

European Bioelectromagnetic Association

5th International Conference
Helsinki, Finland 6-8 September 2001

EBEA 2001, the 5th International Congress of the European BioElectromagnetics Association was held on 6-8 September 2001 at the Marina Congress Center, Helsinki, Finland. The Congress was organized by the European BioElectromagnetics Association (EBEA) in collaboration with the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) and the World Health Organization (WHO), and hosted by the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health (FIOH). The number of registered participants at the Congress was 290 representing 35 countries.

The scientific programme consisted of 72 oral and 69 poster presentations. In addition, the following invited keynote papers were given:

- Protection of the public from EM fields: Dr Michael Repacholi
- ICNIRP - 10 years on: Dr Alastair McKinlay
- Review of epidemiological studies on EMFs: Dr Elisabeth Cardis
- Therapeutic perspectives of in vivo cell electropermeabilization: Dr Lluís Mir
- Recent advances in understanding human memory and cognition: Dr Shoogo Ueno

In his speech Dr Repacholi mentioned that WHO has seriously considered how the Precautionary Principle could be used for EMF protection of the public. "There seems to be significant support for the approach of mandating the use of science-base exposure limits in conjunction with voluntary precautionary approaches to reducing EMF exposure to lower levels. What does not seem appropriate is the arbitrary adoption of additional safety factors into exposure limits in the name of being cautionary. This has the effect of undermining the science base for standards setting, making valueless 100s of millions of dollars use to produce science results", Dr Repacholi emphasized.

The oral papers were quite evenly distributed to 10 separate sessions concerning interaction mechanisms, *In vitro* and *in vivo*-studies, risk communication, dosimetry systems, epidemiological and human experimental studies, medical applications, exposure assessments, and wireless telecommunication. A variety of excellent papers were given, and plenty of new results and ideas were discussed during the sessions. As a few examples can be mentioned e.g. the comprehensive presentation by Dr David Black on precautions in RF standards, the paper on development of a datalogger for storing measurements taken by a personal EM field dosimeter by Dr Tim Cooper, as well as the paper on effects of RF-EMF-exposure on gene and protein expression by Dr Dariusz Leszczynski. The Book of Proceedings can be ordered from the Congress Secretary Ms Solveig Borg (email: solveig.borg@ttl.fi).

During the Congress, a Press Lunch for journalists and TV- and radio representatives was arranged acquiring a lot of interests at the local and international media channels. The social programme of the Congress included a visit to the Sonera Telegalleria, a museum where the visitor could see early models of mobile phones, base station mast

structures, relay links, antennas etc. The Congress Dinner was arranged in Restaurant HSS owned by a local yacht club, on the island of Liuskasaari offering a splendid view of the sea. The Guest of Honour at the Dinner was Professor Veli Santomaa who recently retired from the Nokia Research Center. The Congress was ended by an Excursion to Helsinki Power Station Museum, a monument of electrical industry in Helsinki.