

WELCOME
from the Workshop Chair

Dear colleagues,

It is my pleasure as a Chair of the 8th EMF Workshop on Biological Effects of EMF to meet you here, in Bulgaria, for the period of 21-26 September 2014.

I'd like to congratulate all Bulgarians and also our guests with the Independence Day of Bulgaria. The Bulgarian Independence from the Ottoman Empire was proclaimed on the 22th of September, 1908 in the town of Veliko Turnovo by King Ferdinand. With the great support among the European countries, the independence of Bulgaria was internationally recognized by the spring of the next year. It's a great honor for me to open the session on this day in which 106 years ago was proclaimed the new Independent European country.

Most of you know that these meetings are traditionally organized in the Mediterranean region every two years, starting in 2000, and following the idea of a small but very smart group of scientists leading by Prof. Panos Kostarakis from Greece. The goal of the Workshops "Biological Effects of Electromagnetic Fields" is to provide a venue for scientists from the region to exchange results of their studies, and to discuss problems concerning human exposure to EMF. It is great that in all meetings, scientists from all over the world, also representatives or members of WHO, EC (SCENIHR), COST, ICNIRP, BEMS, EBEA, IEEE, NATO, ICOH and other international organizations, participate, present papers and attend in discussions concerning all aspects of non-ionizing radiation and human health.

As you know, the organization of such a forum is a big deal, especially at this time of lack of funds for events. Nevertheless, for us it is a honour to meet you here to present new results of your research studies, and to give you the possibility to change ideas in discussions and round tables.

Some support for organizing the Workshop we received from the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009-2014 and EEA Financial Mechanism 2009-2014, Programme BG-07 "Public Health Initiatives" The main organizer of the Workshop is the Bulgarian National Programme Committee (BNPC), with the collaboration of Foundation "Faraday", National Centre of Public Health and Analyses (Ministry of Health, Bulgaria), Medical University-Pleven, Medical University-Varna.

Our intellectual partners are: The International EMF Project - WHO, ICOH: Scientific Committee: Radiation at Work, European Commission – SCENIHR.

This year the Workshop is focused on occupational health, also on the new European and international (IEEE) legislation concerning occupational exposure to non-ionizing radiation. At the same time, sessions on Biological interaction and health effects of EMF and UV, Measurements, modelling and dosimetry, Medical applications of EMF and UV, Public health, Risk communication and policy are included in the Programme to discuss all aspects of non-ionizing radiation health and safety.

We have the honour to meet here representatives from the European Commission to open the floor of the SCENIHR opinion on health effects of EMF, DG SANCO, members of BEMS, ICNIRP, IEEE and COST Programme, ICOH and others.

At the time of this Workshop we organize several round tables, as: Risk communication and regulatory policy; Implementation of the European legislation for occupational exposure to EMF and UV radiation; Project proposals – new and ongoing.

On Wednesday, a press conference concerning the start of the Project on NIR Protection with a grant from the Norwegian Financial Mechanism is organized.

Poster sessions are at the same time of the oral sessions, and at the same topics that gives equal prestige of the two types of presentations.

One important event is the competition between the students' presentations for awarding one of them.

I wish you very pleasant stay in Bulgaria! I hope, you will estimate the quality of nature, heritage, food and hospitality of the Bulgarian people.

WELCOME!

Assoc. Prof. M. Israel, Bulgaria, Workshop Chair,
National Centre of Public Health and Analysis, Ministry of Health