

## Ignoring Science for Profit

Only people living under a rock are unaware of the media assault of 5G technology. The marketing muscle behind this next phase of wireless communication is like nothing ever seen before. It makes you wonder – why are they putting so much money into this breathless race to get 5G into our lives?

Well, wait a minute. Wasn't there a study by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) that proved that exposure to wireless radiation causes cancer? In fact, didn't an expert review panel, called in to evaluate the results of the study, report that not only did the exposure cause cancer, but that it also caused damage to DNA and the heart?

Actually, there *was* such a study, and that's exactly what the scientists found. So why aren't we taking some precautions? Why aren't we developing phones that are safer to use? Why are we exposing kids in school to near-constant radiation from wireless networks? Any why are we racing to put radiation-emitting small cell antennas on every block in every wealthy neighborhood in California, close to homes and apartments where people live?

Maybe the "race" to 5G is not really a race with the Chinese (who have already won, by the way), but a race against science and public awareness. Maybe it's a race to generate profits for investors before the public finally understands that exposure to wireless radiation is not relatively harmless, as the industry has claimed for 40 years, but is in fact, a serious public health issue.

The Federal Communications Commission's human exposure guidelines are based on science from the 1980s, and the FCC hasn't updated those guidelines in almost 25 years. When the NIH study came out, the FCC (whose five commissioners either come from the wireless industry or expect a lucrative consulting contract with the industry when they leave) calmly announced in coordination with the FDA that the findings didn't apply to humans.

Are you kidding? That was the expressed purpose of the study – the most expensive, most exhaustive, most carefully controlled and monitored study ever conducted on the subject. A study originally supported by the industry... until the preliminary results came out in 2016. Since then it's been full-speed-ahead, *not* on research to find less harmful solutions, but to build a billion-dollar marketing campaign and salvage the investment they've made in their wireless network. Meanwhile, like the tobacco industry before them, they've been doing everything possible to bury the news about the study and pretend nothing is wrong.

The California legislature is currently considering industry-sponsored bills that use taxpayer dollars to fast-track the deployment of 5G. Some of the bills (AB 537) drastically reduce the amount of time local officials can consider applications for new wireless antennas, while others (SB556) sweep away the protections offered by local zoning laws.

Alarmingly, few, if any, of California's legislators seem to be aware of the game-changing NIH study, or the serious risks that exposure to wireless radiation pose to their constituents. Why is that? Is it because they have no interest in public health? Or is it because the wireless industry

has been successful in its multi-million dollar campaign to discredit the study and make sure people don't hear about it, or if they do, don't believe it.