

RESEARCH

INFORMATION

STANDARDS

KNOWLEDGE

To develop a solid base of scientific evidence regarding the potential health risks of exposure to EMF, the International EMF Project:

- Evaluates the scientific literature
- Identifies gaps in knowledge requiring further research
- Promotes a research agenda for researchers and funding agencies, focusing on the potential long-term health effects of mobile phone use, and on the possible link between childhood leukaemia and exposure to magnetic fields from electric power

To facilitate dialogue between stakeholders by providing clear and unbiased information about the current scientific knowledge, the International EMF Project:

- Offers web-based access to a wide range of information resources
- Provides a database for researchers on current EMF research projects
- Convenes meetings on cutting-edge topics



To help countries set their national EMF legislation and regulations, and to promote the same high level of health protection to all people, the International EMF Project:

- Provides a unique database of EMF exposure standards worldwide
- Offers model legislation to protect against EMF exposure
- Encourages harmonization of EMF standards



No major public health risks have emerged from several decades of EMF research, but **uncertainties remain.**

The challenges...

- There is no clear understanding if and how EMF, at the low levels emitted by common appliances, might cause damage to cells
- If a common EMF exposure were found to cause a disease, it would likely be a rare one. Demonstrating such a relationship would require complex population studies
- New EMF emitting technologies are constantly being introduced on the market, resulting in different types of exposure

The way forward...

A global research effort is key to clarifying health risks. This will enable public policies that protect human health while allowing technological progress.





World Health Organization

The International EMF Project

investigates health effects of electromagnetic fields

advises national authorities on EMF radiation protection

THE SPECTRUM

People all over the world are exposed to electromagnetic fields (EMF) to varying degrees, and the levels of exposure will increase as technology advances further. These EMF are found in the non-ionizing part of the electromagnetic spectrum (between 0 and 300 GHz) and are emitted from common sources such as power lines and cellular phones. They are different to ionizing radiations, such as X-rays and gamma rays, which have enough energy to break molecular bonds.



www.who.int/emf/

As part of its charter to protect public health, WHO established the International EMF Project in 1996. The project is overseen by an advisory committee consisting of representatives of 8 international organizations, 8 independent scientific institutions and more than 50 national governments, providing a global perspective. The scientific work is conducted in collaboration with the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). All activities are coordinated and facilitated by the WHO Secretariat.

Membership in the Project is open to any WHO Member State government, i.e. department of health, or representatives of other national institutions concerned with radiation protection.

Radiation & Environmental Health
Protection of the Human Environment
World Health Organization
21 Avenue Appia
CH-1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland
Tel: + 41 22 791 2111
Fax: + 41 22 791 4123
Email: emfproject@who.int