



## Press Release

### Linking Cancer with cellphones is “Crying Wolf”

- Dr. Siddhartha Mukherjee

New Delhi, April 21, 2014

NEW DELHI: “All radiation is not created equal. There are highly energetic radiation like X-rays or cosmic rays that are so powerful that they can tear away electrons from atoms and molecules and penetrate barriers like the skull and the brain and mutate growth-controlling genes to cause cancer.

Nonionizing radiation lies on the other end of the energy spectrum. These rays can warm cells, boil water and stimulate chemical reactions, but they cannot strip electrons away from atoms or damage DNA. They have no capacity to mutate genes directly and thereby no simple and direct means of initiating cancer. Radiation from microwaves, from cellular phones and from light bulbs are examples of nonionizing radiation.”

These were some of the views of Dr Siddhartha Mukherjee, a world renowned authority on cancer expressed by him while speaking on **Public Health and Mobility** at India International Centre in New Delhi today. India-born American physician, scientist and writer Dr Mukherjee was in New Delhi to receive Padma Shri award. Dr Siddhartha Mukherjee received Pulitzer Prize in 2010 for his book - *The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer*.

Discussing the hot debate worldwide on ‘carcinogenics’, Dr Siddhartha Mukherjee said that If we lump everything into the category of ‘potentially carcinogenic’, from toxic potatoes to McCarthy’s grave, then our scientific language around cancer begins to degenerate. The effect is like crying “wolf” about cancer: the public progressively numbs itself to real environmental toxins and becomes disinvested in finding bona fide carcinogens.

On, this occasion, **Rajan S Mathews, Director General**, COAI, said that, “India already has over 900 million mobile phone connections and over 80% of the population has access to mobile telecommunication. But this growth has given rise to concerns regarding public health and Electro-

Magnetic Field emissions. Many myths without any scientific basis have been floated by people with vested business interests.”

“While, consumers are able to enjoy the benefits of mobile telephony without any fear; government agencies in India should not become a victim of fear psychosis and half-truths and myths floated by vested interests that gloss over the vast array of scientific data and research to the contrary,” he added.

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### **About Dr Siddhartha Mukherjee**

Siddhartha Mukherjee is an Indian-born American physician, scientist and writer best known for the 2010 book, *The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer*. A hematologist and oncologist, Mukherjee is also known for his work on the formation of blood and the interactions between the micro-environment (or "niche") and cancer cells. Currently he is an assistant professor of medicine at Columbia University and staff physician at Columbia University Medical Center in New York City.

Recently Government of India has conferred its fourth highest **Civilian Award Padma Shri** upon Dr. Mukherjee.

### **About COAI**

COAI was constituted in 1995 as a registered, non-governmental society. COAI's vision is to establish India as the global leader of innovative mobile communications infrastructure, products and services and achieving a national teledensity of 100%, including broadband. The association is also dedicated to the advancement of modern communication and towards delivering the benefits of innovative and affordable mobile communication services to the people of India.

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