

# The ICNIRP Cartel and the 5G Mass Experiment

Joel M. Moskowitz, Ph.D., [Electromagnetic Radiation Safety](#), Feb 11, 2019 (Updated Mar 15)

*"...it could also harm your health. Europe's governments ignore the danger."*

As part of a project called, "The 5G Mass Experiment," Investigate Europe, a team of investigative journalists from the European Union (EU), examined the risks of deployment of 5G, the fifth generation of mobile phone technology, and the adequacy of electromagnetic field (EMF) safety guidelines promoted by the International Commission for Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP).

To date, the team has published sixteen articles in major newspapers and magazines in seven EU countries: France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, and Portugal.

Investigate Europe alleges the existence of an "**ICNIRP cartel**." The journalists identified a group of fourteen scientists who either helped create, or defend, the EMF exposure guidelines disseminated by ICNIRP, a non-governmental organization (NGO) based in Germany. ICNIRP's self-selected members and advisors believe that EMF safety guidelines need to protect humans only from heating (or thermal) effects due to acute EMF exposure. ICNIRP scientists argue that the thousands of peer-reviewed studies that have found harmful biologic or health effects from chronic exposure to non-thermal levels of EMF are insufficient to warrant stronger safety guidelines. The journalists argue that the cartel promotes the ICNIRP guidelines by conducting biased reviews of the scientific literature that minimize health risks from EMF exposure. These reviews have been conducted for the World Health Organization (WHO) and other government agencies. By preserving the ICNIRP EMF exposure guidelines favored by industry, the cartel ensures that the cellular industry will continue to fund health effects research. Besides these fourteen scientists, perhaps several dozen EMF scientists in the EU and other countries actively defend the ICNIRP exposure guidelines.

In contrast to the dozens of EMF scientists who support the ICNIRP EMF exposure guidelines, more than 240 EMF scientists from 42 nations who published peer-reviewed research on EMF and biology or health totaling over 2,000 papers have signed the [International EMF Scientist Appeal](#). The Appeal calls on the WHO, the United Nations and all member nations to adopt **much stronger EMF exposure guidelines that protect humans and other species from sub-thermal levels of EMF exposure** and to issue health warnings about the risks of EMF exposure.

For more information see:

Investigate Europe (2019). The 5G Mass Experiment. <https://www.investigate-europe.eu/publications/the-5g-mass-experiment/>. ([Google Translate](#) is a useful tool for translating these articles into other languages.)

The information on the following pages was extracted from "**The ICNIRP Cartel: Who's Who in the EMF Research World**," an **interactive graphic** developed by Investigate Europe which can be found at: <https://www.kumu.io/Investigate-Europe/whos-who>

Related information:

[ICNIRP's Exposure Guidelines for Radio Frequency Fields](#)

[WHO Radiofrequency Radiation Policy](#)

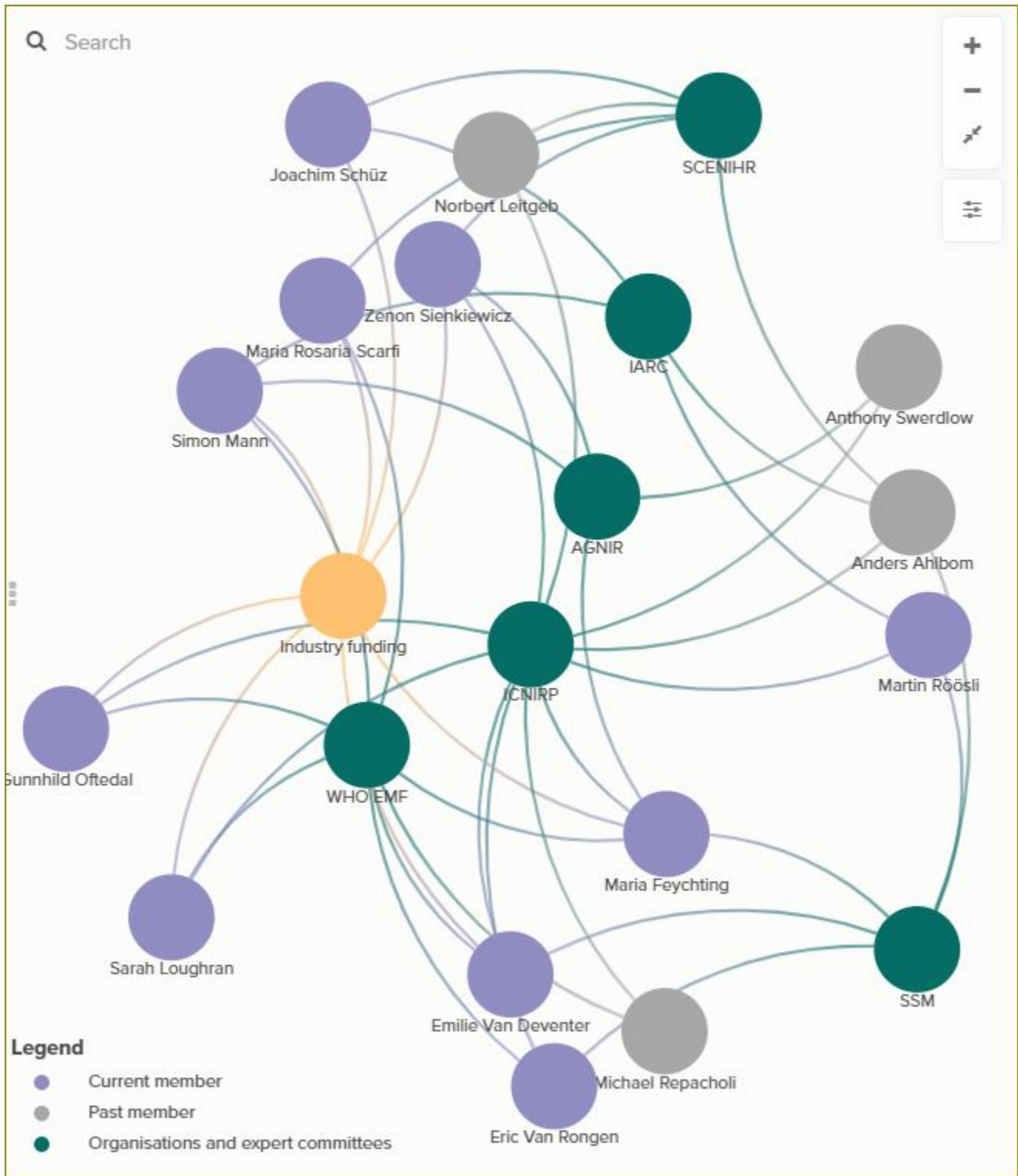
[Worldwide Radio Frequency Radiation Exposure Limits versus Health Effects](#)

[International EMF Scientist Appeal](#)

# “The ICNIRP Cartel: Who’s Who in the EMF Research World”

Extracted from an interactive graphic developed by Investigate Europe, February 15, 2019  
By Joel M. Moskowitz, Ph.D., [Electromagnetic Radiation Safety](http://www.electromagneticradiationsafety.org)

<https://www.kumu.io/Investigate-Europe/whos-who>



## **Cartel Members**

**Anders Ahlbom** is Professor of Epidemiology at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm. As a longtime chairman of the Scientific Council for Electromagnetic Fields of the Swedish Radiation Protection Authority (SSM), as a member of the ICNIRP and the EU SCENIHR Committee, he was heavily involved in the assessment of environmental risks. In 2011, Ahlbom was also a member of the expert panel of the WHO Institute IARC for the evaluation of cancer risk. But had to resign after it was determined that he is on the board of the consulting firm of his brother, the customer advises Telekomtechnik.

<https://ki.se/en/people/andahl>

**Maria Feychting** works at the Karolinska Institute in Sweden. She was a senior scientist for the Swedish part of the Interphone study, an international study on adult brain tumors. Her team participates in international health risk assessments and research reviews (WHO and EU) and national reviews (including SSM). Since 2012 she is Deputy Chairman of the ICNIRP. She is involved in health risk assessments for non-ionizing radiation for the Public Health England and other national authorities. She was one of the experts in an official study in Norway (2012) on possible health risks from radiation from mobile phones, base stations and wireless networks.

<https://ki.se/en/people/marfey>

**Sarah Loughran** is currently a research associate at the University of Wollongong at the Australian Center for Electromagnetic Bioeffects Research (ACEBR), a research group in human neurophysiology. She is a member of the Evaluation Committee for the World Health Organization (WHO) EMF project and, since March 2013, the Scientific Expert Group (SEG) of the ICNIRP.

<https://www.icnirp.org/en/about-icnirp/scientific-expert-group/details/seg-member-loughran.html>

**Norbert Leitgeb** is a retired professor at the University of Graz, Austria. He has worked in the SCENIHR EU committee and has been a consultant member of ICNIRP (2001-2012).

<https://graz.pure.elsevier.com/en/persons/norbert-leitgeb/publications/?page=1>

**Simon Mann** works for the UK's Public Health Center for Radiation, Chemical and Environmental Hazards and develops health-related advice on exposure to electromagnetic fields in the UK. He was secretary of the Independent Advisory Group on Non-ionizing Radiation (AGNIR) and a member of WHO's IARC Working Group, which evaluated the carcinogenic potential of radiofrequency radiation. He is currently working with the WHO to develop the Environmental Health Criteria monograph on high frequency fields. He has represented the United Kingdom at meetings on European technical standards and at meetings organized by the European Commission on electromagnetic fields. In January 2015, he was appointed a member of the ICNIRP Scientific Expert Group.

<https://www.icnirp.org/en/about-icnirp/scientific-expert-group/details/seg-member-mann.html>

**Gunnhild Oftedal** is Associate Professor at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU). Her area of expertise is the effects of electromagnetic fields on humans. She is a member of the core group of experts for the WHO EMF Project and member of ICNIRP. She was one of the experts for a government-

commissioned study published in 2012 on possible health risks from radiation from mobile phones, base stations and wireless networks in Norway.

<https://www.ntnu.edu/employees/gunnhild.oftedal>

**Michael Repacholi** is an Australian physicist and founder of ICNIRP. He was 1992-1996 chairman of the ICNIRP. In parallel, he also launched the WHO EMF project on health risk assessment of electromagnetic radiation. Since 2006 he has worked as a consultant for electromagnetic fields and health at the University of Sapienza in Rome.

[In 1997, Dr. Repacholi published a [study](#) which found that radio frequency (RF) fields were a cocarcinogen: "Thus long-term intermittent exposure to RF fields can enhance the probability that mice carrying a lymphomagenic oncogene will develop lymphomas." Since then he has defended RF exposure guidelines that only address short-term RF exposure. Did industry funding of his research at the WHO EMF Project influence his thinking about RF exposure guidelines?]

**Maria Rosaria Scarfi** is a senior scientist at the National Research Council of Italy. Her work is mainly concerned with the interaction between non-ionizing radiation and biological systems. She is a member of the WHO Core Group for Assessing the Health Risks of Electromagnetic Radiation and has worked as an external expert on SCENIHR.

[http://www.irea.cnr.it/en/index.php?option=com\\_comprofiler&task=userprofile&user=158&Itemid=100](http://www.irea.cnr.it/en/index.php?option=com_comprofiler&task=userprofile&user=158&Itemid=100)

**Joachim Schüz** is head of the Department of Environment and Radiation at the IARC. Before joining the IARC in 2010, he headed the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology at the Research Center of the Danish Cancer Society in Copenhagen. From 2009-13 he was a member of the SCENIHR of the European Commission.

[http://www.cicancer.org/uploads/archivos/CV\\_Joachim\\_Sch%C3%BCz.pdf](http://www.cicancer.org/uploads/archivos/CV_Joachim_Sch%C3%BCz.pdf)

**Zenon Sienkiewicz** has been studying electromagnetic fields since 1985 and is now Senior Scientific Group Leader of the Physiology and Neurobiology Group at the Center for Radiation, Chemical and Environmental Hazards, part of the UK public health system. He is a member of ICNIRP, has worked as an external expert on SCENIHR and has served on UK expert advisory boards, including AGNIR and the Program Management Committee of the UK Mobile Telecommunications and Health Research (MTHR) program.

<https://www.icnirp.org/en/about-icnirp/commission/details/member-sienkiewicz.html>

**Anthony Swerdlow** examines the causes of cancer in patients and the long-term effects of cancer treatment on these patients. He has been elected a Fellow of several medical societies and chairs the Advisory Group on Non-Ionizing Radiation at the UK Public Health England (AGNIR). He was a member of the ICNIRP Commission 2000-2012.

<https://www.icr.ac.uk/our-research/researchers-and-teams/professor-anthony-swerdlow>

**Emilie van Deventer** works at the WHO in 2000, where she is also director of the International EMF Project, which aims to assess research into the health hazards of electromagnetic radiation. She is a member of the Independent Expert Group on Electromagnetic Fields of the Swedish Radiation Protection Authority (SSM). She also participates as a WHO observer at the meetings of the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP).

<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/Workshops-and-Seminars/emf/201307/Pages/vanDEVENTERTaheraEmilie.aspx>

**Eric Van Rongen** is a biologist and since 1992 a research associate at the Netherlands Health Council, where he focuses on non-ionizing radiation. Since 2001 he has been a consultant and since 2010 a full member of the ICNIRP. Since May 2016, he has chaired the commission as chairman. At the same time, he is a member of the Advisory Committee of the International EMF Project of the WHO for the Evaluation of Research Results on the Health Risks of Electromagnetic Radiation. Van Rongen is also a board member of the Scientific Council for Electromagnetic Fields of the Swedish Radiation Protection Authority (SSM).

<https://www.icnirp.org/en/about-icnirp/commission/details/chair.html>

## **Organizations**

### **ICNIRP**

ICNIRP is a German-registered association which, soon after its inception in 1992, became the actual standard-setter of radiation limits. Most European governments - and WHO, the World Health Organization - refer to ICNIRP's guidelines in their national radiation exposure limits.

ICNIRP is not open to any interested professionals. Members of its scientific committee are appointed. None who claims there is sufficient scientific material to lower safety standards are represented.

### **Industry Research**

Some researchers have tried to study how conclusions on EMF radiation and health correspond with source of funding. In at least three such exercises by different people, in 2006, 2007 and 2017, the pattern was the same: The likelihood that industry-funded studies would find cause for concern, was dramatically smaller than in studies that were not industry-funded.

See:

[www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1797826/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1797826/)

[www.seattlemag.com/article/uw-scientist-henry-lai-makes-waves-cell-phone-industry](http://www.seattlemag.com/article/uw-scientist-henry-lai-makes-waves-cell-phone-industry)

[www.orsaa.org/latest-news/is-icnirp-a-closed-club](http://www.orsaa.org/latest-news/is-icnirp-a-closed-club)

[At least eight of the fourteen scientists represented in organizations and committees that assess the health risks of electromagnetic radiation have conducted research directly or indirectly funded by industry.]

## **WHO EMF** (World Health Organization EMF Project)

The World Health Organization (WHO) International EMF project was launched in 1996 to assess scientific evidence on possible health effects of electromagnetic fields in the frequency range 0 to 300 GHz. Since 2012, a "core group" of scientists has been working on a health risk assessment, reviewing a large number of studies from around the world on the possible link between exposure to radiofrequency radiation from cell phones, base stations, etc., and health effects such as cancer, infertility, hypersensitivity, etc. Four of six members are also members of the ICNIRP. In 2014, the group submitted a draft that was heavily criticized for its one-sidedness. As a result, WHO decided to set up a Task Group to review the draft Core Group's draft and draw conclusions. The members of this working group are not yet named, but WHO says it will involve scientists with a "wide range of opinions and expertise". The "core group" will continue to "coordinate" their work. No date has been set for the publication of the final health risk assessment.

## **IARC** (World Health Organization cancer agency)

The International Agency for the Research on Cancer (IARC) is part of the World Health Organization that conducts research into the causes of human cancer. Based on two studies of possible links between mobile phone use and brain tumours (the IARC Interphone study and the Hardell group studies from Sweden) IARC have classified mobile phone EMF-radiation as possibly carcinogenic 2B.

## **SCENIHR** (European Commission)

The Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks (SCENIHR) is a scientific committee managed by the Directorate-General for Health and Consumer Protection of the European Commission. It provides opinions on emerging or newly-identified health and environmental risks and on broad, complex or multidisciplinary issues requiring a comprehensive assessment of risks to consumer safety or public health and related issues not covered by other Community risk assessment bodies.

## **AGNIR** (United Kingdom)

Advisory Group on Non-Ionising Radiation (AGNIR), was an independent scientific advisory group (1990-2017) in the UK. For a variety of reasons Public Health England decided that it was no longer viable to support a dedicated standing expert advisory group to solely address non-ionising radiation. AGNIR's documents are referred to by the UK government and the devolved administrations and have been used in developing exposure guidelines.

## **SSM** (Sweden)

The Swedish Radiation Safety Authority's (SSM) Scientific Council on Electromagnetic Fields monitors current research on potential health risks with a correlation to exposure to electromagnetic fields, and provides the Authority with advice on assessing possible health risks. The Council gives guidance when the Authority must give an opinion on policy matters when scientific testing is necessary. The Council is required to submit a written report each year on the current research and knowledge situation.