

## Press Release

### Risk of skin cancer and use of solariums do not have a causal relationship

#### Scientist criticises unfair investigation methods of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) – IARC report flawed as different skin types were not considered

Brussels, 1st April 2010 (ESA) – William B. Grant, one of the most renowned vitamin D researchers worldwide, has criticised the methods used by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) during their investigations concerning a relationship between the use of solariums and the risk of skin cancer. “The IARC drew on a total of 19 studies as a basis for a so-called meta analysis and after evaluating the data came to the conclusion that for the under-35 age group there is a connection between the use of solariums and the risk of skin cancer. Among these 19 studies, five were based on people with skin type one. As this skin type is genetically associated with a high risk of contracting skin cancer, this section of the population is always strongly recommended to avoid sunbathing – whether this may be in the solarium or outdoors. In order to carry out an accurate investigation, this group must be considered separately. The IARC clearly failed to do this”, explained William B. Grant. Should a separate evaluation be conducted, continued Grant, no causal relationship between the use of solariums and the risk of skin cancer would be shown.

In a study recently described in the specialist journal “Dermato-Endocrinology”, Grant presents the inaccurate investigation methods of the IARC in detail.

The European Sunlight Association (ESA) is the European governing body of the tanning industry. ESA, based in Belgium, currently represents 30 national associations and companies from 17 EU member states, Norway, Switzerland, Russia and the USA.

#### Note:

A summary of the article “William B. Grant: Critique of the International Agency for Research on Cancer’s meta-analyses of the association of sunbed use with risk of cutaneous malignant melanoma, in: Dermato-Endocrinology 1:6, 1-7; November/ December 2009” can be downloaded from the ESA website [www.europeansunlight.eu](http://www.europeansunlight.eu).

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