



European Cancer and Environment Research Institute

ECERI NEWSLETTER

ECERI Scientific Research Newsletter

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EDITO

We thank the members who decided to join the ECERI. ECERI is obviously taking a new turn these days : first the recent approval of the patent on methylglyoxal for Europe will enable the development of this natural metabolic biomarker of cancers thus opening new hopes for the prevention and early detection of this disease. Furthermore this patent will provide financial support to the ECERI. Second, the creation of an international experts group aimed at negotiating with WHO the real clinical and biological effects of non-thermal EMFs on health will be a new step in the international collaborative action to have the health effects of

EMFs recognized. Following a recent meeting with WHO representatives in Geneva, members of this ECERI group have decided to publish their own data in the form of a scientific consensus paper on the effects of non-thermal EMFs on behalf of the ECERI. Finally, since several ECERI scientists believe that environmental pollution may in fact be a cause of cancer and other diseases such as Alzheimer disease and autism, ECERI has proposed to create another international group comprising scientists and jurists to discuss the possibility that intentional massive pollution could be recognized by the International Criminal Court (ICC) as a true crime against health. This proposal will be discussed at the next ECERI Executive Committee and General Assembly in Brussels.

D. Belpomme, ECERI President

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Next ECERI Executive Committee and General Assembly

ECERI will hold its next Executive Committee and General Assembly in Brussels, on the 16th of June in Brussels, at the Royal Academy of Medicine of Belgium. The agenda will include as main points the updating of the Executive and Scientific Committee members, the methylglyoxal patent development, the scientific research on EMFs, the project of an amendment to the Rome Statute having created in 2002 the International Criminal Court, the organisation of a workshop on epigenetics and environmental diseases in 2018 in Brussels at the Royal Academy of Medicine, and the financial situation of ECERI.



International EMF Expert Group to Counter ICNIRP

Following the meeting with WHO in Geneva on March, the 3rd, it was proposed to create an ECERI-related working group to oppose ICNIRP (International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection), that might be termed "International commission of scientific expertise on non-thermal radiation effects" (ICSENTRE). The members of this group so far are: Dominique Belpomme (France), Igor Belyaev (Slovakia), Ernesto Burgio (Italy), David Carpenter (USA), Lennart Hardell (Sweden), Magda Havas (Canada), SMJ Mortazavi (Iran), André Vander Vorst (Belgium) and Gérard Ledoigt (France). If you wish to join this group, please contact Christine Campagnac (sg.eceri@gmail.com).

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ECERI's Scientific Research : Methylglyoxal as a natural metabolic biomarker of cancer

On the 25th of April, 2017, the European Patent Office accepted the patent on methylglyoxal (MG) as an in vitro method for early detection and diagnosis of cancer.

Outside of Europe, the patent has been accepted by AIPO (the International Organisation for Intellectual Property) which includes 17 African countries; moreover the Approval process is currently underway with the Chinese Patent Office.

The ECERI is dedicated to the development of this marker at the European level. **This will open the possibility for ECERI research teams to use it in the framework of prospective clinical studies.** If you want to participate to such trials, please contact Philippe Irigaray : philippe.artac@gmail.com.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

With the growing number of cancer cases that are being diagnosed worldwide and the persisting high number of deaths due to late discovery of the disease, the identification of new biomarkers for early detection and targeted therapeutic interventions is widely recognized as being crucial, both for cancer prevention and better outcome in treated cancer patients.

METHYLGLYOXAL AS A MARKER OF CANCER

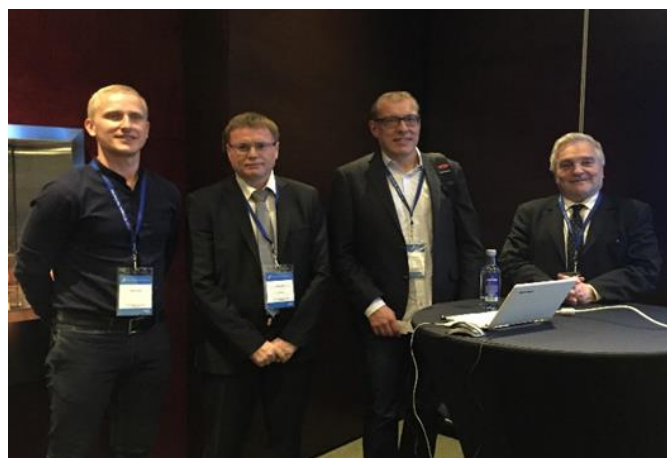
This discloses a new, reliable, sensitive and easy to handle diagnostic and prognostic test for cancer in human or animal subjects. The inventors (Dominique Belpomme and Dr Philippe Irigaray (Paris)) have shown here for the first time that increased levels of methylglyoxal (MG) in biological samples of cancer-bearing subjects are highly positively correlated with the development and progression of cancer cells that are metabolically active. This highlights that cancer cells produce and release significantly higher amounts of MG than normal cells in the tumor as well as in extracellular fluids in the organism, thus it is possible to obtain a reliable and sensitive diagnosis and prognosis test of cancer from a unique blood sample.

This method has been set up and is presently carried out in collaboration with the Laboratory of Biochemistry of the Nice University Hospital (Dr Charlotte Hinault), the Laboratory of Metastases Research, at the Liege University, Belgium (Dr Vincent Castronovo's team), and the Bio Avenir Laboratory in Metz (Dr Sylvie Barbier).

Tenth World Cancer Congress, 2017

The BIT's 10th Annual World Cancer Congress-2017 (WCC-2017) with the theme of "World Dream of Defeating Cancer" was successfully held during May 19-21 in Barcelona, Spain. More than 400 participants from over 43 countries and areas have attended the WCC-2017.

Pr Dominique Belpomme held the session on DNA Methylation and Cancer Epigenetics. During this session scientists have discussed about the possible effects of free radicals on the epigenome during environmental carcinogenesis (D. Belpomme, France); the DNA methylation profiles in head and neck cancer (Dr Nina Milutin Gasperov, Croatia); the DNA methylation in early detection and prevention of cancer (Dr K. Truninger, Switzerland); and the diverse role of microRNA-206 in the epigenetic regulation of soft tissue sarcoma (Dr Z. Sapi, Hungary).



From left to right : Dr G. Papp, Dr Z. Sapi, Dr K. Truninger and Dr D. Belpomme