

Radiation Research Trust
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Dear Speakers, Delegates and Patrons,

RRT September Conference 2008

No the world did not end in ‘the Black Hole’ nor did it end at the Royal Society on 8th & 9th September, 2008 just because the chief protagonists of the divergent views on the EM Radiation debate were brought together in one room by the Radiation Research Trust through the good offices of Eileen O’Connor and Mike Repacholi. Indeed Professor Henry Lai described the conference as “*the most important and productive Conference on EMF.*”

The Trust thanks you all for the brilliant presentations and significant contributions to the debate and for showing the respect and open mindedness called for by the organisers.

The European Parliament on 4th September called on the Council to amend its 1999 recommendation 519/EC in order to take into account the member states best practices and thus to set stricter exposure limits for all equipment which emits EM waves in the frequencies between 0.1mhz and 300Ghz.

Sir William Stewart in his excellent opening address rightly called for “a much stronger well funded science base with individual organisations and centres being well equipped nationally and for more complementary international programmes to be set in place. Guidelines cannot be secure unless there is a strong encompassing knowledge base upon which to build. Attention has to be given to the existing international guidelines on the NIR and RF in particular”. He also advocated “the urgent need for more work to be carried out in the social sciences and focusing on the individual, the community, the general public and on societal impact.”

Mike Dolan from an industry perspective argued strongly for the status quo and underscored the need for a proportionate management response - especially given the diverse and extensive usage of the technologies in today’s instant response age.

That wise old man Professor Yury Grigoriev of the Russian National Committee on Non Ionising Radiation Protection concluded at the Conference that

- Existing standards (foreign and Russian) have become out dated
- Modern accumulative RF EMF exposures have changed considerably
- The existing standards cannot guarantee the safe healthy development of the next generation

So where do we go from here? We respect Dr Paolo Vecchia’s views on the ICNIRP guidelines that these are just guidelines – not rules. The Conference clearly felt it was high time these guidelines were reviewed and the Trust chairman not unreasonably called at the end of the Conference for the publication of the Interphone studies and an interim review of the 10 year old ICNIRP guidelines.

With as much political and European attention now on the issue, even in these turbulent economic times, surely one can call for an update and review of standards before the end of the decade in 2009.

The trust hopes to provide a scientific review research panel as well as taking the initiative with the backing of the WHO and the European Parliament in promoting and instigating research now into EMF and children, and also into electrosensitivity.

Let us take that initiative with the help and support of organisations and indeed the industry to improve the world we live in.

Mike Bell
Chairman – EM Radiation Research Trust

