

International Agency for Research on Cancer



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Dr Alexander Lerchl
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Germany

Ref.:

26 October 2010

Dear Dr Lerchl,

Thank you for your letter of October 20th, explaining in detail again your arguments against our decision to refrain from inviting you to join the IARC Monographs Working Group to evaluate the carcinogenic hazards from exposure to radio-frequency electromagnetic radiation. We note that you omitted to mention in your letter our e-mail response of September 3rd, in which we indicated the critical importance of a perceived conflict of interests in making our decision over participation.

We accept your explanation about the nature of your consultancy for the German Informationszentrum Mobilfunk (IZMF) and thank you for this additional clarification. We appreciate, given your distinguished position on the German Radiation Protection Board, the important implication that would have come with concluding a real conflict of interests.

Your argument about being on a WHO committee - as a technical consultant - to prepare a Research Agenda for Radiofrequency Fields attempts to compare two activities that are fundamentally different. An IARC Monograph is an evaluation exercise that demands complete independence from all commercial interests and from advocates who might be perceived as advancing a pre-conceived position.

In this connection, leaving aside the interests you mention in your Declaration, about half of your recent publications on radiofrequency radiation are not original research papers but criticisms of studies that suggest a harmful effect of exposure to radiation emitted by mobile telephones. In addition, some of your statements on the web pages of the "IZgMF" and "Next-Up" follow a similarly strong stance.

Taking the above points into account, we feel that your participation would not contribute to a balanced search for consensus within the forthcoming Working Group. Given this and the fact that we had many more qualified applicants than we can invite for the meeting, our final decision remains unchanged.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Baan".

Dr Robert Baan, Responsible officer for Vol. 102
IARC Monographs Section

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. Coglianò".

Dr Vincent Coglianò
Head, IARC Monographs Section

c.c.: Drs C.P. Wild, J. Schüz, E. van Deventer (by e-mail)