as Vested Interests) Society was set up in 2006 in Solihull, to safeguard children from the effects of EMR.

The mayor of Courbevoie near Paris has apparently agreed to **stop WiFi in 36 schools.**

In June it was reported that some municipalities in city of **Paris** had started a **health risk assessment of exposure to WiFi.**

In the US the **Progressive Librarians Guild**, in its policy on WiFi, quotes the European Environmental Agency BioInitiative Working Group: 'we also recommend wired alternatives to WiFi be implemented, particularly in schools and libraries'. The PLG recommends that 'information workers address the risks of wireless technology in public spaces ... critically evaluate and **adopt alternatives to wireless technology**, especially in children's sections of libraries, create warning signage on risks of WiFi ...'

In April the **Indian State Environment Department** urged local authorities to follow the guidelines before giving permission for mobile phone towers on residential buildings, schools, hostels and hospitals. In May the chief law officer of the Environment Department said the decision to fix guidelines was taken only after a complaint about a tower being installed on the terrace of a girls' school. The department would take action against violators under the Environment Protection Act. The new rules bar cellphone service providers from installing towers on the roofs of schools and hospitals because children and patients are more susceptible to electromagnetic radiation than others. The Tripura State Pollution Control Board then directed mobile service providers to obtain prior written permission from the authority before setting up base stations.

In the *Times of India* on 15th June Meenakshi Kumar reported on 'The invisible threat' and the Indian Union health ministry's commission of its first large-scale study of the **human effects of EMR** from mobile phones. A Jawaharlal Nehru University pilot study found that 20 rats had **damaged DNA and low sperm count** after mobile phone radiation. The oncologist Dr Ramananda Nadig of Bangalore said, 'The threat is real and omnipresent. Most, if not all, electrical appliances that emit EMFs, are harmful to a certain extent. While they may not be initiators of a malignant change, there is every likelihood that they promote/augment such a change. The more people are exposed, the greater the risk.' Similarly, cellphone towers are a cause of concern. A 2005 study by Gursatej Gandhi, of the Human Genetics Department, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, found that 'exposure to RF signals ... is reported to affect physiological, neurological, cognitive and behavioural changes and to induce, initiate and promote carcinogenesis....' Professor Ravinder Kohli of Panjab University, Chandigarh, commented, 'The EMF generated from the tower is 24X7 ... They are a huge threat.' Dr H Fisher of Toronto wrote in *The Invisible Threat* series, 'To spend 60 minutes in a WiFi environment is equal to 20 minutes on a cellphone. If the EMF radiations can penetrate concrete walls and cellphones can work in basements, then there is no reason why they can't penetrate human tissues.' The extent of harm differs between individuals.

The Cellular Operators Association of India has **opposed a government proposal** for mobile phone manufacturers to specify the radiation levels or specific absorption rate (SAR) emitted by the device on the handset's screen. The COAI said that SAR values are displayed either in the device manual or on the manufacturer's website; hence the screen display is not required. COAI also opposed a Conformity Assessment Body to measure radiation from mobile base stations. COAI wanted a self-certification system.

Also in India, the central government has asked service providers and cell phone makers to **avoid advertisements** showing **children** and **pregnant women** using cell phones.

In May the Indian Environment Department directed the Kolkata Municipal Corporation **not to allow mobile phone towers in congested residential areas**.

In June **India's** Telecom Engineering Centre measured emissions at some base stations in Delhi. Levels were found to be **exceeding** the norms in certain cases. 'At present operators themselves will have to monitor emissions.' For handsets, a mobile exceeding SAR 1.6 W/kg is illegal in the US, while in Europe the limit is 2W/kg at present.

In Canada Dr Havas of Trent University, one of ES-UK's scientific advisers, submitted an **Environmental Petition to the Auditor General** in June 2008 requesting that '**first generation DECT Phones be Banned in Canada**'. In March 2007 she made a similar request to Robert P. Bradley, Director of the Consumer and Clinical Radiation Protection Bureau, Product Safety Programme, Health Canada. His only reply, that month, stated that he was unaware of DECT technology and a ban would come under Industry Canada.

In March 2008 the BMW Group, a German car manufacturer, **removed all its DECT** cordless phones. Its previous 2004 DECT policy set the maximum exposure from cordless phones at 100 $\mu\text{W}/\text{m}^2$, about 100,000 times lower than the government's exposure limits. At its Munich research centre, the company invested around 100,000 Euro in glass panes with a special metal coating installed to lower the overall exposure throughout office spaces, especially to protect employees located below a DECT base station.

In Israel a bill has been filed by Dov Hanin, Michael Malchior and 9 more MPs to limit the sale of cell phones to children. The bill requires any advertising of mobile phones, like tobacco, to include a **warning** covering 5% of the advertisement page: 'Warning: the health ministry warns that much usage and carrying the device close to the body can increase the risk of cancer, especially among children.' An advertisement could not show children and could not be directed at children. **Children would only be able to buy a cell phone with an adult**. This follows the Knesset meeting on the 8th October 2007, at which Professor Roni Seger presented the Weizmann Institute study about the reaction of protein ERK to mobile radiation.

The UK **HPA's** EMF Discussion Group has a new chairman, Professor Colin Blakemore, replacing Sir William Stewart. In April Justin McCracken took over as HPA chief executive from Pat Trooper. Mr McCracken, a trained physicist, worked for ICI for 22 years. He then became NW director of the Environment Agency and deputy chief executive of the Health & Safety Executive. According to *The Times* he sees the HPA's role as helping 'to develop evidence and make sure that those who can act on it are given it and do act on it'.

CORRECTION: In the report on the Irish Doctors' Environmental Association conference (April Newsletter) I regret that two names were confused. It was Dr Graham Blackwell and not Dr Colin Blakemore who stated that the current ICNIRP health guidelines are 'based on outdated science and do not take into account the new research'.

ES-UK welcomes two new scientific advisers

We are delighted that **Dr Andrew Goldsworthy** has agreed to become a **scientific adviser** to ES-UK. In his distinguished research and teaching career at Imperial College, London his specialisms included the physiology and biochemistry of photosynthesis and photorespiration through the biological effects of electromagnetically treated water to the electrophysiology of plants. He has published many scientific papers, mainly on plant electrophysiology, and has also written for the *New Scientist* on the evolution of plant and animal action potentials and the origin of the nervous system. He is also a member of the Life Sciences Advisory Group for the European Space Agency.

Over the last few years Dr Goldsworthy has developed scientific insights into some of the causation pathways associated with ES and has published on the internet some important papers which have considerably advanced this area of research. In fact his research into the biological effects of electromagnetic fields dates back over 30 years but has only recently been published as a new theory, mainly in relation to plants (*Plant Electrophysiology: Theory and Methods*, ed. A.G. Volkov (Springer 2006)). Since then he published on the Internet in 2007, *The Biological Effects of Weak Electromagnetic Fields*, which deals with biological effects of electromagnetic fields on humans and animals and draws attention to the remarkable similarity between the symptoms of electro-sensitivity and those of hypocalcemia (low blood calcium), and *The Cell Phone and the Cell* (2008). see: <http://tinyurl.com/5ru6e6> or the Mast Sanity website.

See also the ES-UK website (About ES-UK/Trustees) for links to other papers, including *Why mobile phone masts can be more dangerous than the phones*, which deals with cellular negative feedback in living organisms caused by long-term but low-level radiation from phone masts, DECT phones and WiFi.

ES-UK is also honoured to have **Dr Hugo Schooneveld** as a **scientific adviser**. At Groningen State University he was awarded a PhD *cum laude* on insect endocrinology before spending 34 years at Wageningen Agricultural University, becoming Chairman of the Department of Entomology. He has published some 70 scientific papers, focusing on two areas, neuropeptides in pest insects, and hormonal control of insect pests, developing and evaluating a wide variety of techniques.

Dr Schooneveld first became aware of his electro-sensitivity after purchasing a computer in about 1982. He now has to keep PCs at a distant and hire advanced students for typing jobs. Gradually more electronic devices started to get annoying, including the later LCD screens and even TFT screens. Even hand-held computers were annoying although EMFs could hardly be measured at centimetres' distance. By scrupulous sanitisation of his home, and helped by low field intensities from mobile phone transmitters in a forested area, his house is almost the only place in which he feels well and can work efficiently. He hates meetings in other unexplored locations although they can be necessary. He has recently had his home reconstructed with areas of rigorously controlled EMFs. His ES symptoms have changed over the years. In the early phases, overexposure to PCs produced headaches, elevated blood pressure, insomnia, concentration problems etc.. After sanitation of the house it is only headaches, but these get worse all the time, especially after visiting unknown locations. A typical PC working schedule is 2-3 hours in the morning. Longer exposure gives, some 6 hours later, an increasing headache and pain around the scalp and higher neck musculature lasting 24-36 hours.

Dr Schooneveld found the Swedish ES website www.feb.se a first source of useful information. In 2001 he established www.electroallergie.org to offer a discussion platform for fellow EHS people. He then started the Dutch working group on EHS: WEO -

Werkgroep elektrische overgevoeligheid. In 2007 he helped established the EHS Foundation, to present ES problems with more professionalism, raise interest and apply for funds to provide information, and a new website, *www.stichtingehs.nl*. In December 2006 they organised the first Dutch ES Symposium entitled 'Understanding EHS'. It showed the need for more facts on EHS and suggested research topics. Some scientists still do not take EHS sufficiently seriously.

ES-UK welcomes a new medical adviser

Dr Stephen Brooke has kindly consented to become a medical adviser to ES-UK, joining Dr David Dowson in this role.

Thanks

ES-UK thanks **Roger Moller** for his brief stint as a trustee. He is well known to many ES sufferers for acting as the unofficial unpaid roving ambassador for ES-UK. He has helped many in a practical way, especially those who are virtual prisoners in their own homes. He hopes to be able to continue doing so in the future.

Robert Becker, who died recently, was a life-long research scientist into sub-thermal EMF effects on the human body, twice nominated for a Nobel prize, and a pioneer of using sub-thermal EMFs to regenerate human tissue. He wrote of the human race as follows.

'There is a strong possibility that increasing electropollution could set in motion irreversible changes leading to our extinction before we are even aware of them.'

'Our survival depends on the ability of upright scientists and other people of goodwill to break the military-industrial death grip on our policy-making institutions.'

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