In summary:

1 Dr David Black is an honorary senior lecturer with Auckland University School of Population Health - Dept of Audiology - but has not lectured for many years

The head of the Dept of Audiology has confirmed that "David Black doesn't lecture in Audiology. He had an appointment in occupational medicine but no longer is based at the school of population health as far as I know."

I have not been able to ascertain Auckland University's criteria for appointing honorary senior lectureships but would expect (based on criteria from other universities) that it involves a distinguished history of lecturing AND ongoing lecturing without payment

2 Dr Black has never done research - apart from co-authoring a couple of review papers in 2003.
He describes himself as a practitioner not a researcher.

When I queried this in the past I was told that he is part of the NZ mobi-kids study. However Professor Woodward confirmed last night that:

"MOBIKIDS New Zealand is still seeking funds. We have been unsuccessful in our applications so far, unfortunately. But we are still hunting. This is a simple case control study, following the international protocol. It will take a couple of years to accumulate the study participants"

3 Dr Black was awarded a Doctor of Medicine by Auckland University in May 2010 based on a thesis he submitted in 2009. This is a top level degree that requires 3-4 years full time study. It is supposed to be the equivalent of a PhD for a medical doctor.

Dr Black's thesis for this was unsupervised and was awarded without an oral examination. It largely comprised of the work he co-authored in 2003 (which apparently was funded/sponsored by overseas Telco's) and for his role on the initially joint Australia/NZ working group that was attempting to prepare a new joint standard for RF EMR. The process failed leading to NZS2772:1 1999 and a separate ARPANSA standard for Australia.
Some of the inner workings and problems of that Joint working group are explained by Dr Don Maische in his PhD (available from www.emfacts.com). Dr Maische has advised that during sessions on how precautionary to make the standard, Dr Black frequently left the room to take telephone instructions.

Dr Black initially advised that I cannot have a copy of his PhD as it is copyright. Mary's research has however located a public copy at Auckland University (Philson library). I am trying to access this.

At the time he did his 4 year full time equivalent degree, Dr Black was apparently a full time medical practitioner employed by companies he set up (Enviromedix Ltd and/or ITMedical Ltd) which appear to be major ACC advisors specialising in occupational health. Dr Black was also busy offering expert evidence to various government bodies and courts.

I have written to the Auckland University Board of Graduate Studies asking for information on any exemptions they have granted from the usual course requirements. If he did get an exemption I would be very interested to know what it is about his thesis that justified this.

4 There are serious misleading claims in Dr Black’s bio for ICNIRP and for BEMS (of which he is president elect) where he typically describes himself as a senor lecturer in environmental medicine at the school of population medicine and makes various other incorrect claims.

I wonder if he would have been appointed if he had limited his bio to the facts.

Summary

If you look back over Dr Black's true qualifications you have to wonder how he ever became recognised as an expert or got his Doctorate.

He has done almost no research and very limited lecturing (and then not for years).

At best he is a commentator/reviewer who is funded largely if not almost exclusively by the Telcos - for "advice they request from him because they know they are going to like it!"

As such he is conflicted and cannot justify his claims to academic independence.

His views have become increasingly at odds with those who have done research and who are true international experts.

The NZ government and courts have relied heavily on Dr Black's advice in the past eg when he was a member of the Interagency Advisory Committee on the Health Effects of Non-Ionising Radiation (he was included as an independent academic from Auckland
university). More recently he has taken the international stage- as an ICNIRP advisor and President elect of BEMS - based on misleading claims about his qualifications.

Dr Black has regularly been on the NZ media making what I interpret as some very extreme claims (certainly they are NOT precautionary) which could put public health at risk.

Please can anyone add anything to this analysis as it is important it is accurate and suggest a forum to have these concerns addressed.

Thanks

Sue Grey LLB(Hons), BSC, RSHDipPHI

"Inside NZ"

Paul Stichbury <paulstichbury@gmail.com> 6/25/11
to David, bcc: herman.adams

Dear Dr Black,

On Wednesday's Inside NZ you made a statement which I find very disconcerting. You said words to the effect that

"the telecommunications and power companies sought my input because they like what I say"

Could you please elaborate on why these companies like what you say. From my perspective it looks very much like you are a paid shill for your clients and that the truth is inconsequential.

I look forward to your early reply.

Yours sincerely

David Black <David@evx.co.nz> 6/29/11
to me

Hello Paul
Yes, I can understand that could be interpreted a number of ways. Unfortunately the TV editors turned long interviews and complete answers into sound-bytes.

The context of that remark was that they like what I say because I rely on and advise them using established science and widely accepted Standards as recommended by the World Health Organization and the NZ Ministry of Health.

Thanks for your interest, best wishes

David Black

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>>> Paul Stichbury <paulstichbury@gmail.com> Saturday, 25 June 2011 1:26 p.m. >>>>