



# **RF and health: the ICNIRP viewpoint**

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# International Commission on Non Ionizing Radiation Protection





# ICNIRP structure

- Commission (chairman Paolo Vecchia)
- 4 Standing committees:
  - Epidemiology
  - Biology
  - Physics
  - Optics
- 30 Consulting members



# Timetable for guidelines

- **Static fields (0 Hz)**
  - Blue book
  - EHC WHO
  - Guidelines (2009)
- **LF (1-100 kHz)**
  - Blue book
  - EHC WHO
  - guidelines (2010)

# Timetable for guidelines (cont.)

- **RF (100 kHz-300 GHz)**
  - 1998 guidelines
  - Blue book (2009, in press,  
[www.icnirp.de/documents/RFReview.pdf](http://www.icnirp.de/documents/RFReview.pdf))
  - Statement on RF (2009)
  - WHO Research recommendations (2010)
  - EHC WHO (2010)
  - IARC cancer assessment (2011?)
  - Guidelines (2012 ?)



# The 2009 statement on RF

[www.icnirp.de/documents/StatementEMF.pdf](http://www.icnirp.de/documents/StatementEMF.pdf)

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*ICNIRP Statement*

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## **ICNIRP STATEMENT ON THE “GUIDELINES FOR LIMITING EXPOSURE TO TIME-VARYING ELECTRIC, MAGNETIC, AND ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS (UP TO 300 GHz)”**

**“It is the opinion of ICNIRP that the scientific literature published since the 1998 guidelines has provided **no evidence of any adverse effects below the basic restrictions** and **does not necessitate an immediate revision of its guidance** on limiting exposure to RF.”**

# The 2009 statement on RF (cont.)

- “Some published studies [...] showed that in the frequency ranges of body resonance (ca. 100 MHz) and from 1 to 4 GHz for bodies shorter than 1.3 m in height [...] at the recommended reference level the induced ***SARs could be up to 40% higher than the current basic restriction under worst-case conditions.*** However, this is negligible compared with the large reduction factor of 50.”

## The 2009 statement on RF (cont.)

- **Epidemiology:** “The pooled analysis of all national *Interphone* data is not yet published. However, individual national and multinational results published thus far ***do not indicate an elevation of the risk of cancers in the head with cell phones within 10 years of first use.*** More data are needed before conclusions can be drawn for longer durations.”





# Extrapolation to new signals

- Guidelines are, in principle, independent of technology advances,
- ICNIRP does not provide research recommendations *per se*,
- Extrapolation to new signals is a matter of research strategy (GLORE, COST BM0704).

# Risk assessment and risk management

- Salzburg workshop (2009)

