An Activist’s Journey to Raise Awareness about Electromagnetic Pollution – Part 2 of 2

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According to “Neurological Effects of Radiofrequency Radiation” by Henry Lai, PhD, Bioelectromagnetics Research Laboratory, Department of Bioengineering, School of Medicine and College of Engineering, University of Washington, (http://www.mapcruzin.com/radiofrequency/henry_lai2.htm): “…results indicate changes in the response characteristics of the nervous system with repeated exposure, suggesting that the effects are not ‘forgotten’ after each episode of exposure.”

In “Biological Effects of Radiofrequency Radiation” by Wolfgang W. Scherer (http://www.reach.net/~scherer/p/biofx.htm), he discusses the accumulation of RF damage in eyes:

- “What distinguishes radiofrequency introduced heating from other means of heating is the rapidity of heating, the depth of penetration, and the existence of internal hot-spots, that can result in tissue damage long before the overall body temperature increases dramatically.
- The brain is particularly susceptible to the occurrence of these hot-spots. Depending on the size of the head and the frequency of the radiation, regions of relatively high absorption can occur at or near the center of the brain. These effects are especially uncontrollable in the near-field during the use of mobile communication devices like cordless and cellular phones and very unpredictable due to the variable shape, size, and thickness of skulls.
- “However, the main objectively measurable hazard of microwave radiation is injury to the eyes, especially damaging at frequencies above 800 MHz. Since the lens of the eye does not have an adequate vascular system for the exchange of heat, even a slight rise in temperature can cause protein coagulation, and opacities in the lens may form.”

Chronic health conditions linked to EMF should be seriously considered by health practitioners. For a brief summary, please see “Microwave and Radiofrequency Radiation Exposure: A Growing Environmental Health Crisis” by Cindy Sage, Co-Editor of the landmark BioInitiative Report on biological effects from non-ionizing radiation, located on the San Francisco Medical Society’s website at http://www.sfms.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home&CONTENTID=1770&TEMPLATE=/CM/HTMLDisplay.cfm&SECTION=Article_Archive.

This website contains a list of EMF related symptoms and conditions. Read this and start to understand the extraordinary toll unchecked electromagnetic radiation exposure is having on our health care system and health costs. These include “changes in cell membrane function, major changes in calcium metabolism and cellular signal communication, cell proliferation, activation of proto-oncogenes, activation of HSP heat shock proteins as if heating has occurred when it has not, and cell death. Resulting effects reported in the scientific literature include DNA breaks and chromosome aberrations, increased free radical production, cell stress and premature aging, changes in brain function including memory loss, learning impairment, headaches and fatigue, sleep disorders, neurodegenerative conditions, reduction in melatonin secretion and cancer.”

According to Henry Lai, PhD, author of Chapter 6 of the BioInitiative Report, “Evidence for Genotoxic Effects”, of the studies on radiofrequency radiation and DNA damage (28 studies) 50% reported effects; of micronucleus studies (29 studies) 55% reported effects; and of chromosome and genome effects (21 studies) 62% reported effects. (www.BioInitiative.org)

Both ELF and RF can significantly affect a growing fetus. See the chapter on this in B. Blake Levitt’s “Electromagnetic Fields: A Consumer’s Guide to the Issues”. Levitt says effects can be direct to the fetus through external exposures, through maternal pathways, or through damage to the father’s sperm. She says effects can be caused by stress hormones to both the mother and fetus, as well, with the potential amplification of exposures in the conductive amniotic fluid, and through cytokines and inflammatory conditions.
responses. Levitt also suspects EMF from Doppler ultrasound used routinely in obstetric practice may be harming fetuses, and says autism rates skyrocketed upon its use.

Halifax, VA became the first Virginia town to ban chemical and radioactive bodily trespass, stripping corporations of “rights”, announced February 7, 2008. Community Environmental

Legal Defense Fund Project Director, Ben Price, said “The people of the town of Halifax have determined that they do not consent to be irradiated, nor to be trespassed upon, by toxic substances that would be released by Virginia Uranium, Inc. or any other state chartered corporation. The people have asserted their right and their duty to protect their families, environment, and future generations. In enacting this law, the community has gone on record as rejecting Dillon’s Rule, which erroneously asserts that there is no inherent right to local self-government. The American Revolution was about nothing less than the fundamental right of the people to be the decision-makers on issues directly affecting the communities in which they live...The people of Town of Halifax have acted in the best tradition of liberty and freedom, and confronted injustice in the form of a state-permitted corporate assault against the consent of the sovereign people”. “Public Health SOS” asks “Doesn’t it seem that this approach is needed to protect us from the Telecom corporations?”

Dr. Glendinning, in an interview with Camilla Rees, says, “It never fails to amaze me the level of denial and psychic numbing—and gullibility—that surrounds what are in fact very dangerous, radiation-emitting technologies. Some people actually believe they can’t live without them. Many have become dependent—truly addicted to them—and yet, let’s face it, they have only been using them for a few years.” She adds, “The invasion by wireless technologies into the social-sphere has led not to personal connectivity and communication as advertised—but to alienation and isolation, less face-to-face community and cohesiveness, a speeding up of social relations, and a sense of ‘placelessness’.

“On the collective level, this new electromagnetic infrastructure has led not to better democracy—but to increased centralization of political and economic power.” Glendinning adds, “According to our ancestors and a million years of evolution, mental health is rooted in knowing one’s place and one’s people. Historically, the foundation for well-being has been intimacy with family, tribe, culture, food production and the natural world. Today’s mass society is already a world of individualism, displacement, factory food, and encasement in technology—and the new wireless technologies only further serve these predicaments; they hardly enhance family, tribe, local sustainability, or intimacy with nature. Look at the result! More mental illness, more thinking disorders, crime, depression, meaninglessness, violent behaviors like mass murders in public places, children killing children. Think about it.”

Rees’ role has been to bring EMF issues to scientists, physicians, government, parents, educators, health policy experts, the public and others who can help get the word out. And she has been a behind the scenes support to many local activists groups fighting neighborhood antennas.

Devra Davis, PhD, author of the upcoming book “Disconnect: The Truth About Cell Phone Radiation, What the Industry Is Doing to Hide It, and How to Protect Your Family”, says “Camilla has done a phenomenal job of bringing public attention to this issue. She’s great at networking and she willingly shares her wisdom. Camilla has been instrumental in educating the public, lawyers, medical professionals, and getting the media to start asking questions about the impact of these technologies on us physically, emotionally, and socially.”

According to Representative Andrea Boland of Maine, the first state to put forth legislation calling for warning labels on cell phones, Camilla is well grounded in the scientific research on EMF, and its implications for people living their normal lives. “I greatly appreciate her gift for extracting from her stores of knowledge information that is useful to others, her generosity in sharing it, and her skill in communicating it in a way that is easy to pick up and use. Camilla did that with me, and was a great support in composing my message to audiences for whom this was an entirely new focus. She broadened my base of understanding of cell phones to an appreciation of the whole broad spectrum of EMF in our lives—from towers and antennas to children’s learning problems, and electro hypersensitivity that can be set off from more ordinary sources of EMF. She has shared professional contacts with me and nurtured their support of my legislation here in Maine, and offered help gently and generously. She responded when I called, advised me on media messaging, and showed up to give compelling testimony. I consider Camilla a distinguished professional, and I’m gratified to be able to call her a friend.”

Concern Across All Sectors

Public Health SOS reports expressions of concern from scientists, physicians, health policy experts and others.

William Rea, MD, Founder & Director of the Environmental Health Center, Dallas Past President, American Academy of Environmental Medicine:

“Sensitivity to electromagnetic radiation is the emerging health problem of the 21st century. It is imperative health practitioners, governments, schools and parents learn more about it. The human health stakes are significant”.

Martin Blank, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Physiology and Cellular Biophysics, Columbia University, College of Physicians and Surgeons; Researcher in Bioelectromagnetics; Author of the Bio- Initiative Report’s section on Stress Proteins:

“Cells in the body react to EMFs as potentially harmful, just like to other environmental toxins, including heavy metals and toxic chemicals. The DNA in living cells recognizes electromagnetic fields at very low levels
of exposure; and produces a biochemical stress response. The scientific evidence tells us that our safety standards are inadequate, and that we must protect ourselves from exposure to EMF due to power lines, cell phones and the like, or risk the known consequences. The science is very strong and we should sit up and pay attention.”

Olle Johansson, Ph.D., Associate Professor, The Experimental Dermatology Unit, Department of Neuroscience, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden; Author of the BioInitiative Report’s section on the Immune System:

“It is evident that various biological alterations, including immune system modulation, are present in electrosensitive persons. There must be an end to the pervasive nonchalance, indifference and lack of heartfelt respect for the plight of these persons. It is clear something serious has happened and is happening. Every aspect of electrosensitive peoples’ lives, including the ability to work productively in society, have healthy relations and find safe, permanent housing, is at stake. The basics of life are becoming increasingly inaccessible to a growing percentage of the world’s population. I strongly advise all governments to take the issue of electromagnetic health hazards seriously and to take action while there is still time. There is too great a risk that the ever increasing RF-based communications technologies represent a real danger to humans, especially because of their exponential, ongoing and unchecked growth. Governments should act decisively to protect public health by changing the exposure standards to be biologically-based, communicating the results of the independent science on this topic and aggressively researching links with a multitude of associated medical conditions.”

Lennart Hardell, MD, PhD, Professor, The University Hospital, Orebro, Sweden. World-renowned expert on cell phones, cordless phones, brain tumors, and the safety of wireless radiofrequency and microwave radiation. Co-authored the BioInitiative Report’s section on Brain Tumors with Dr. Hardell:

“The evidence for risks from prolonged cell phone and cordless phone use is quite strong when you look at people who have used these devices for 10 years or longer, and when they are used mainly on one side of the head. Recent studies that do not report increased risk of brain tumors and acoustic neuromas have not looked at heavy users, use over ten years or longer, and do not look at the part of the brain which would reasonably have exposure to produce a tumor.”

Paul J. Rosch, MD, Clinical Professor of Medicine and Psychiatry, New York Medical College; Honorary Vice President International Stress Management Association; Diplomate, National Board of Medical Examiners; Full Member, Russian Academy of Medical Sciences; Fellow, The Royal Society of Medicine; Emeritus Member, The Bioelectromagnetics Society:

“Claims that cell phones pose no health hazards are supported solely by Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) limits safety standards written by the telecommunications industry decades ago based on studies they funded. These have made the erroneous assumption that the only harm that could come from cell phone radiofrequency emissions would be from a thermal or heating action, since such non thermal fields can have no biological effects. The late Dr. Ross Adey disproved this three decades ago by demonstrating that very similar radiofrequency fields with certain carrier and modulation frequencies that had insufficient energy to produce any heating could cause the release of calcium ions from cells. Since then, numerous research reports have confirmed that non thermal fields from cell phones, tower transmitters, power lines, and other man made sources can significantly affect various tissues and physiologic functions.”

According to Dr. Mercola, founder of Mercola.com, the most visited natural health site in the world, “I believe the evidence of harm from excessive exposures to microwave radiation from wireless technologies is overwhelming, and to do nothing would be nothing short of suicidal/genocidal in the long run. Illness linked to electromagnetic radiation exposure include cancer, neurological problems, ADD, sleep disorders, depression, autism, cognitive problems, cardiovascular irregularities, hormone disruption, immune system disorders, metabolism changes, stress, fertility impairment, increased blood brain barrier permeability, mineral disruption, DNA damage and much, much more. Learning how to sensibly protect yourself in high EMF environments, and pushing for stricter safety standards for wireless technologies is imperative if we want to protect our children from devastating health problems.”

“With everything I know about the health dangers associated with microwave radiation from wireless technologies such as cell phones, Wi-Fi routers and cell phone towers, I’m convinced Electromagnetic Hypersensitivity Syndrome is a real and looming health disaster.”

“The problem has gotten bad enough that France, for example, has created “EMF refugee zones,” where
those who are hypersensitive now live in trailers, doing everything they can to protect themselves in order to be able to function normally.

“Are we creating a world that only a select few will eventually be able to cope in?

“I believe this is a valid question that needs to be considered when communities install these technologies throughout public and private buildings; schools and places of work. It’s also an emerging health threat that physicians need to start paying attention to in their patients.”

What’s Happening Today?

New developments give hope to activists like Camilla that their work is making a difference.

In June 2010 San Francisco passed the country’s first law requiring cell phone retailers to disclose the phones’ specific absorption rate, or SAR, to customers, and to educate consumers on the health risks of cell phone radiation at the point-of-sale. SAR measures the amount of radiation absorbed by a person’s brain using a cell phone, estimated by engineers using plexiglass models of the brain, and based only on the power of the phone, not including risks from exposures to the frequencies that are also very biologically active.

The Federal Communications Commission limits SAR to an average of 1.6 watts per kilogram of body tissue, but information about radiation levels is not now available when people purchase phones at stores. Consumers are also not told that this SAR safety limit is based on an assumed 6 minute phone call. Or that cell phone manuals, in the small print, say that to comply with the FCC safety guidelines, people should not place a cell phone against their head but should keep the phone from ½”-1” away from the body at all times. There is a lot that consumers need to understand, including ironically that low SAR values are sometimes more damaging to the brain than high SAR values. But San Francisco has at least begun the noble process of sensitizing consumers to this important emerging public health issue.

And Congressman Dennis J. Kucinich (D-OH) recently announced his intent to introduce a bill to create a new national research program to study cell phones and health, to require an update of the decades-old SAR exposure guidelines, and to grant a consumer’s right-to-know by providing for warning labels on cell phones. This follows Senate hearings last September on cell phones and health, and earlier hearings by Congressman Kucinich in 2008 at which the CTIA (the wireless industry association) refused to participate.

Rees says Kucinich’s legislation is very encouraging. “Not only is Congressman Kucinich calling for warning labels on cell phones, but he is calling for a national research program and questioning the very methodology by which safety guidelines for cell phones are set. This is important because while local governments like San Francisco can call for more consumer education, it is only at the level of the federal government where real changes, that are truly protective of all consumers, can be made. Congress needs to mandate the FCC change the exposure guidelines for cell phones, and for that matter, for all wireless radiation exposures, so that they are biologically based, not based on a physics measure like the SAR. Eventually, Congress will also need to repeal Section 704 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, if justice is to prevail, reversing the biggest federal power grab from state and local governments since the time of the railroads, thereby allowing state and local governments to restrict health-damaging antennas in their communities.

Finally, Rees says that she is encouraged that leading international EMF scientists are communicating amongst themselves regularly now on how they can best communicate their understanding of the risks of various electromagnetic field exposures to government leaders globally, countering misinformation that it is only the thermal effects that matter and constructively shaping new guidelines. “Scientists are now in the process of actively rising to the call to serve society’s urgent interest in this matter.

Looking Towards the Future...

“There are a number of areas of research that need to be investigated further,” says Dr. Mercola. For example, researchers have discovered that electromagnetic fields produce more potent mycotoxins. In fact, it’s possible that some 50 percent of chronic infections are caused, and/or aggravated by electromagnetic field exposure, leading to syndromes like chronic fatigue, fibromyalgia and other chronic pain syndromes.

Worse yet, if you have accumulated toxic metals in your brain, such as mercury from mercury dental fillings, your brain can literally become like an antenna, picking up more cell phone radiation, which in turn can cause the microbes in your system to overreact and create more potent mycotoxins inside your body. This can create a never-ending vicious cycle between the microbes and metals in your body and your exposure to electromagnetic fields, which can lead to electromagnetic hypersensitivity and a number of debilitating, chronic health conditions.”

According to Representative Andrea Boland of Maine, “As a state legislator, my interest is in enacting realistic, common sense policy that allows people to have good information and manage their lives responsibly with a minimum of outside interference. For now, I’d suggest the focus of EMF research be in how EMF reaches our bodies and affects its ecology, and how we apply the Precautionary Principle to protect patients against potential EMF risks—now mostly from cell phones, but also from other radiation emitting devices. The most desperate professional need is to make it okay for neurosurgeons to openly speak about what they are seeing, suspecting, learning in this regard, and encourage an all-hands-on-deck call to all health professionals to join in the conversation.
The biggest issues for Alasdair Philips of Powerwatch (U.K.), co-author of the “Cellphones and Brain Tumors: 15 Reasons” report, and a highly regarded scientific expert on EMFs are:

**Children and Cellphones** – under 11s should not have one—over 11s should use as little as possible, mainly text, and carry the phone away from close contact with their body—in a separate bag, for example.

**Children and Wi-Fi in Homes and Schools.** Top reported effects are: headaches, lack of concentration and memory, irritability, disruptive behavior and chronic fatigue. Also seems to be able to make allergies such as asthma worse. There is no need for Wi-Fi in schools—wired networks work better and faster. Doctors should be aware of these reported (but not proven) associations with adverse effects on wellbeing when children are brought to them with these symptoms when there is no other obvious cause.

Dr. Glendinning thinks it’s important to understand that research in the US was effectively cut off by the telecommunications industry. So, since that began to happen in the 1980s and ’90s, and U.S. funding for bioelectromagnetics research was also cut off at the EPA, we’ve all had to rely on what studies were being done in other countries, which have been considerable, but it would have helped if research had been going on simultaneously by the good minds of scientists and medical researchers in the U.S. “Anything on the health and environmental effects is what is needed. I’d like to see more studies on the link between bee hive collapse and EMFs. Also, very importantly, on the health effects of Wi-Fi and Wi-MAX.” For those not familiar with Wi-Max, this is a high powered wi-fi system being rolled out across the U.S. by a consortium including Sprint, Clearwire, Time Warner Cable and others, and now rapidly blanketing major metropolitan areas, though there has been no pre-market health testing on the long-term health consequences, and local communities have no power to resist it.

According to Elizabeth Kelley, Director, Electromagnetic Safety Alliance in Tucson, AZ, overall, research in the field of bioelectromagnetics has been woefully neglected by government and academia, in spite of official recognition by the World Health Organization and the U.S. National Institutes of Health a decade ago that extremely low frequency fields used for electrical power transmission and appliances is a Class 2 carcinogen linked to adverse health problems such as brain cancer, leukemia and neurological disease like Lou Gehrig’s and Alzheimer’s.

“Research that is conducted and reported openly, without undue industry influence could result in safer EMF emitting technologies and more informed public health policies. Top research priorities include expanding scientific knowledge about key biological markers; research in experimental and clinical toxicology, epidemiology, electrical engineering and modeling; community based epidemiological studies to study potential health effects related to chronic exposure to wireless antennas; focused studies on vulnerable populations, such as fetal, neonatal and childhood development, those who suffer from chronic disease, are hypersensitive, and to novel investigations like the work of Dr. Magda Havas that indicate how EMF exposure can increase blood glucose levels and result in diabetes. Government, academic and medical community collaborations would bring more focus to the need for answers that could result in greater health protection and disease prevention. Public health advocates are asking the U.S. Congress to consider legislation to create a federally sponsored major multidisciplinary, cross-agency program of EMF research to find these answers.”

According to Brian Stein, Chief Executive of Samworth Brothers, a billion dollar U.K. food conglomerate, Chair of Radiation Research Trust and Trustee, Electrosensitivity UK, the main areas for health practitioners to note are that:

- There is masses of research now showing in laboratories the damage to cells, blood brain barrier, sperm count, and DNA damage (see the BioInitiative report),
- There are over a million people now from around the world experiencing symptoms that accord with this research,

Put the two together and you have evidence that wireless communications damage health. Don’t allow the two
to be kept apart by interested parties who in isolation rubbish the research, and then separately rubbish the people who are experiencing this damage.

“The areas of EMF research that are vital to health care practitioners include the biological and health effects of wireless technology and dirty electricity,” says Dr. Havas. “Also, it is critical for those in the health care field to have clinics and offices that are electromagnetically as clean as possible for themselves, their staff and their patients. To do this clinics need to be monitored for electrosmog and then the appropriate steps taken to reduce exposure with the use of filters for dirty electricity (if it is a problem), RF-reflecting fabric/film, and with changes in certain equipment (cordless phones replaced with wired phones; wireless computers replaced with wired computers; fluorescent lights replaced with incandescent lights or special cLED lights; etc.).”

Remediation resources like those mentioned here can be found at a site created by Camilla at www.EMFSafetyStore.com or at www.lessemf.com.

“Also, it is important for health care professionals to acquaint themselves with the symptoms of EHS and to suggest changes in a patient’s home as well (similar to the clinic). You cannot get well if you live or work or go to school in a toxic environment. With 3% of the population experiencing severe symptoms of EHS and another 35% experiencing mild to moderate symptoms, we are dealing with a very large population . . . as many as 100 million people in the United States!”

Recently, Camilla formed the Campaign for Radiation Free Schools Facebook Group to educate schools, teacher and parents on the importance of electromagnetically clean learning environments. There she offers free teleclasses with experts one can listen to at any time. And with Stan Harman, she has started the EMF Help Blog™, intended to walk people through the details of electromagnetic field assessment and remediation in some depth, starting with ‘EMF 101’. While the Facebook site is focused on parents and schools, the education there is relevant for all.

When Camilla was discussing the seriousness of the growing EMF and health issue with a leading CEO who is electrically sensitive recently, he surprised her in saying, “You know, I really just hope more and more people get seriously sick, because that is what I think it is going to take to get adequate government response.” After almost three years of devoted activism, Camilla is starting to come to the same conclusion.

“We need to work on all fronts, to move legislation along, get research funding, and of course, keep educating key movers and shakers and the media on the science who can help propel this emerging, tragic public health issue into the light.

“But I agree, it’s also going to take more people getting sick, and more patients and their doctors connecting the dots and realizing how acute and chronic background microwave radiation exposures are affecting us. We definitely need doctors, now, to step up to the plate and become advocates for public health.”

Rees urges health practitioners to contact their representatives in Congress. “Call them now and express your concerns about this issue. And keep calling to support legislation, such as the forthcoming Kucinich legislation. And please sign the EMF Petition to Congress at www.ElectromagneticHealth.org. Things will move a lot faster when the medical profession gets involved, and we welcome your participation in any way you think you can help move this issue forward.” Rees’ petition to Congress has now been signed by people in every state and over 25 foreign countries.

I asked Camilla what drives her to stay in this field, when life could be easier. “You’ve been a powerful catalyst,
the issue is taking off, its where it needs to be—in the media, on legislative agendas, and the science is coming out fast as furiously, like the recent study showing the decline in the aspen tree population linked to background radiation levels. The issue now has the attention of the American people. Are you ready to go back to corporate life, and put on your high heels and be a breadwinner again, and give up being an activist?” I asked.

Camilla paused for a long moment. A glimmer in her eye showed she was pleased with the progress but could be getting ready for a change. Quietly, she said, “This is a species issue. There is nothing more important than protecting the viability of life on earth.”

“There is early evidence there may be a link between EMF exposures and autism, and now 1 in 89 children is autistic. There is mounting evidence that the proliferation of cell phone towers are threatening the viability of bees colonies, and we need bees to pollinate crops or we won’t have crops. We know radiation is affecting our DNA and jeopardizing the health of future generations. There is research from many countries now showing dramatic decline in sperm count from exposure to cell phone radiation, and damaged quality of remaining sperm. There is so much suffering we are inflicting on our fellow man by shutting our eyes to the health consequences from cell phones and wireless technologies. I really don’t think its possible, when you know the disturbing truth, to stop caring—to stop wanting to support life.”

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FULL SIGNAL – www.fullsignalmovie.com - Discount code (10% off): EMHorg

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Eve Greenberg, MA, LPC, CTN, CN is a Licensed Counselor, Certified Traditional Naturopath and Certified Nutritionist who directed the Klinghardt Academy of Neurobiology from 2008 to 2010 and is widely credited for a significant growth in attendance and interest in the teachings of Dietrich Klinghardt, MD, PhD. She has now accepted a position as director of the newly established Healthy Medicine Academy, where she will devote her considerable skills and commitment developing seminars and on-line classes to practitioners and lay people. Eve has studied with Robert Zieve, MD, Lee Cowden, MD, Donnie Yance, MH, CN, and Dickson Thom, ND, among others. Eve has been an adjunct faculty member of several colleges including Naropa University in Boulder.

Eve was formerly assistant to Robert Zieve, MD, which whom she is still affiliated. Dr. Zieve is an integrative physician practicing in Prescott and Phoenix, AZ. Eve has been a staff reporter for Explore Magazine since 2005, has appeared on the Wisdom Network’s Journeys into Healing, is a workshop presenter and has trained therapists internationally in action-oriented methods.