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RADIO 4

TRANSCRIPT OF “FILE ON 4” – “THE 5G CON THAT COULD MAKE YOU SICK”

CURRENT AFFAIRS GROUP

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THE ATTACHED TRANSCRIPT WAS TYPED FROM A RECORDING AND NOT COPIED FROM AN ORIGINAL SCRIPT. BECAUSE OF THE RISK OF MISHEARING AND THE DIFFICULTY IN SOME CASES OF IDENTIFYING INDIVIDUAL SPEAKERS, THE BBC CANNOT VOUCH FOR ITS COMPLETE ACCURACY.

“FILE ON 4”

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#### ACTUALITY AT PROTEST

WRIGHT: Mid May, on a path in Hyde Park. I'm with a group of people and we're on our way to a protest. The problem is, we don't really know where we're going.

WOMAN: Are you here for the march?

WRIGHT: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

WOMAN: Oh good, right, we'll follow you.

WRIGHT: Well, I know about as much as you do, but I spoke to some guys a moment ago who told me that it was going to be down that way.

WOMAN: Down that way? Okay, fantastic.

WRIGHT: They're here for a lot of reasons. But the first one they give me is 5G. They're worried it might be dangerous. We're walking at a healthy distance from each other and I'm pushing my bike.

WRIGHT cont: So can you tell me a bit about what it is about 5G that you're concerned about?

WOMAN: Well, it's actually very dangerous for our brains and causes cancer.

WOMAN 2: Surveillance state, where it sucks out oxygen from the atmosphere and it causes lots of health problems on a cellular level, also the radiation and all kinds of things

MAN: It's not really about ... that's a total construct that's fake and the 5G, there are no tests that prove that it's safe. Over 250 scientists worldwide are really worried.

WRIGHT: I'm here to talk to them because something very strange has been happening. In the last few months, people have started burning down what they believe are 5G masts.

#### EXTRACT FROM ARCHIVE RECORDING, SIRENS

MAN: People didn't really believe me, it's a 5G mast, going to drive past and that. It's \*\*\*\*ing going tonight, \*\*\*\*ing mark my words.

WOMAN: There's been some thirty acts of vandalism and arson around the UK, damaging essential telephone equipment because of some rumour that is circulating. It is not true and it's incredibly stupid.

HOLMES: I totally agree with everything you're saying, but what I don't accept is mainstream media immediately slapping that down as not true when they don't know it's not true.

WRIGHT: Even the TV presenter Eamon Holmes seems convinced. On the streets, telecoms workers have been facing physical and verbal attacks. Online videos have surfaced of 5G conspiracy theorists accusing contractors of murder.



WRIGHT: Glynn tried to work out was wrong. The only connection he could make was that his daughter was sitting in a particular building at school.

HUGHES: We discovered that actually on the Wednesday she had a free period and double maths, which meant she spent a large proportion of her day at the top of the school, and on top of that building I think there was about eight phone masts or antennae and I got a little bit perturbed about it.

WRIGHT: Did you take her to see a doctor?

HUGHES: No, I didn't take her to the doctors. I moved her school and she was well. So she was in the school with the phone masts on the roof, she wasn't well. I moved her to a school with no the phone masts and she was well.

WRIGHT: After Glynn's story made the local news he started to get enquiries from other people concerned about wireless technology, so he set up a business doing paid consultations and selling products on his website that he says protect from harmful WiFi radiation. There's a large net to hang over your bed for £1,500 right down to a hoodie or woolly hat. The business was scraping by but then ...

HUGHES: About three or four years ago, it was as though suddenly, you know, the cloud was taking off and people started to wake up and so it took off and it's grown and last year we turned over nearly £1 million. This year we're on course for £3 million. That's the level of growth we're seeing.

WRIGHT: £3 million? That's a phenomenal amount of money.

HUGHES: Yeah.

WRIGHT: So why do you think it's trebled in one year?

HUGHES: That was probably the 5G corona link.

WRIGHT: Do you think there's any relationship between wireless communications and coronavirus?

HUGHES: I think a damaged immune system would make corona worse and I do believe that EMFs do damage the immune system. So yes, I do.

WRIGHT: EMFs are electro-magnetic frequencies. They are the mechanism by which all wireless communications are transmitted, from mobile phones to 5G. Glynn Hughes isn't the only one who's seen his services in higher demand since the coronavirus crisis started. We were the last in a long line of journalists calling up Dr David Robert Grimes - and frankly, he's getting a bit bored of it.

GRIMES: Unbelievably, I think I've been debunking this stuff since 2016. Although I would say in the last four months, I'm getting about three requests a week, four requests a week, when on average that would have been maybe one request every two months in previous years.

WRIGHT: David Robert Grimes is a physicist by training, with a specific focus on cancer biology. But he also does a lot of work debunking what he sees as bad science - specifically science that fuels conspiracy theories.

GRIMES: These rumours and these myths, they're not even new. So I am essentially debunking the same things over and over and over again. You do experience a little bit of fatigue with that.

WRIGHT: Okay, so I'm really sorry, but could you explain the science of this to us?

GRIMES: Haha. I absolutely can. So your home WiFi devices and indeed your 5G devices all operate at radio frequency, and you'll often hear that called electromagnetic radiation. And that sounds very frightening, but radiation essentially just means the transmission of energy through space or a medium, and all light is electromagnetic energy. And it turns out that the kind of radio frequency waves we're talking about, the one that the people get so upset about, have much, much, much less energy than even visible

GRIMES cont: light. If you're really scared of 5G, light bulbs should terrify you. But, in fact, neither should. What really matters when it comes to electromagnetic radiation is its ability to what's called ionise, and in doing so it can cause DNA damage and eventually lead to things like cancer. And most certainly, radio frequency light does not have enough energy to do this.

WRIGHT: We often hear that 5G is more powerful than 4G or 3G, but actually it's just more efficient. 5G uses the same frequencies as previous iterations but it does so in a more effective way. And the reason that David Robert Grimes is so convinced that non-ionising radiation from things like WiFi and 5G doesn't cause harm is because backing up the physics is a whole host of rigorous scientific studies. I asked him to give me some specific examples.

GRIMES: There's been studies done in Denmark, for example, that have over many, many years over 100,000 participants in them to see if their rates of brain cancers have gone up - and no, they have not. There's also American studies that looked at cell phone use and it turns out we have not seen a corresponding rise in cancers that you might think would be associated with that.

WRIGHT: But he warns that any single study on its own doesn't prove much.

GRIMES: I think we have to be very cautious of the phenomena of cherry picking. Often a study is flawed for whatever reason, they get say a statistical outlier that skews the result, which is why you never trust individual studies. Individual studies should be viewed as data points. When you put them all together, a pattern emerges and this is how scientists draw conclusions.

WRIGHT: Prior to the Covid pandemic and the explosion of misinformation linking it to 5G, news reports tended to give a lot more prominence to the idea that electromagnetic radiation given off by mobile phones and wireless internet might pose some dangers.

MUSIC

## EXTRACTS FROM ARCHIVE NEWS RECORDINGS

PRESENTER: And though you can't see it, a lot of people believe that electromagnetic radiation from the devices we've come to love could be causing some serious health problems.

PRESENTER 2: The fifth generation of wireless technology – or 5G - as it's being rolled out worldwide, without safety testing. Let me say that again - without safety testing ...

WRIGHT: Back in 2007, when similar fears were being expressed about the introduction of WiFi, BBC Panorama broadcast this film.

## EXTRACT FROM PANORAMA, THEME TUNE

PRESENTER: The British Government is determined to catch this WiFi wave and is installing the technology in all our schools. But does long term exposure to WiFi carry any health effects?

MAN: ... decrease in short term memory, increases in the number of cancer incidences and so on. I mean, there is a large number of various areas here.

PRESENTER: And yet we're told by the authorities in the UK there are no known adverse health effects?

MAN: Well, that's very odd I must say.

WRIGHT: Around the same time as this BBC broadcast, a clinical psychologist in Germany called Michael Witthoef was investigating what are known as chronic somatic conditions - symptoms for which doctors can find no physiological cause.

WITTHOEFT: Headaches, chronic back pain, sleeping problems and so on, and we realised that some people attribute their very severe health conditions to environmental factors like chemicals, like sounds, like electromagnetic fields.

WRIGHT: Could these symptoms really be caused by wireless technologies? Professor Witthoeft's colleagues in London wanted to find out, so they conducted a study. It suggested that those people with symptoms couldn't actually tell whether a WiFi signal was on or off, which made it unlikely that electromagnetic frequencies were causing their symptoms. In that case, what could be the cause? Professor Witthoeft had a theory.

WITTHOEFT: We were wondering whether very sensational media reports that are out there are able to trigger this condition or to amplify this condition.

WRIGHT: And so he set out to test this hypothesis, using a film.

WITTHOEFT: We used one of those very sensational media reports that was out there, a documentary by the BBC, Panorama in 2007.

#### EXTRACT FROM PANORAMA

WOMAN: My head feels hot, burning, my face feels burning. I feel like I'm going to be sick.

PRESENTER: It's Wild West country for the companies and five, ten years from now as the evidence grows it might show that its completely unsafe for certain groups of people.

WITTHOEFT: It was viewed by so many people, I think a couple of millions, and it therefore represented the typical case of sensational media reports at that time.

WRIGHT: So, Professor Witthoeft and his team used ten minutes of the Panorama film in their experiment. They played participants the film and then led them to believe that they were being blasted with WiFi radiation. They made a real show of it.

WITTHOEFT: We put an antenna on their heads. The antenna was connected by cable to a blinking WiFi router. But the router was not producing any kind of electromagnetic field.

WRIGHT: Sitting there, with a fake antenna strapped to their heads, some of the participants who had watched the Panorama film began experiencing dramatic reactions.

WITTHOEFT: We were quite surprised because two of our participants told us during those 15 minutes, oh, please switch off the signal because my headache is becoming too strong.

WRIGHT: In the end, what the experiment suggested was quite nuanced. Watching a film about the supposed health dangers of WiFi isn't enough on its own to trigger physical symptoms. But if you're the kind of person who might worry about this kind of thing, who might already have health anxieties, watching a report like the Panorama film can trigger or encourage symptoms.

WITTHOEFT: Yes, exactly. That would be one conclusion of our findings, right.

WRIGHT: Professor Witthoef's experiment is just one of a number of studies which demonstrate something called the nocebo effect. You've heard of Placebo – well this the opposite.

WITTHOEFT: Placebo would be you expect something good to happen to your body or your health, and by taking a pill, for instance, you believe in a good effect on your headache. A nocebo is quite the opposite. It means you anticipate and expect something harmful to happen. By putting a phone to your head, you expect it might increase my headache or it might cause other adverse symptoms, and by this kind of strong expectation, you raise the likelihood that you will really feel those symptoms.

WRIGHT: Wow that's fascinating. So, what, people are actually experiencing pain?

WITTHOEFT: Exactly. They're not just reporting or telling or pretending they feel bodily sensations like pain or fatigue or other things. No, the brain is really producing, constructing those sensations and they are highly real and disabling.

MUSIC

WRIGHT: The fact that people are actually experiencing symptoms is why several countries, including Sweden, list electromagnetic hypersensitivity as a condition - its causes are psychological, but no less real. Michael Witthoeft's findings are supported by other studies and the World Health Organisation is starting to take notice. They say that it is likely the nocebo effect plays a major role in the kinds of symptoms that people attribute to WiFi radiation. So if provoking anxiety can actually make people sick, the recent explosion of the anti-5G movement is all the more worrying. And what if the worrying information comes from a respected authority?

EXTRACT FROM YOUTUBE 5G DOCUMENTARY

DAVIS: Do we want to put our children in that place? Should they become the guinea pigs? Are we going to wait and count the bodies again?

WRIGHT: Dr Devra Davis is one of the most influential scientists sounding the alarm and she has a huge online following. The protestors I spoke to in Hyde Park were all well aware of her work.

ROCK: She's very strong, because she's a researcher, she's been on to it.

WOMAN: Devra Davis? Yes, in America?

ROCK: Yes, that's right.

WOMAN: Yeah, the PhD.

ROCK: Yes, that's right. She's a very good speaker as well. They aren't take her down because she's so popular.

WRIGHT: Dr Davis has a dazzling CV, which includes acting as a health advisor in the Government of President Bill Clinton. She's authored more than two hundred papers and published three books, including one that made Time Magazine's top picks of 2010. Today, she's the President of an American non-profit called the Environmental Health Trust, which is dedicated almost exclusively to promoting the idea that wireless technology is dangerous. And since the coronavirus crisis started, traffic to her website has increased by 480%. That's not because of anything to do with coronavirus - she says that Covid is not caused by 5G. But she passionately believes that wireless radiation is bad for us. We interviewed Dr Davis for this programme, but she later said she didn't want us to use it because, she said, she wasn't told the context of the programme. But she also sets out her arguments in dozens of online videos.

#### EXTRACT FROM VIDEO

DAVIS: The most up to date research on cell phone radiation involves thousands of studies that have been done and they are finding pretty consistently now that when you expose animal cells and human beings to cell phone radiation, you can damage their sperm, damage the quality of the babies they produce and increase cancer, which is the most frightening to most people.

WRIGHT: Cancer Research UK and major public health bodies across the world don't agree with Devra Davis. They say that no adverse health effect has been causally linked with exposure to wireless technologies. However, she sent us a very lengthy document in which she disagrees with them. One of the most compelling reasons Dr Davis gives for thinking that there's good evidence to believe that WiFi radiation causes cancer comes from the World Health Organisation.

DAVIS: Now, how many of you had heard that in 2011, the World Health Organisation had reviewed all of the evidence and decided that mobile phone radiation was a possible human carcinogen? It's interesting that that information isn't more widely known.

WRIGHT: I looked into this claim that WiFi radiation is included on a World Health Organisation list of possible human carcinogens. It is, but so are many things like bracken and aloe vera. And that's because there is no reliable evidence to prove that any of these things can cause cancer in humans. If there's good evidence for a substance causing cancer in humans, it gets listed as a probable or definite carcinogen. The WHO agency which compiles this list is the International Agency for Research on Cancer. I contacted them to ask if there was good evidence for the claim that 5G can cause cancer. They very firmly directed me to the WHO website, where it says that no adverse health effect has been causally linked with exposure to wireless technologies. But that's not how Dr Davis sees it. She often quotes a study conducted by the National Toxicology Programme in the USA in which rats were exposed to very high levels of WiFi signals - many times higher than those permitted for humans.

DAVIS: In this study these animals developed rare and highly malignant tumours of the brain, of the heart, of the medulla oblongata. In addition, in multiple parts of the animal we were able to look at the DNA and see that there was DNA damage, so there was statistically significant increases in multiple tumours in this huge study done by the US Government.

WRIGHT: But this study has been widely critiqued because there were significant methodological limitations - in part, because the exposed rats actually lived longer than the rats in the control group, which might be one possible reason for why they got more cancers. In response to our points, Dr Davis told us that she believes that criticism of the studies like the National Toxicology Programme has been influenced by the telecommunications industry. There were more issues with Dr Davis' arguments about the harms of WiFi radiation - too many and too detailed for us to go into in this documentary. But her view that WiFi could play a role in development disorders in children deserves closer scrutiny.

DAVIS: The most important might be the effects on the brain. on memory, on sleep, on recall, on behaviour, on attention deficit disorder and other things that we are starting to understand better, but I would say at this point there is a fairly compelling body of research that shows harm from cell phone radiation.

WRIGHT: She also thinks that WiFi radiation may be one of the causes of autism. There's a whole section about it on her website as well as advice for paediatricians. We looked into the experts she recommends on the links between EMFs and autism. One is a paediatric neurologist called Martha Herbert. Her publications into a potential link between WiFi and autism don't provide any concrete evidence. Hers is, at best, a speculative theory not backed up by serious science. And Dr Davis also promotes the work of Dr Dietrich Klinghardt, an alternative health practitioner who believes, amongst other things, that there was no autism in Nigeria until Bill Gates introduced vaccinations there.

## MUSIC

WRIGHT: Devra Davis is adamant that she neither believes in nor condones conspiracy theories. But that doesn't stop people with some very strange ideas using her words to spread fear. And they've found that fear is a great way to make money. Devra Davis' lectures were recently used in a film called 5G Apocalypse.

## EXTRACTS FROM 5G APOCALYPSE

DAVIS: There's a tremendous amount of sponsored research by people who are hired by people to do studies to find no effect. Cancer's not the main concern that I have. I'm really concerned about sperm count and about effects on pregnancy. How many of you know that last year the birth rate in this country dropped the most that it ever has in recent history - 3% in a single year.

WRIGHT: 5G Apocalypse is being shared widely online - with more than more than a million views on YouTube. It was directed by a man called Sacha Stone. A former rock star, he's now a full-time New Age activist, and he's got some interesting views.

## ARCHIVE RECORDINGS OF SACHA STONE

STONE: If anyone had been observing the actual speeches of Putin, since he overthrew a Zionist Sabatian agenda in Russia from the hands of these Lucifarians, it's clear that he led the way ...

Organic sentience in this world, which has become asphalted over like some huge galactic condom.

Forced into compliance with these bullshit statutes and regulations which are insisting that we all stand 6 metres apart from one other. It's a vaudeville, it's a pantomime, it's theatre, it's insidious, it's ridiculous. I know the truth of Covid-19, I know the truth of corona ....

WRIGHT: In September of last year, Sacha Stone organised an event at Chelsea Town Hall here in London, to promote the idea that 5G could represent a threat.

STONE: This is an existential crisis, this is not a conspiracy theory. This is not within the realm of theoretics. This is factuality, it is stark, it is technicoloured and frankly it is terrifying.

WRIGHT: In the huge hall he called up a special guest.

#### EXTRACT FROM 5G APOCALYPSE TOWN HALL EVENT

STONE: Thank you. Nick, are we good to call the Police Commissioner in on the telephone?

#### ACTUALITY OF PHONE RINGING

STANSFELD: Hello?

STONE: Commissioner Stansfield, this is Sacha at the Old Chelsea Town Hall. Welcome.

STANSFELD: Good evening to you.

WRIGHT: In case you missed that, the headline speaker at the 5G apocalypse Event contributing over the phone was none other than Anthony Stansfeld, the Police Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley.

#### EXTRACT FROM 5G APOCALYPSE TOWN HALL EVENT

STANSFELD: The implications of microwave radiation has increased exponentially and will continue to do so, and it does seriously need some very open scientific study to prove that it is safe and I don't think we've got that at the moment.

#### MUSIC

WRIGHT: But Sacha's not just working to highlight what he sees as the existential threat of 5G. He's working with scientists to develop solutions. And one solution he's promoting comes in the form of a USB stick. It's called the 5G bioshield, and it costs more than £300. I spoke to one of Sacha's colleagues, the inventor of the 5G bioshield technology, to understand how it works.  
Just to kick things off, could you introduce yourself for us?

LAKI: I am, that I am Laki of free and sovereign domain, that is how I introduce myself always. Because I know who I am, I know who I am not, then that gives me freedom and sovereignty. We human beings, we are all spiritual beings who are projecting ....

WRIGHT: Okay, so it might be easier if I do the introductions - Ilijia Lakicevic once worked as a physicist at several high-profile institutions in Europe, but in 2003, he left mainstream science.

LAKI: I did not agree with many concepts in science and went to investigate them by myself, and I made a simple measurement with which I proved that the atom consists of a ring, also light like a doughnut, with a centring point which is zero point mind spirit God, which is source of energy, and I understood on that base also radiation. There is no ionising, non-ionising radiation like in science, there is only balanced and imbalanced radiation. Are you following me?

WRIGHT: Truth be told, I wasn't really following at all, but I thought I would have a go at trying to understand how the bioshield USB he invented works.

LAKI: Yes, yes, I have explained that until now, I explained the scientific base of my invention and you should understand also, anybody should understand that these love protection, very high frequency, the highest frequency in the universe is a frequency of love. And when you protect something with that highest frequency, nothing what is lower can penetrate it.

WRIGHT: How do you put love into the bioshield?

LAKI: My technology is a, is a, made in a new energy, very simple, easy, cheap and efficient. That is a simple sticker where I need three nano layers. One nano layer is a glue, the other is PVC and the third one is colour.

WRIGHT: Okay, so the USB stick itself is just a USB stick.

LAKI: Yeah, that sticker on it, that is what is actually technology and the USB stick is just the carrier.

WRIGHT: Gotcha, gotcha, okay.  
According to the website, the user doesn't even need to plug the USB stick in. The bioshield creates an 8-metre bubble of protection around anyone holding it - and that forcefield is extended to 40 metres if you plug it in. It might surprise you to hear that this science has been peer-reviewed.

LAKI: Yes, they are peer-reviewed, yes. International Journal of Science and Research.

WRIGHT: Is it particularly expensive to publish papers there?

LAKI: Usually it's between \$50 and \$100.

WRIGHT: Within the scientific community, these kinds of pay-to-publish forums are known as predatory journals. They provide the veneer of being peer-reviewed, but in fact will publish almost anything for a price. Ilijia Lakicevic's most recent peer reviewed paper includes this sentence:

READER: I used to practice sport very gladly and I am a unique tennis coach.

WRIGHT: So if someone says their work has been peer-reviewed, you can't just take that at face value. Even according to its inventor, the £300 bioshield is in fact just a normal USB with cheap stickers on it. And that might go some way to explaining why, since recording these interviews, Trading Standards have announced that they consider it to be a scam. They're working with the police to get a court order to take down the website. Thames Valley Police Crime Commissioner Anthony Stansfeld, who spoke at Sacha Stone's Chelsea Town Hall event, where the USB stick was promoted, says that he welcomes this news and that he in no way endorses the product. Sacha Stone told me that the alternative science he promotes is under constant attack.

STONE: They need to move beyond the conformities, beyond the norms and that becomes very, very difficult for these scientists and inventors, because it becomes not just difficult, but impossible to patent and register things, because they don't conform to the physics of the day.

WRIGHT: He says the USB stick has many happy customers.

STONE: We've been overlooking the testimonials overlooking the feedback from thousands of people - I think in excess of six thousand in the last few weeks.

WRIGHT: Sacha confirmed to me that the sticks are sold through affiliates, who get a commission on each one they sell. In the UK, one of the most high-profile sellers is a man called Simon Parkes. He used to be a Labour councillor in Whitby. But that all changed after he gave an interview on ITV's This Morning, where he claimed to have sex with aliens.

ARCHIVE RECORDING 'THIS MORNING'

PARKES: This is holographic, so I wouldn't have actually lost my virginity.

SCHOFIELD: What age were you then?

PARKES: Oh, it'd be about five or six.

SCHOFIELD: You lost your virginity at six years old?

PARKES: No, I didn't say that. It was a holographic representation.

SCHOFIELD: So you had a sexual encounter at six years old?

PARKES: Holographically, absolutely yes.

WRIGHT: Simon is now helping to sell the bioshield. And he managed to get his followers a special deal.

PARKES: You know, it was buy one get one free if you did it through my site. We're very fortunate that the bioshield company is prepared to do that with us, and any more products that ever come out from them, I will be looking for a similar sort of deal.

WRIGHT: When contacted by the BBC, the UK distributor of the bioshield rejected the suggestion that selling a £5 product for more than £300 was unreasonable and said that there was a great deal of technical information and historical research which had gone into the product. But even if the bioshield is removed from the market, Sacha Stone's collaborators are already developing another product. It's called Praesidium, and it's a nutritional supplement. They announced it at the Chelsea Town Hall event last year.

EXTRACT FROM 5G APOCALYPSE TOWN HALL EVENT

**BOWER:** There are two avenues that I wanted to explore with you. The 5G bioshield key was one of them and there is a second one which is called Praesidium, which has been developed by an incredible doctor called Marco Ruggiero, which is still not available, but Sacha will tell us exactly when. The product's predominant application is to shield and to protect the human body from the negative effects of both ionising and non-ionising electromagnetic radiation.

**WRIGHT:** Just to be clear, they're claiming that this nutritional supplement has the power not just to protect you from 5G, but also from ionising radiation. That type of radiation includes things like X-rays and nuclear waste, which definitely can harm you.

**STONE:** The Praesidium is not something which is on the market, it's something which is in the pipeline and that is an innovation by a very brilliant microbial scientist. I won't name him here.

**WRIGHT:** Why won't you name him?

**STONE:** I certainly don't wish to bring his name into the public domain if he doesn't wish it to be.

**WRIGHT:** The scientist Sacha doesn't want to name is already in the public domain, you heard Sacha's colleague mention him earlier. He's called Marco Ruggiero and he used to be a professor at the University of Florence. And although Praesidium isn't yet on the market, Dr Ruggiero and Sacha Stone do have another nutritional supplement that they are selling. It's called Immortalis and, like Praesidium, it's a nutritional supplement which is said to be essential for people suffering from electromagnetic frequencies. Another benefit is that it grants you immortality. It costs more than £8,000 for a year's supply and it was until very recently on sale in Harrods - they decided to remove it from their shelves after we brought the product's history to their attention. It turns out that Immortalis is just the latest in a long line of very similar products which Marco Ruggiero claims can do incredible things. Back in 2014, Marco Ruggiero was the Director of Science

WRIGHT cont: at a company called Immuno Biotech Ltd. The company offered miracle cancer cures. Court documents estimate that the company made up to £9 million selling these products to desperate people. And for a price, you could get the treatments administered by Dr Ruggiero himself, at an unlicensed cancer clinic in Switzerland.

PIANO MUSIC

WRIGHT: Rona Magnay was one of his patients. Rona loved to play piano. That's her playing and her cat is singing along. Rona died last year. Before she died, she wrote a blog about her experience at Dr Ruggiero's clinic.

READER: This post is about my visit to a clinic. I don't think the company who was running the clinic is running any more clinics (thank God).

WRIGHT: Rona says the company promised a money back guarantee if patients were not cancer free within a year. The treatment cost 2,400 euros per week for six weeks, and would be administered by the inventor, Marco Ruggiero.

READER: After the clinic was launched, the cost went up to 3,000 euros per week. All patients were made to sign a non-disclosure agreement, forbidding us from discussing the clinic. We all signed because we were too afraid not to, afraid that this amazing breakthrough treatment would be withheld from us.

MUSIC

READER: I may or may not have got shrinkage. Professor Ruggiero maintains I did, but my own radiologist and surgeon could find no difference.

WRIGHT: On June 19th 2015, the clinic was raided by Swiss authorities after five of the people being treated there died. And although several people involved in the company have since been prosecuted, Marco Ruggiero has never been charged with any crime for his involvement. Some of the products he sold to Rona remain on

WRIGHT cont: sale in the UK and in Europe. We approached Marco Ruggiero for an interview, but he declined to speak to us. I wanted to see if Sacha Stone knew about any of this.

So are you are you at all aware of the clinic that Dr Ruggiero ran in in Switzerland that was shut down by the Swiss authorities?

STONE: Respectfully, I'm not going to be baited any further, Tom, about the good doctor. I think he's a remarkable talent and I think that people like you and your family ought to be very grateful that there are innovators and scientists out there who actually care about human health and wellness in the way that the good professor does, because it is my belief and my contention that he is a very brilliant biological scientist.

WRIGHT: So you feel he's, he's misunderstood?

STONE: I feel that I'm not prepared to discuss anything further on the matter of the good professor.

MUSIC

WRIGHT: All this merchandise - the nutritional supplement, the USB stick and the products that Glynn Hughes is selling are offering to protect you from something that the scientific consensus would say is not harmful. But could these products be offering people who are suffering real symptoms a placebo and so some kind of relief? According to Dr David Robert Grimes, trying to treat a nocebo with a placebo can actually cause real harm.

GRIMES: What is really important is to make sure that you're getting the right intervention, and a placebo is never going to do that. And worse than that, it's also going to give a false sense of cause and effect, and in the process you'll be confused about your own condition and your understanding of the world.

WRIGHT: In other words, a placebo might encourage people to believe that 5G causes harm, when the science tells us there's no good reason to believe that. Dr Robert Grimes has dedicated his career to making that point over and over. Is there anything that would change his mind?

GRIMES: If there was some very small effect that emerged and there was reputable literature that backed this up, I would change my opinion. But the evidence at the moment does not say that.

MUSIC

GRIMES: So all these things really do is muddle our understanding and they create an environment where snake oil salesmen and charlatans and misguided people can really profiteer to our collective detriment.

WRIGHT: The truth-seekers who say that 5G is dangerous often use the language of science. But there is no scientific basis to most of what they say. The anti-5G movement seems driven by faith, not facts. It's faith that drives people to believe that a USB stick can offer protection from the modern, wireless world. In these unprecedented times of Covid-19, when misinformation is spreading like a virus, it's understandable why some people might be more receptive to prophets of doom. What's unfortunate is that those prophecies could well be self-fulfilling and actually making people sick.