



## **MMF Comments on INTERPHONE Project Update**

On a regular basis the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) provides updates on the progress of the INTERPHONE Project on their website. The latest update is dated October 8, 2008. The report summarizes all national INTERPHONE studies published so far and includes comments on the results of the national studies as well as several papers in which the data from up to five of the 13 participating countries were combined. The update does not present the results of a pooled analysis of the data from all 13 participating countries because the final conclusions of the entire project have yet to be published. Currently, the final results are expected to be published by early 2009.

### **General Information on the INTERPHONE Project**

The INTERPHONE Project is being co-ordinated by IARC ([www.iarc.fr](http://www.iarc.fr)) which is part of the World Health Organization (WHO). It is the biggest and most comprehensive study undertaken to consider whether the use of mobile phones increases the risk of head and neck tumors (gliomas, meningiomas, parotid gland tumors and acoustic neurinomas).

The INTERPHONE Project was structured to take advantage of combined data from multiple countries, which will enable researchers to maximize statistical power, and in turn, increase the probability of detecting any health effect. The INTERPHONE Project involves 13 countries: Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden and the UK.

Results from some of the national studies have been published. However, the most authoritative conclusions will only be drawn when the pooled analysis of the full international data is published in its entirety in 2009. Until we have the results of all of the national studies, as well as the overall analysis of the data that will be undertaken by the IARC in 2009, a complete assessment cannot be made.

### **Industry's role in the INTERPHONE Project**

The MMF provided partial funding for the INTERPHONE Project in conjunction with the GSM Association, the European Commission and many national



research funding bodies. Funding was provided in such a manner as to ensure the full scientific independence of the study.

The Mobile Manufacturers Forum actively supports research on mobile phone safety but as always cautions that individual studies need to be seen in the light of the total research effort into mobile phone safety.

It is also important to note that all mobile phones produced by MMF member companies comply with international health and safety exposure guidelines.

Further information on the INTERPHONE project can be found at:  
<http://www.iarc.fr/ENG/Units/RCAd.html>

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