Reviewer's report

Title: Mobile phone radiation health risk controversy and the reliability of science used to justify safety standards

Version: 1 Date: 18 November 2009

Reviewer: Horacio Riojas

Reviewer's report:

The paper deals with an important issue, the use of cell phones and its health risks. The paper is well written and the arguments are clearly stated. The main objective of the paper is to point out the disagreement with the recommendations stated by WHO related with the use of cell phones.

The author present a review of the epidemiological and non-epidemiological studies related with this issue to support a most precautory conclusions and recommendation compared with the previous WHO statement.

The paper is well written and the arguments are clearly exposed.

1. Does it address an important or timely issue? YES
2. Is it well reasoned? YES.
3. Is it relatively balanced, or does it make plain where the author's opinions might not represent the field as a whole? It represent the author's opinion. The opinion of those whose use the risk assessment methodology to support different conclusion is not represented
4. Is the standard of writing acceptable? YES

- Major Compulsory Revisions (which the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Some questions should be answer before accepted for publication

1. It is not clear comparing this paper with that published by Kundi, what does this one aggregate to the review of the epidemiological and animal studies related with the use of cell phone and its radiation. In fact that paper presents a more systematic and comprehensive review of the previous studies as well as the difficulties in establish the mechanistic explanation that could explain the effect. The author should explain clearly what are the differences and the aggregated knowledge added in this paper.

2. The author seems to focus his critics on the EU 5th Framework Programme-funded “Interphone Project”, however little references and comments are made to the other epidemiological studies developed on this issue. Besides the results of that project has not been published so far.

3. The issue on exposure assessment discussed by the author, is, again, better
described in the Kundi´s paper. Also, the WHO document includes the levels of exposure due to cell phones that are not included by the author.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests’