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Comments on the RF fields epidemiology section pages 57-68 in SCENIHR approved at the 4th plenary of 12 December 2013

I got a copy of an e-mail from John F. Ryan (Acting Director, Public Health Directorate European Commission) to Eileen O'Connor (Radiation Research Trust UK) regarding the part in SCENIHR that involves my person, see below:

“Let me also stress that Dr Kjell Hansson Mild is a member of the EMF Working Group and also actively working with Prof. Lennart Hardell's group. He is co-author in 4 of the 5 studies of Professor Hardell, which you have brought to my attention. Likewise, Dr Joachim Schüz is a member of the EMF working group and Head of Environment and Radiation Section at IARC. He was involved in the IARC classification of EMF RF you mentioned in your email.”

I feel a need to inform about how the work in the group has been proceeding since it is not correct as stated by John Ryan. First I must stress that Dr Schüz was not involved in the IARC classification of EMR-RF. He was part of the IARC secretariat but not a member of the Expert Group, thus without influence on the working process and voting of the final classification.

Regarding SCENIHR I have been a member of the working group and been in charge of the description of the occupational exposure mostly. I have also been doing evaluation of the exposure set up in the experimental studies and the exposure assessment in the epidemiological studies. But I am also an author of key papers on glioma and acoustic neuroma risk that have been systematically excluded from the SCENIHR review process, over my objections.

Joachim Schüz, who did the evaluation of the epidemiological studies on mobile phone use and brain tumour risk intentionally disregarded key epidemiological studies that provide evidence of risk for glioma and acoustic neuroma from mobile and cordless phone use. He was not interested in taking relevant studies, see below, into the text. He clearly stated that the epidemiological part was solely his responsibility to write and furthermore he himself was to decide what to include.

I did inform the group about our upcoming publications directly when they were accepted for publication. I also presented the results from all of our three latest studies, references 2-4 below. The study in reference number 1 was published nearly one year before SCENIHR and reference 5 was available before the final SCENIHR report.

It must be clearly stated that Dr Schüz refused to include these studies in SCENIHR and that the omission is his responsibility. It is the more remarkable that two articles by Benson et al published in 2013 were included with Schüz as a co-author although the publication dates

were about the same as for our studies, or even later (Benson VS, Pirie K, Schüz J, Reeves GK, Beral V, Green J. *Int J Epidemiol* 2013, Sep 27, see page 64 in the report).

These later studies from the Hardell group strengthen the association between use of mobile and cordless phones and malignant brain tumours (mostly glioma) and acoustic neuroma, whereas the results for meningioma are inconsistent of an association.

According to my opinion, the epidemiological section in SCENIHR has fatal flaws that need to be corrected. I object to the way Ryan has used my name as a contributor in this process. Now my name and reputation is used to justify a process that I have not had the possibility to influence but instead been isolated and blocked from meaningful input. Major revision of the epidemiological section regarding content and conclusions is needed.

I hope that the update of the preliminary Opinion will resolve these issues and our papers will be included in the new version.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

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Recent studies from the Hardell group not included in SCENIHR 2013:

1. **Hardell L, Carlberg M, Hansson Mild K. Use of mobile phones and cordless phones is associated with increased risk for glioma and acoustic neuroma. *Pathophysiology* 2013;20:85-110. Epub 2012 Dec 21.**
2. **Carlberg M, Söderqvist F, Hansson Mild K, Hardell L. Meningioma patients diagnosed 2007-2009 and the association with use of mobile and cordless phones, *Environ. Health* 2013;12:60, doi:10.1186/1476-069X-12-60. Epub Jul 19, 2013**

3. **Hardell L, Carlberg M, Söderqvist F, Hansson Mild K. Pooled analysis of case-control studies on acoustic neuroma diagnosed 1997-2003 and 2007-2009 and use of mobile and cordless phones. *Int J Oncol.* 2013;43:1036-1044. Epub 2013 Jul 22.**
4. **Hardell L, Carlberg M, Söderqvist F, Hansson Mild K. Case-control study of the association between malignant brain tumors diagnosed 2007-2009 and mobile and cordless phone use. *Int J Oncol.* 2013;43:1833-1845. Epub 2013 Sep 24**
5. **Hardell L, Carlberg M. Using the Hill viewpoints from 1965 for evaluating strengths of evidence of the risk for brain tumors associated with use of mobile and cordless phones. *Rev Environ Health* 2013;38:97-106. doi: 10.1515/reveh-2013-0006.**