

**Commonwealth Club of California**  
**“The Health Effects of Electromagnetic Fields”**  
November 18, 2010

**Opening Remarks by William Grant, PhD, Chairman,**  
**Health and Medicine Forum**

Greetings, and welcome to today’s meeting of The Commonwealth Club of California. I am Bill Grant, Chair of the Club’s Health and Medicine Member Led Forum and the Chair of this program.

We are delighted to co-host today’s program on the Health Effects of Electromagnetic Fields with [ElectromagneticHealth.org](http://ElectromagneticHealth.org) and Camilla Rees as well as the Club’s Environment and Natural Resources Forum and the Science and Technology Forum

On March 19, 2008, we had a smaller program organized by Camilla on this topic, at a time when very few people knew there were health hazards from cell phones and wireless technologies.

After that program, 110 audience questions were answered by Camilla and Dr. Magda Havas in the book Public Health SOS: The Shadow Side of the Wireless Revolution and sent to every member of Congress and over a hundred thousand journalists globally. The book is still available through [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com)

Since then the subject is in the media routinely, there have been Senate hearings, and there is Congressional legislation that has been announced that will call for a review of the exposure guidelines, funding for EMF research, and warning labels on cell phones.

And of course those of you in the Bay Area know that San Francisco became the first city to require radiation levels on cell phone packaging and education on radiation risks at the point of sale. As a result, CTIA; The Wireless Industry Association's trade group, announced that it is moving its next conference to San Diego after meeting in San Francisco for years. Yesterday, the California Public Utilities Commission pushed for a SmartMeter health probe (SmartMeters are installed in homes to relay information about power usage to PG&E via wi-fi). So, San Francisco is a hotbed of activity on the health effects of EMF.

Today, you will hear from experts from 5 countries, Canada , England , Norway , Sweden and the U.S. about

- the exquisite sensitivity of DNA to electromagnetic fields
- the impacts on the heart from the frequency emitted by wi-fi and portable phones
- little understood connections between every day electrification and common diseases like heart disease, diabetes and cancer
- a just published extensive review of the cell tower and infrastructure antenna related science.
- and a just published monograph in Italy on the mechanism of action creating the biological effects.

Camilla Rees, who organized today's program, is:

- Founder of [ElectromagneticHealth.org](http://ElectromagneticHealth.org)
- Co-author of "[\*Cellphones and Brain Tumors: 15 Reasons for Concern\*](#)"
- Author of "[\*Alzheimer's Mouse Study-Do We Smell a Rat?\*](#)"
- Founder of the [Campaign for Radiation-Free Schools](#)
- Author of the [EMF-Help Blog™](#)

She exemplifies the kind of citizen activism we hope to foster in our members on important issues of the day.

Please join me in welcoming Camilla Rees.