

P.O. Box 58 Teton Village, WY 83025 www.ehtrust.org

#### Dear Israeli Health Minister Yaakov Litzman;

I am writing you as Founding Director of the Board on Environmental Studies and Toxicology of the U.S. National Research Council, and Founding Director of the Center for Environmental Oncology at the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute. President Clinton appointed me to the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board, and I am former Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary for Health in the Department of Health and Human Services. I founded the non-profit Environmental Health Trust in 2007 to provide basic research and education about environmental health hazards. As world experts in radiofrequency radiation, our scientific team is doing cutting edge research currently focusing on the health risks of radiofrequency radiation.

As the website of <u>TNUDA.org.il</u> advises, the US National Toxicology Program (NTP) has released results of major rodent toxicology and carcinogenesis studies of radiofrequency radiation (RFR) at frequencies and modulations used in the US telecommunications industry. The NTP studies found increased rates of very rare types of cancer and increased DNA damage in the radiofrequency exposed rats (and none in animals housed in identical conditions that received no such exposures) adding significant weight to the evidence indicating that RFR causes cancer and genetic damage.

Furthermore, our youngest children, pregnant students and staff are the most vulnerable and especially at risk as several experimental studies are showing irreversible changes after prenatal exposure to cell phone and wireless radiation such as altered brain functioning, decreased brain cells and altered reproductive organ development. More than 100 of the foremost physicians, scientists and public health professionals have joined together to express their concern about the risk that wireless radiation poses to pregnancy. Please read these scientists' <u>BabySafe Joint Statement</u>

A recent <u>analysis of peer-reviewed scientific studies</u> on Wi-Fi frequencies *specifically* found over 50 studies documenting potentially harmful biological effects at 2.4-2.45 GHz at or below international guidelines. Our recent <u>scientific analysis</u> of epidemiological research shows that newer technologies could in fact be more damaging than older technology due to the complexity of the waveform and modulation. In other words, *low power does not ensure safety*.

In light of the findings of the NTP which were published in May 2016, it is my professional opinion that even with what seems to be "low levels" of radiation there is a clear health risk from Wi-Fi in schools, especially in computerized classes. A classroom where children are exposed to radiation from an access point on the ceiling, plus a radiating device for each child, plus the device of the children sitting nearby- is

a scenario that has never been tested for long term safety. In addition, no research has evaluated these real life exposures to students from all these transmitters together.

As the TNUDA website advises, computers in school should be implemented using wired connections, as is done in various places in Israel and elsewhere in the world. Based on the accumulated scientific evidence showing biological effects, we have recommended that the U.S. Department of Education install safe hardwired internet connections and educate students, teachers, and their families on wireless health risks and simple steps they can take to minimize exposure. In fact, schools and school districts are replacing wireless systems with safe non-wireless systems worldwide.

Recent allegations reported in the media that wired connections in schools will cause the children to surf the internet using the cellular network is without merit as a reason to promote wireless and avoid installing wired connections. The solution for such a problem is to develop guidelines for the appropriate use of technology in class, so that technology is used as a tool *and not* a distraction.

Yours respectfully,

Devra Davis, PhD MPH

President and Founder

**Environmental Health Trust** 

Visiting Professor of Medicine

The Hebrew University, Hadassah Medical Center

Associate Editor, Frontiers in Radiation and Health

Ehtrust.org

## Scientific Letters on Wi-Fi in Schools

EHT Scientist Letter to U.S. Secretary of Education on Wireless in Schools

Letter to Public Schools about Wireless Devices by Ron Powell, PhD

Dr. Martha Herbert's Letter

Dr. Anthony Miller's Letter

Dr. Lennart Hardell's Letter

Dr. David Carpenter's Letter

Dr. Olle Johansson's Letter

Occupational Therapist Cris Rowan's Letter

Safe Schools

#### **Examples of Best Practices for Schools**

Upper Sturt Primary School WiFi and Cell Phone Policy

<u>CHPS Low EMF Criteria Fact Sheet</u>: The Collaborative for High Performance Schools has developed Best Practices for LOW EMF classrooms that details how schools can replace wireless networks with wired networks and ensure schools have corded phone systems.

### Research

# **National Toxicology Program Study Results**

<u>Peer-reviewed scientific studies</u> documenting biological effects of Wi-Fi frequency 2012 American Academy of Pediatrics Letter for the Cell Phone Right to Know Act