
Preface

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Since 1956, in matters of scientific research on the biological effects of ionising radiation, the international scientific community has submitted to the authoritarian ukase, a genuine diktat, issued in 1956 by the US National Academy of Sciences (NAS) in its BEAR 1 report (Biological Effects of Atomic Radiation), which declares that “Any radiation dose, however small, can induce some mutations. There is no minimum amount of radiation dose which might be exceeded before any harmful mutations occur” and that “... if we increase the radiation that reaches the reproductive glands by X percent, the number of mutations caused by radiation will also be increased by X percent”. These conclusions were generalised to radiation-induced cancer one year later by the National Committee on Radiation Protection (NCRP), and then by all the international organisations concerned with these issues.

This categorical position is chiefly due to the activism of Herman J. Muller, the laureate of the 1946 Nobel prize for medicine, for his work demonstrating that X-rays caused mutations in male fruit fly germ cells. Already in his address at the prize-giving ceremony in Stockholm, Muller launched a crusade in favour of the adoption of a linearity model in risk assessment for germ cell mutations and carcinogens. He immediately made his point, because fear is always a bad counsellor. The model recommended by Muller became the keystone of radiation protection. It is still today the official keystone of all scientific research on the subject, which must be accepted to receive financial backing from an official body, which must be celebrated by articles, books and papers to guarantee an academic career. This intellectual fascism has thus precluded any research that would not accept his dogma as a prerequisite, although it is well known, since the studies carried out at the University of Rochester under the direction of Carl Stern, and with which Muller was familiar *before* the attribution of his Nobel prize, that Muller’s results were false¹ and that the linear no-threshold model (LNT) is false, as demonstrated by an increasing body of researchers, such as Maurice Tubiana and André Aurengo (2006).²

It seemed highly unlikely to the employees of the nuclear industry, whom I have had the pleasure of representing for over 15 years, that this ‘politically correct’ model would be the right one. Most of us are not doctors, radiobiologists or biologists, but our knowledge of physics and mathematics had taught us that a linear relation passing through the origin is represented by a first-degree equation having only one parameter: ‘No multinomial function, etc. etc., has a first -degree solution’. The sponsors of the model proposed and defended throughout his life by Herman J. Muller should remember that their assertion attributes only a single cause to all cancers! What would be more ludicrous than to demand a regulation that relies on this absurdity?

It is to share in this struggle for scientific truth that the *International Journal of Low Radiation (IJLR)* was created by the World Council of Nuclear Workers (WONUC). *IJLR* was created to give the floor to genuine scientists to enable them to report their results, present their conclusions, and engage in an unrestricted debate of this subject, which is of capital importance for the future of the human species and its environment, entirely untrammelled by outside influences.

For nine years, I enjoyed the immense privilege of being the Editor-in-Chief of *IJLR*. Together, we have published outstanding articles, organised LOWRAD Conference every year, and created the Marie Curie prize. I have met, discussed, exchanged ideas with remarkable women and men, remarkable scientists whose intelligence and integrity astounded me. They are so many that it would be impossible to name them here, but I want them all to recognise their place in these few lines, so that they all understand that I am infinitely grateful for having been able to participate in their passion for true science. We have come a very long way indeed. Our success, the recognition of true science, is now in sight. Soon there will no longer be any Linear no-Threshold Model Response Model (LNT) than that which subsisted from the Ptolemy model, in which the Sun gyrated around the Earth, or the meanderings of Trofim Denissovitch Lyssenko, in short, the memory of a scientific ineptitude, which unfortunately hampered scientific research on cancer for half a century.

I also wish to thank my friend Mohammed Dorgham, Managing Director of Inderscience, without whom *IJLR* would not have seen the day, Jim Corlett, Janet Marr, Sue O'Mara of Inderscience for their professionalism and competence, and above all Richard Sharp, my accomplice, without whom *IJLR* would not be a journal whose quality is universally acknowledged.

Your journal is now in the hands of my friend Nicolas Foray, and no hands could be better. May all my wishes for success accompany you.

Notes

- 1 Many papers already published in the *International Journal of Low Radiation*, and two recent papers of Marie Curie Prize winner (2009) Calabrese, E.J. (2011) 'Muller's Nobel lecture on dose-response for ionizing radiation: ideology or science?', *Archives of Toxicology*; and Calabrese, E.J. (2011) 'Key studies used to support cancer risk assessment questioned', *Environmental and Molecular Mutagenesis*.
- 2 Tubiana, M. and Aurengo, A. (2006) 'Dose-effect relationship and estimation of the carcinogenic effects of low doses of ionizing radiation: the joint report of the Académie des Sciences (Paris) and of the Académie Nationale de Médecine', *International Journal of Low Radiation*, Vol. 2, Nos. 3/4, pp.136–153.