



EMFnEAR

EXPOSURE AT UMTS ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS: STUDY ON POTENTIAL ADVERSE EFFECTS ON HEARING

Paolo Ravazzani
Institute of Biomedical Engineering
National Research Council
Italy



MEETING OF THE WORKING PARTY ON HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT
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The EMFnEAR Project



- **CNR-ISIB**, Milan-Padua, Italy, Paolo Ravazzani
- **CNRS**, Lyon, France, Lionel Collet
- **ENEA**, Rome, Italy, Carmela Marino
- **ISVR**, Southampton, UK, Mark Lutman
- **KMU**, Kaunas, Lithuania, Ingrida Uloziene
- **NIOM**, Lodz, Poland, Mariola Sliwinska-Kowalska
- **NIRR**, Budapest, Hungary, Gyorgy Thuroczy
- **RCA**, Moscow, Russia, George Tavartkiladze

- **Start Date:** December 15, 2004
- **End Date:** June 14, 2007
- **Duration:** 30 Months



Specific Objectives



- Assess potential changes in auditory function of animals and humans due to exposure to EMF produced by UMTS phones
- Support informed decision-making by health and environmental authorities and public information
- Provide industry with adequate information for assessing and managing the potential risks of UMTS standard for hearing.
- Contribute to the definition of the exposure limits at this modulation and frequency band and, consequently, to the revision of Council Recommendation 1999/519/EC.

Animal Experimentation



- Design and manufacturing of exposure and positioning systems

COMPLETED

- Animal experimentation:

- Exposure protocols
- Audiological assessment protocols
- In-vitro analysis protocols
- Ethical committee approvals

COMPLETED

- Experimental phases
- Data processing

IN PROGRESS

Human Experimentation



- Exposure and positioning systems

IN PROGRESS

- Within-subject study:

- Exposure protocols
- Audiological assessment protocols

UNDER FINALIZATION

- Ethical committee approvals
- Experimental phases
- Data processing

NEXT STEPS

Experimental Methods



In-vivo audiological assessment

- Battery of audiological tests to be performed before, during (animals) and after UMTS controlled exposure:
 - Distortion Product Otoacoustic Emissions (animals and humans)
 - Transient Evoked Otoacoustic Emissions (humans)
 - Contralateral efferent effects (humans)
 - Auditory Evoked Potentials (humans)
 - Subjective audiogram (humans)

In-vitro audiological assessment

Analysis of specific hair cells markers expression, apoptosis and ion concentration in outer hair cells of Sprague-Dawley or Wistar rats, following UMTS-exposure.

Gantt Chart (updated Sept 05)



ACTIVITY	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30
Animal Protocols	Done	Done								
Human Protocols	Done	Done	Done	To Be Done						
Animal Experiments			Done	To Be Done	To Be Done	To Be Done	To Be Done	To Be Done	To Be Done	
Human Experiments					To Be Done	To Be Done	To Be Done	To Be Done	To Be Done	
Dissemination		Done	Done	To Be Done	To Be Done	To Be Done	To Be Done	To Be Done	To Be Done	To Be Done



Dissemination Activities



EMFnEAR Website (<http://www.emfnear.polimi.it>)

EMFnEAR leaflets

Papers at International Conferences

Dissemination newspaper/television

Contacts with regulatory bodies

Contacts with stakeholders

EMFnEAR News (in preparation the first issue)

Special Session at NHS 2006 Conference – Cernobbio, Italy

Future Steps (next six months)



- **Finalize human protocols**
- **Start of in-vitro studies on hair cells in animals**
- **Start of human experimentations**

Contacts:

Email: paolo.ravazzani@polimi.it

Website: <http://www.emfnear.polimi.it>

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