

International Agency for Research on Cancer



**World Health
Organization**

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Dr Dariusz Leszczynski
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Ref.:
CPW/ka

19 August 2011

Dear Dr Leszczynski

Thank you for your letter of 21 July on the topic of two recent publications from the Interphone study.

Over the last two years the Agency has been working closely with the Interphone principal investigators to bring to a conclusion the publications that were the primary focus of the consortium. These included the manuscript on glioma and meningioma, which was published in the International Journal of Epidemiology in 2010, and the manuscript on acoustic neuromas, published this year in Cancer Epidemiology. Both manuscripts were co-authored by all principal investigators and represented a considerable collaborative effort.

In addition to these main manuscripts the individual investigators have always had the opportunity to apply new methods and approaches to sub-sets of the Interphone data. This has occurred on several occasions over the years. In the current case there were two separate initiatives using two different approaches which followed this practice of analyses on sub-sets of data for the reasons given to you by the lead authors.

Nevertheless, the Agency wants to see the most reliable scientific evidence emerging from this major research study. The current situation has highlighted the need to search for agreement on improved communication between the principal investigators of the Interphone study beyond the primary focus, including regarding future publication plans. This should include an a priori opportunity to explore in advance analyses based on data from all centres.

Thank you for taking the time to highlight your concerns and for your earlier participation in the IARC Monograph vol. 102 on this topic.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CP Wild', written over a horizontal line.

Christopher P. Wild, PhD
Director