



2015 Short Takes

COI Statement for IARC's RF Review Updated

Kuster's Work for Industry Detailed

June 25, 2015
Updated May 30, 2020

Lancet Oncology, the journal which published the [official announcement](#) of IARC's decision to designate RF radiation as a [possible human carcinogen](#), has issued a correction to the conflict of interest (COI) statement it had included for [Niels Kuster](#), the Swiss researcher and entrepreneur based in Zurich. Kuster attended IARC's evaluation of RF radiation in May 2011 as an "invited specialist."

Kuster is the founder and director of [IT'IS](#), a non-profit group that was created with the financial support of the mobile phone industry, notably Motorola, as well as of [Speag](#) and its parent company, Near Field Technology, that markets measurement instrumentation and simulation software.

In a ["correction"](#) posted today, *Lancet Oncology* added the following to Kuster's COI:

"IT'IS has received funding for specific projects from most mobile phone manufacturers and many service providers, including the Mobile Manufacturers Forum, Motorola, Ericsson, Nokia, Samsung, Sony, GSM Association, ARIB Japan, Swisscom, Deutsche Telekom, and TDC Sunrise."

This statement appeared in the [COI statement](#) that Kuster filed with IARC on May 24, 2011, the first day of the RF meeting.

An individual, who uses the pseudonym "Don Smith," brought this omission to the attention of both IARC and *Lancet Oncology*, as well as a number of others including *Microwave News*.

Kuster's COI is the only one that has been corrected.

☒ [Microwave News](#) ☐ [The Web](#)

VIEW SHORT TAKES BY YEAR

[2026 Short Takes](#) [2017 Short Takes](#)
[2025 Short Takes](#) [2016 Short Takes](#)
[2024 Short Takes](#) [2015 Short Takes](#)
[2023 Short Takes](#) [2014 Short Takes](#)
[2022 Short Takes](#) [2013 Short Takes](#)
[2021 Short Takes](#) [2012 Short Takes](#)
[2020 Short Takes](#) [2011 Short Takes](#)
[2019 Short Takes](#) [2010 Short Takes](#)
[2018 Short Takes](#)

RECENT SHORT TAKES

[RF Animal Cancer Review Is #1](#)
.....
[NTP Lite: All Good in Korea Too](#)
.....
[NTP Lite: No Cancer Risk Seen in Japan](#)
.....
[ElektrosmogReport Now in English Too](#)
.....
[NCI 'Cancer Bioelectricity' Conference](#)
.....
[Another WHO RF Review Challenged](#)
.....
[Italy's 6 V/m RF Limit at Risk](#)
.....
["NTP Lite": Update from Japan](#)
.....
[Schwannoma Puzzle](#)
.....
[Korean NTP Lite: Progress Report](#)
.....

Help Support
Microwave News

IARC invited representatives of three different industry groups, [CTIA](#), [MMF](#) and [GSMA](#), to be observers for the 10-day meeting, while at the same time barring the press from attending. See [our report](#).

News of the correction comes from [Retraction Watch](#). Soon afterwards, [Alex Lerchl](#) added a [comment](#) to its site, which stated, in part: “To find a researcher with such a long list of collaborators from industry, on one hand, and a profound interest in exposure research, on the other, as member of the group of experts is irritating, to say the least.” Lerchl, a professor at Jacobs University in Germany, had wanted to be a member of the IARC RF review panel, but his request was rebuffed.