

# International Agency for Research on Cancer

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2 June 2015

Dear Mr Minigh,

Thank you for your letter of 13 May 2015 regarding Volumes 112 and 113 of the *IARC Monographs on the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risks to Humans*.

The Agency gives high importance to communicating the nature and results of evaluations undertaken for the *IARC Monographs* in a way that is accurate and understandable to the scientific and regulatory community, the media, the public, and other stakeholders.

Monograph evaluations are cancer hazard evaluations, which constitute the first step in carcinogen risk assessment; they are clearly identified as such in the Preamble of the *IARC Monographs*, which is openly available online and is published in every Monograph volume (please see <http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Preamble/index.php>).

The meaning of the IARC carcinogen categories is also explained in material accompanying each press release or news item that the Agency issues on the results of Monograph evaluations. Further information in plain language, including an explanation of the difference between risk and hazard, is now provided in a Questions and Answers document on the Monographs website.

While the Agency makes every effort to accurately communicate the results of our cancer hazard evaluations, we cannot control the way others report that information.

I hope this provides some clarification in relation to communication of IARC Monograph evaluations and I thank you for your interest in our work.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Wild", enclosed in a thin black rectangular box.

Christopher P. Wild, PhD  
Director

cc: Mr William Surman, Communications Manager, CropLife, Brussels ([will.surman@croplife.org](mailto:will.surman@croplife.org))  
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