

## **Letters to the Editor**

Electronic News

Thursday , June 17, 2004

**Document Type:** Magazine

**Word Count:** 337

Sir,

Suggestions in your article (Electronics News) confuse speculative theory with scientific evidence and are contrary to the international consensus of expert bodies, such as the World Health Organization (WHO), which have found that there is no substantiated scientific evidence of adverse health effects from mobile phones.

The paper proposes a simplistic mathematical hypothesis of a possible biological effect that is not supported by scientific research. The author himself even outlines a number of flaws in his study and states in the conclusion: "A word of caution: The present work should not be considered as proof that cellular phones are harmful." Also, when this mathematical model was released, Dr Michael Clark from the National Radiological Protection Board, an independent UK advisory group explained: "You can do anything with numbers. It is very interesting, but I can't get excited about it until somebody measures it." Research into potential biological effects from mobile phone use is not new. In fact, several national and international expert panels have evaluated the evidence on the potential health and biological effects of radiofrequency fields and have consistently concluded that there are no public health risks.

The most recent WHO position states: "None of the recent reviews have concluded that exposure to the radio frequency fields from mobile phones and their base stations cause any adverse health effects." AMTA supports further research, in accordance with the WHO's research program and that of the government funded Australian Centre for RF Bioeffects Research (ACRBR). However, the scientific consensus provides a sound basis for confidence in the safety of mobile technology. For information on mobile phone health and safety see the WHO website: <http://www.who.int/inf-fs/en/fact193.html>