



INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON  
THE BIOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF  
ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS

## STATEMENT

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Our team of scientists and engineers has identified seven blind spots in the methods and experiments upon which our current cellphone radiation emission standards and guidelines are based. These blind spots call into serious question the validity of those standards.

Some blind spots are actually easy to understand. For example, experiments using exposures lasting only 40 to 60 minutes to wireless radiation of the type emitted by cellphones and cell towers can hardly be said to be representative of the 24/7 chronic exposures which all of us are and will be subject to for the rest of our lives.

Another example is testing designs that estimate exposure using the phone and the head. What's missing, of course, is the hand holding the phone. What difference does that make? It makes a big difference because the addition of the hand to the exposure test shows that most of the phone's radiated emissions are absorbed by the body, and little is actually available for wireless communications.

The other five blind spots are understandable to anyone who wishes to take the time to grasp them. Combined, these seven blind spots tell us that our current cellphone emissions standards cannot be trusted. We cannot and should not tell the public that we know cellphones are safe.

We must start to test cellphones appropriately using test designs that represent actual use and that rely on the growing body of research demonstrating biological effects from radiation emitted by cellphones. We need to keep in mind while doing that testing that there is no known threshold for biological effects. These effects occur at all levels of exposure. This means all of us are at risk, and that it would be prudent for everyone to start reducing their exposure today and continue to reduce that exposure as technology and circumstances allow.

We should also demand a quantitative health risk assessment of cellphone use and wireless infrastructure. This type of scientific assessment is routinely used by government agencies worldwide. In the United States the Environmental Protection Agency, the Food and Drug Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration all use quantitative health risk assessments to determine potential human health risks associated with exposure to hazardous agents or activities. In this case the assessment would evaluate the likelihood and severity of adverse human health effects resulting from exposure to radiofrequency radiation and identify possible ways to reduce or mitigate risks to health and safety.

*Paul Héroux serves as a commissioner for the International Commission on the Biological Effects of Electromagnetic Fields.*

## **About**

### *International Commission on the Biological Effects of Electromagnetic Fields*

The ICBE-EMF is made up of a multidisciplinary consortium of scientists, doctors and related professionals who are involved with research related to the biological and health effects of electromagnetic frequencies up to and including 300 GHz. The organization makes recommendations that include and go beyond establishing numerical exposure guidelines based on the best peer-reviewed scientific research publications.

Website: [www.icbe-emf.org](http://www.icbe-emf.org)