

May 23, 2011

Not for public release

Dr. Christopher Wild
IARC
150 Cours Albert Thomas
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France

Dear Dr Wild,

With regard to the forthcoming IARC evaluation of the carcinogenicity of RF fields, we are writing because we have been disturbed by the way in which it appears that selection of participants and decisions on conflicts of interest may have been made. Specifically, that this may have been made in ways related to the scientific views of the potential participants and to the perceptions of journalists or pressure groups. We recognize that it is necessary for IARC to include within such groups individuals with all varieties of scientific views and to exclude individuals who are genuinely conflicted for financial or personal reasons. It is of course for IARC, not for outside individuals to make these difficult decisions. It appears, however, that in the current circumstances, there has been an unbalanced exclusion of certain individuals for reasons of "possibility of perceived conflict of interest" while others whose conflicts are more than a matter of "possible perception", but who have not been drawn to attention by the media, remain in the group. While we understand that the possible carcinogenicity of RF is a contentious topic, it would be most unfortunate if the perceived handling by IARC of this issue were to damage the trustworthiness and respect in which the Monograph process is held by the whole scientific community.

Yours sincerely,

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