



European Cancer and Environment Research Institute

ECERI NEWSLETTER

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EDITO



The evidence that environmental factors contribute to a great variety of human disease continues to grow. Many environmental exposures, especially chemicals and various forms of radiation, are implicated not only in the development of cancer but also in other chronic diseases, such as cardiovascular disease, hypertension and diabetes. These same exposures are associated with idiopathic environmental intolerance syndromes, as reported in the recent Fourth Paris Appeal Congress.

David O. Carpenter, M.D. Director, *Institute for Health and the Environment University at Albany*

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5th Paris Appeal Congress on Electrohypersensitivity and Multiple Chemical Sensitivity, 18th May, 2015, Brussels



Around twenty European and North American leading experts were gathered on May 18th and 19th at the *Belgian Royal Academy of Medicine*, in Brussels, for the **5th Paris Appeal Congress** dedicated to hypersensitivities to electromagnetic fields and to multiple chemicals.

Some 180 medical doctors and PhD scientists, jurists, elected representatives, journalists and other participants coming from many countries attended this Congress, probably the most important scientific event ever organized on this topic.

Some of the speakers underlined the fact that since the 1960s, several thousand studies (1,800 between 2007 and 2012 according to the *Bioinitiative* report) have demonstrated the harmfulness of extended low exposures to electromagnetic fields; however, industries and governments still deny the existence of this risk, which jeopardizes the health of most living beings today, at various degrees and mostly without their knowledge.

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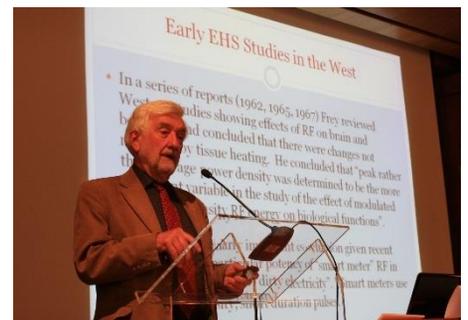
Pr Lennart Hardell (Sweden), author of numerous publications on the links between mobile phone use and brain tumor risk, which resulted in mobile phone radiations being classified as possibly carcinogenic to humans by the WHO, reminded the audience that the electrohypersensitivity syndrome is not new. In the 1960s, the Soviets acknowledged the onset of the microwave disease during the Second World War. In 1970, a Soviet publication described the possible side effects of radars and radio sets.

Close to a quarter of the military staff working with this equipment suffered from symptoms such as tiredness, dizziness, headaches, as well as concentration, memory and sleeping issues.

Pr Lennart Hardell stressed the major scandal of conflicts of interests around this issue. He particularly denounced the fact that the same people sit on all decision-making committees, while independent experts are systematically set aside.

Pr David Carpenter (USA), the former founding dean of the School of Public Health of the University of Albany (New York), runs the Institute for Health and Environment there. As an expert in the relations between diseases and exposure to chemicals and electromagnetic pollutants, coordinated in the 1980s the New York Power Lines Project, a large-scale studies project which made it possible to confirm the higher risk of leukemia for children overexposed to high-voltage line electromagnetic fields.

He is the co-editor of the 2007 and 2012 *Bioinitiative* Reports, signed by about fifteen independent experts and which summarize thousands of studies on the biological effects of electromagnetic fields and recommend implementation of exposure limits based on these studies. According to Professor Carpenter, we now have proof as to the reality of electromagnetic hypersensitivity, combined with diverse unspecific symptoms that were previously related to depression.



Pr Dominique Belpomme, President of ECERI and of ISDE-France explained that over the last four years, he personally examined 1213 patients, 90 % of whom proved to be truly electrohypersensitive, and that he had set up a series of biological and physical objective tests. These tests have shown a hypoperfusion (decreased blood flow) of the brain and an opening of the blood brain barrier, which normally protects the brain from toxins. Chemical and electromagnetic sensitivities are two aspects of the same disorder, sharing the same types of abnormalities in the blood and the brain. These new data are now accepted for publication in an international peer-reviewed journal.

“These results need to be confirmed as part of international studies, but the scientific knowledge available to us today is sufficient for WHO and governments to recognize these diseases.”

Dr Ernesto Burgio (Italy), pediatrician, is the president of the scientific committee of the International Society of Doctors for the Environment (ISDE), a consultant for the WHO in the field of environmental health, a member of the scientific committee of ARTAC and ECERI, and for 10 years an epigenetic expert (study of acquired factors) in cancer and other diseases. To him, "chemicals and electromagnetic sensitivity are sentinel diseases, predictive of other diseases..."





Ernesto Burgio



Magda Havas



William Rea



Igor Belyaev

Dr Magda Havas (Canada), acting as the spokeswoman, presented the **International Electromagnetic Field Scientist Appeal**, claiming for a better protection against exposures to EMF, initiated on May 11th of this year by 190 scientists in 39 countries. This Appeal which was widely mentioned in the international press formally demands that WHO reconsider its thresholds of protection towards populations.

Dr William Rea (USA), the former chair of cardiovascular surgery at the Veterans Hospital in Dallas and a pioneer in environmental medicine, is the founder and director of the Environmental Health Center based in Dallas. He has treated over 30,000 patients suffering from hypersensitivity to the environment and affected by degenerative chronic diseases, including hundreds of doctors who have been trained afterwards.

Among the main triggers of environmental hypersensitivities, he emphasized molds, carbon monoxide, pesticides, solvents, endocrine disruptors, heavy metals, vaccines.

Dr Igor Belyaev, an Engineer in physics and a Doctor in radiobiology, now runs the laboratory of radiobiology at the Cancer Research Institute of Slovakia. A leading expert in the field of the biological effects of EMFs, an expert for WHO, he was awarded the prize of the most important study published between 2006 and 2010 in the journal *Bioelectromagnetics*. He explained that the effects EMFs depend on various physical and biological variables, many of which are not easily defined in most current studies. These include frequencies, bandwidth, modulation, transients and messages mediated through the EMF signals, as for example music on an AM (amplitude modulation) radio station. These signals also may alter biological responses such as sensors of antioxidant free radicals and divalent metals as well as physiologically important ions such as calcium.



André Vander Vorst

Other speakers stated their works related to the health effects of electromagnetic fields : **Pr André Vander Vorst** (Belgium), **Pr Olle Johansson** (Sweden), **Pr Gérard Ledoigt** (France), underlined by Mrs Cindy Sage (USA), co-editor of the BioInitiative Report. **Pr Michael Kundi** (Austria) highlighted how difficult it is to assess objectively the links between idiopathic environmental intolerance and exposure to EMFs and paid tribute to the important works led by ARTAC. **Drs Joachim Mutter** and **Peter Jennrich** (Germany) finally presented their clinical experimentation of the toxicity of heavy metals, particularly mercury, combined with electromagnetic fields.



To conclude this congress, an **independent international workgroup** was officially created, for having chemical and electromagnetic hypersensitivities recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO), UNO and medical Boards and included in **the international classification of diseases**, based on new scientific data.

Furthermore, a roundtable including scientists chaired by Dr David Carpenter and including the member of the European Parliament, Mrs Michèle Rivasi, elaborated an **international scientific statement** in order to stress WHO for recognizing of these afflictions.



From left to right: Olle Johansson, Lennart Hardell, William Rea, Magda Havas, Michèle Rivasi, David Carpenter, Dominique Belpomme, Ernesto Burgio.

Follow-up of the Fifth Paris Appeal Congress

International Scientific Declaration on EHS and MCS

The Declaration was signed by 28 scientists and sent to the WHO, the UN, the European Commission and the NIH, with a deadline on the 30th of September. So far, an answer was received from the NIH and from the European Commission (DG Health). An answer is still expected from the WHO, which is the most important international health-related institution.

A meeting was held in Luxembourg with DG Health and Consumers and more particularly with the office for the SCHER and SCENIHR, on the 18th September, 2015. The conclusions of this meeting will be presented in our next Newsletter.

Creation of an international strategic and scientific working group on Idiopathic Environmental Intolerance (IEI)

The group is still under development, as it should include international experts on all forms of IEI, including chronic fatigue syndrome, fibromyalgia and Gulf War Illness.

ECERI's publications



Reviews on Environmental Health, Volume 30, Issue 4 (Dec 2015)
Special Issue: Idiopathic environmental intolerance

Editorial

[Idiopathic environmental intolerance](#)

Carpenter, David O. / Belpomme, Dominique

Main topics

Microwave Syndrome, Electro-hypersensitivity, Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, Multiple Chemical Sensitivity, Gulf War illness, Synergistic health effects between chemical pollutants and electromagnetic fields...

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On line at <http://www.degruyter.com/view/j/reveh.2015.30.issue-4/issue-files/reveh.2015.30.issue-4.xml>

