

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **NEW REPORT: “Alzheimer’s Mouse Study – Do We Smell a Rat?”**

**February 15, 2010.** A new report has been issued by ElectromagneticHealth.org questioning whether a widely publicized University of South Florida study purporting to show that ‘cell phone’ radiation prevented and cured Alzheimer’s in mice was a valid characterization of the study performed. The publicity around the study also suggested humans could benefit from cell phone radiation, in contrast to much existing science showing harmful biological effects to the brain from many forms of electromagnetic fields.

Investigation of the study and the press release from the University of South Florida revealed the following:

**1. The radiation exposure used in the study, which had been described as being equivalent to ‘cell phone’ radiation, was not equivalent to cell phone radiation.** It was comparable in carrier wave only, and was lacking in many other biologically active frequencies and signaling characteristics to which one is exposed with cell phone use.

U.K. biologist, Andrew Goldsworthy, PhD, explains, “They used radiation at 918MHz (similar to a GSM mobile phone in this respect) but it was neither pulsed nor modulated, so it cannot be regarded in any way as being equivalent to real mobile phone or Wi-Fi radiation.”

**2. Prior Research Studies Showing Harmful Impacts on the Brain from Radiation Were Omitted from the Press Release Discussion**

**3. Two wireless industry experts, including a former employee of Ericsson, were EMF advisors to this study. Because they were not listed as investigators, no conflict of interest statements were required.**

**4. The press release strayed from discussion of the Florida Alzheimer’s mouse study to delve into the subject of cell phones and brain tumors, a subject widely in the news in recent months since issuance of a report by the International EMF Collaborative, called “Cellphones and Brain Tumors: 15 Reasons for Concern, *Science, Spin and the Truth behind Interphone.*”**  
(<http://www.radiationresearch.org/pdfs/15reasons.asp>)

**5. The study reported a heating effect, as well as biological changes in the mice, at power levels (SAR values) heretofore not considered capable of heating.** This calls into question the adequacy of present FCC safety guidelines for

cell phones. The SAR exposure in this study, at which heating and biological changes were found, was 0.25 W/kg and the FCC SAR limit for cell phones is 1.6 W/kg. *The need to have power levels sufficiently high enough to heat tissues for biological change to occur has long been at the heart of the telecommunication industry's argument that cell phone exposures are safe.*

Scientists interviewed agreed that the effects on the Alzheimer's mice from the type of radiation used deserves to be further investigated, but all agreed the exposure was mischaracterized as 'cell phone' radiation, and that the suggestion that cell phones might be beneficial to prevent and cure Alzheimer's in humans was unfounded.

One Alzheimer's expert, Scott Mendelson, MD, PhD, author of *"Beyond Alzheimer's: How to Avoid the Modern Epidemic of Dementia"*, says,

*"Unless you are using your cell phone to call your doctor for a good check up or to buy a membership in a health club, that phone will NOT protect you from developing Alzheimer's Disease."*

Another expert in electromagnetic fields for over two decades, Alasdair Philips, B.Sc.(Eng), DAge, of Powerwatch in the U.K. (<http://www.powerwatch.org.uk>), as well as a member of the UK Department of Health Stakeholder Group on ELF EMFs and the U.K. Health Protection Agency's EMF Discussion Group, says,

*"It is completely unjustifiable and inexcusable to describe this as in any way resembling human exposure to electromagnetic fields from cell phone use....It is an untruth to state that it did. It is especially unworthy of the University of South Florida (which would have known better) and improper of the Journal of Alzheimer's Disease to repeat it. It can only, in my opinion, be regarded as cell phone industry spin."*

**Read the report, "Alzheimer's Mouse Study—Do We Smell a Rat", and listen to expert interviews at [www.ElectromagneticHealth.org](http://www.ElectromagneticHealth.org):**  
<http://electromagnetichealth.org/electromagnetic-health-blog/alzheimers-mouse-study-do-we-smell-a-rat/>