



# WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

## IARC Causes Confusion



“What the public wants to know is: What are the agents in our surroundings that are likely to have palpable effects on our health? Not theoretical exposures which might, under some far-fetched conditions, possibly have an effect.”

– *Geoffrey Kabat, cancer epidemiologist at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the United States, Reuters, April 18, 2016*



“The WHO should be there to give authoritative guidance, not just endorse things that can be misinterpreted – either from IARC or anybody else.”

– *Charles Clift, global public health specialist at the Centre on Global Health Security at Britain's Chatham House Reuters, April 18, 2016*



“Associations with cancer risk or benefits have been claimed for most food ingredients. Many single studies highlight implausibly large effects, even though evidence is weak. Effect sizes shrink in meta-analyses”

– *Jonathan D. Schoenfeld, MD, MPH, radiation oncologist at the Dana-Farber / Brigham and Women's Cancer Center and Assistant Professor of Radiation Oncology at Harvard Medical School &*



– *John PA Ioannidis, professor in disease prevention in the school of medicine and professor of health research and policy at Stanford University. American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, October 5, 2012*



“You would have to drink probably over 100 cups of coffee a day in order to get to that dangerous dose, so it is totally absurd.”

– *Stanley Omaye, professor of nutrition and toxicology at the University of Nevada, Legal News Line, July 8, 2016*

## IARC's Difficulties with Bias and Conflicts of Interest



“It's absurd to assert there are no issues of bias [within IARC] related to self-interest, reputation or careerism. It has nothing to do with bad motives, it's just human nature.”

– *Bob Tarone, Statistician formerly at America's National Cancer Institute, now Biostatistics Director at International Epidemiology Institute, Reuters, April 18, 2016*



“It appears that IARC handles conflicts of interest differently depending on who the person is and which 'side' he is assumed to represent.”

– *Anders Ahlbom, a senior professor at the Karolinska Institute in Sweden, was originally invited to chair the working group on electromagnetic radio frequencies in May, 2011, Reuters, April 18, 2016*



“It was clear sitting in the IARC meeting that many of the panelists were aiming for a specific result despite old, weak, inconsistent, self-reported intake data. They tortured the data to ensure a specific outcome.” -

– *Betsy Booren, Ph.D., North American Meat Institute vice president of scientific affairs, Wall Street Journal, October 26, 2015*

## The Negative Impacts of Media and Politics in Science



“There is a pretense that the public needs to know about studies, but often the results really are so uncertain that one has to question what use they are to anyone. So, I come down on the side of feeling that we need much higher standards for what gets published and to stop utilizing the public to boost the stature of our work.”

– *Geoffrey Kabat, cancer epidemiologist at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the United States, [Epimonitor Interview](#)*

“politicization of science is a serious danger....We need to continuously strive to distinguish good -- that is, reproducible -- science from politics and from policy.”

– *Geoffrey Kabat, cancer epidemiologist at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the United States, [Epimonitor Interview](#)*