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European Cancer and Environment Research Institute

## **Minutes of the ECERI Scientific Committee**

**25<sup>th</sup> October 2012, 02:00**

Present :

Pr Dominique Belpomme, Paris University, ECERI  
Dr Ernesto Burgio, International Society of Doctors for the Environment, ECERI (Italy),  
Pr Janos Frühling, Royal Belgium Academy of Medicine (Belgium),  
Dr Philippe Irigaray, ECERI, ARTAC (France)

Invited:

Dr Manuel Almarcha, AT Consultants, Barcelona (Spain),  
Pr Vincent Castronovo, Metastasis Research Laboratory, University of Liège (Belgium),  
Pr Salvadora Delgado, Barcelona Hospital (Spain),  
Pr Livio Giuliani, International Commission for Electromagnetic Safety (Italy),  
Mr Jean Huss, Honorary Member of Parliament (Luxembourg),  
Pr Lucia Migliore, Department of Human and Environmental Sciences, Medical Genetics Lab,  
University of Pisa (Italy),  
Dr René Olivier, Fondation Mondiale Recherche et Prévention Sida, UNESCO (France),  
Dr Nick Osborne, European Centre for Environment and Human Health, University of Exeter Medical  
School (UK),  
Pr Ruggero Ridolfi, Associazione Italiana di Oncologia Medica ( Italy)

Excused:

David Gee, European Environment Agency (Denmark)  
Vyvan Howard, University of Ulster (UK)  
Luc Montagnier, President, Fondation Mondiale Recherche et Prévention Sida, UNESCO (France)  
John Peterson Myers, Environmental Health Sciences, Charlottesville, Virginia (USA)  
Carlos Sonnenschein, Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston (USA)  
Ana Soto, Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston (USA)

### 1) Introduction

Pr Belpomme reminds the main objectives of ECERI which aims at focusing on the links between cancer and environment.

Then, each participant introduces oneself.

### 2) Election of new members

Pr Belpomme submits to the Committee three new membership proposals.

- Pr Vincenzo Castronovo : he is head of the Metastases Research Laboratory, at the University of Liège (Belgium).

Pr Frühling indicates that Mister Castronovo is very well known in Belgium for his work in cancer and biochemistry and more recently, in nutrition. The number and the quality of his publications are to be emphasized and are a major asset in his candidature to the ECERI scientific Committee.

- Dr Alain Herrera : he is currently Consultant in Oncology (France), after heading for ten years the Oncology Business at Sanofi-Aventis where he was Vice President, responsible for Global Oncology Business Strategy and Development and contributed to the worldwide registration of cancer drugs.

Pr Belpomme explains that Dr Herrera could bring precious expertise in creating links between ECERI and Industry for the development and valorization of scientific discoveries. This could be the case for the ARTAC cancer detection test and its patent.

- Dr Livio Giuliani : he is currently ICEMS (International Commission for Electromagnetic Safety) spokesman, after having conducted research on radioprotection for over 30 years in Italy.

Specialized in EMF (Electro magnetic fields), he could be a scientific advisor for that important field.

**These three proposals are unanimously accepted by the present assembly.**

Pr Frühling suggests that in the prospect of a next election a specialist in fundamental radiotherapy and radioprotection <sup>V should</sup> be admitted in the Scientific Committee.

### 3) Presentation of ECERI Research Centers

Pr Belpomme presents the current fifteen research centers member of the ECERI network.

Mister Jean Huss suggests that research centers from other countries could join the ECERI, for example from Luxembourg where public research centers may be interested.

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Pr Frühling emphasizes the fact that the most affected regions in Europe, where pollution is a public health concern are not represented in the ECERI. These regions are :

- the formally DDR
- the South of Silesia (Poland)
- The Elbe Valley (Czech Republic)
- The Center and Nord-West part of Hungaria.

Pr Frühling will contact the Leopoldina Academy, situated in the ex-Eastern Germany, and Hungarian Universities.

#### **4) Pesticides in Martinique**

Pr Belpomme explains the situation in Martinique where pesticides are spread by planes upon banana groves. His team made studies on cancer occurrence in this region and showed an impact on breast and prostate cancer increase.

He got a letter from Dr Josiane Pelage, pediatrician in the French Island Martinique, for Pr Frühling. In this letter physicians are asking the scientific expertise of the ECERI Scientific Committee about the diffusion of pesticides by airplane for the treatment of banana groves in the island.

Pr Belpomme asks the ECERI Scientific Committee to take position on this question.

Pr Frühling suggests that two specialized members of the network make a proposal and submit it to all the members for advice so as to get an ECERI approval on this question.

#### **5) Presentation of projects**

##### **- Dr Almarcha**

Dr Almarcha (AT Consultants, Barcelona) presents a Spanish research project entitled : "Effect of exposure to lipophilic xenobiotics".

This project is initiated in collaboration with the Gastrointestinal Surgery Service, Barcelona Hospital, and with a unit of the CSIS (Academic Research Center) specialized in the analysis of micro-pollutants.

It is known that lipophilic xenobiotics accumulate in adipose tissue. It would be interesting to analyze such pollutants in human adipose tissue. Besides, many investigations focused on meat while chemical compounds are present in other food.

The objectives will be to study 160 samples and analyze them with different techniques.

The cost of the project is 253.000 euros, including 90.000 euros for staff (2 scholarship x 3 years).

Pr Belpomme says it could be an interesting project, and there could be some partnership with ECERI, the colorectal cancer being one of the best marker for the screening test that ARTAC is developing. However, the problem is how to get funding.

To this objective, ECERI could be an interface to search for fundings on a larger project in collaboration with other ECERI centers.

- **Pr Ridolfi**

Pr Ridolfi is an oncologist, he coordinated a work on tumor and environment. He presents a study project on Aryl Hydrocarbon Receptor (AhR) polymorphism in dioxin pollution. The proposal is to evaluate in presence of AhR relevant polymorphic variants, in comparison with healthy tissues. Breast milk could be a good indicator.

For time reason, Pr Ridolfi is asked to send his precise proposals to the Scientific Committee.

- **Pr Giuliani**

Through his organization, the International Commission for Electromagnetic Safety, Pr Giuliani answered two European Commission calls involving ECERI, the first one on the assessment of individual exposure to environmental stressors and health impact (for 12 M euros), the second on closing the gaps of knowledge and reducing exposure to EMF (6M euros). The project is supported by the Karolinska Institute.

The first step decision will be communicated on December 20<sup>th</sup>.

The next Scientific Committee will be held in Paris in May, following the 4<sup>th</sup> Paris Appeal UNESCO Symposium that is organized by ECERI on the topic of Electrosensitivity and heavy metals.



Professor Janos Frühling  
Vice-President