2014 HEALTHY-POLIS workshop:

Challenges and Opportunities for Urban Environmental Health and Sustainability

International Conference on Urban Health: [www.icuh2014.com](http://www.icuh2014.com)

6th March 2014, Manchester Central Convention Complex, United Kingdom

BACKGROUND

Densely populated urban areas are facing environmental health challenges including contamination of air, water and soil. Sprawling urban areas contribute to traffic congestion, with associated air pollution, noise and long commuting times affecting public health and productivity. Climate change is likely to aggravate certain health risks in cities by increasing the frequency and severity of extreme weather events, such as heatwaves and floods, and potentially contributing to air pollution episodes. On the other hand, climate change mitigation and adaptation policies can provide a range of health co-benefits associated with low carbon buildings, urban green spaces, active transport, and renewable energy generation.

Cities are complex systems that demand systems-based, interdisciplinary research methods involving epidemiologists, toxicologists, urban planners, environmental and public health scientists. Methodological innovation and standardisation of epidemiological, exposure and risk assessment methods across countries, are needed to address complex environmental health challenges in the context of climate change and sustainable development.

The new Healthy-Polis international consortium ([www.healthy-polis.org](http://www.healthy-polis.org)) is organising its first annual workshop on “Challenges and Opportunities for Urban Environmental Health and Sustainability”, as part of the Urban Health 2014 conference in Manchester. This will be an opportunity for researchers and stakeholders working in this inter-disciplinary area (environmental public health, urban planning and transport, built environment, climate change adaptation and mitigation, air pollution and noise, and sustainable development) to share experiences, exchange views on the management of health risks in the urban environment, and identify opportunities for collaboration.
PROGRAMME (Room: Exchange 1)

11.00-11.05  Welcome and introduction  
_{Dr Paul Cosford, Director for Health Protection and Medical Director, PHE_}

11.05-11.15  Introduction to Healthy-Polis international consortium  
_{Dr Sotiris Vardoulakis, Air Pollution and Climate Change Group Leader, PHE_}

11.15-12.00  Session 1: Environmental Health Risks in Urban Areas  
_{Chair: Professor Sir Andy Haines, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine_}

11.15-11.30  Global health impacts of climate change  
_{Dr Bettina Menne, WHO Europe_}

11.30-11.45  Infectious disease threats from global environmental change  
_{Professor Jan Semenza, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control_}

11.45-12.00  Built environment and health risks from air pollution  
_{Dr Otto Hänninen, National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL), Finland_}

12.00-13.00  Lunch  

12.30-13.30  [Healthy-Polis scientific advisory committee meeting]  

13.00-14.00  Session 2: Case Studies (posters)  
_{Chairs: Professor John Thornes / Dr Clare Heaviside, Public Health England_}

14.00-15.00  Session 3: Healthy Sustainable Cities  
_{Chair: Professor Keith Dear, Duke Global Health Institute, China_}

14.00-14.20  Public health impacts of greenhouse gas emissions reductions strategies in urban environments  
_{Professor Paul Wilkinson, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine_}

14.20-14.40  Integrated decision-making for sustainable housing, energy and wellbeing  
_{Professor Michael Davies, UCL_}

14.40-15.00  An integrated decision-support framework for sustainable management of urban pollution  
_{Professor Adisa Azapagic, University of Manchester_}

15.00-15.50  Panel Discussion  
_{Professor Sir Andy Haines (LSHTM), Dr Bettina Menne (WHO Europe), Dr Ann Marie Connolly (PHE), Professor Michael Depledge (Exeter University), Dr Louise Newport (Department of Health), Professor Mark Nieuwenhuijsen (CREAL)_}

Questions:  
- Policy needs and priorities for future collaborative research?  
- Key indicators for urban environmental health and sustainability?  
- Key methods for integrated assessment of policies and interventions?  
- Capacity building and training needs?

15.50-16.00  Conclusions and Future Steps  
_{Dr Sotiris Vardoulakis / Dr Bernd Eggen, Public Health England_}
POSTER PRESENTATIONS (Room: Exchange Hall)

1. A GIS-based Urban Green Space Indicator – The Public Health Rationale and Results from a Case Study
   M Annerstedt, A Egorov, P Mudu

2. Conceptual Frameworks of Urban Health: A Cross-disciplinary Systematic Review
   D Beck

3. Validation of Novel Sensors to Assess Human Exposures to Airborne Pollutants
   J M Delgado Saborit

4. Population Exposure Assessment to Consumer Products
   C Dimitrulopoulou, M Trantallidi, P Carrer, J Bartzis

5. Urban Health Related to Climate Change and Pollen
   B Eggen, D Hemming, N Osborne, C Bergmann

6. Associations between air pollution and socioeconomic characteristics, ethnicity and age profile of neighbourhoods in England and the Netherlands
   D Fecht, P Fischer, L Fortunato, G Hoek, K de Hoogh, M Marra, H Kruize, D Venneau, R Beelen, A Hansell

7. Associations between urban form and mortality rates in England and Wales
   D Fecht, L Fortunato, A Hansell

8. The Urban Heat Island of Birmingham and health burdens during heatwaves
   C Heaviside, X Cai, S Vardoulakis

9. Ultrafine particles in city environments – Known, Unknown and Challenges
   P Kumar

10. Positive health effects of the natural outdoor environment in typical populations in different regions in Europe (PHENOTYPE)

11. Working towards optimising the delivery of outpatient services in Cornwall
    A Pollard, P Upton

    D Rojas-Rueda, A de Nazelle, ZJ Andersen, C Braun-Fahrländer, J Bruha, H Bruhova-Foltynova, H Desqueyroux, SM Ragettli, M Tainio, M Nieuwenhuijsen.

13. Resilience of ambulance services to severe weather
    J Thornes

14. A case study to rank public health interventions for five environmental hazards
    M Woods, H Crabbe, R Close, M Studden, A Milojevic, G Leonardi, Z Chalabi
DIRECTIONS TO MANCHESTER CENTRAL

Manchester Central is an iconic business resort in the heart of Manchester. It is right in the centre of the UK and easy to reach via Manchester’s extensive multi-modal transport network.

By air

From Manchester Airport, the city is approximately 25 minutes away by taxi or just 20 minutes via the half-hourly express rail service (tickets £3.00-£4.00). Information on Manchester Airport can be found at: www.manchesterairport.co.uk

By rail

It takes a little over two hours to reach Manchester from London and Manchester also has direct connections to most major UK cities. Services arrive at Piccadilly or Victoria stations where passengers can connect with Metrolink trams for easy access to the city centre. Manchester Central is a 20 minute walk from Piccadilly Station or just five minutes by taxi. Alternatively, you can catch a connecting train to Oxford Road Station - just five minutes from Manchester Central on foot. Information on train services can be found at: www.nationalrail.co.uk

Metroshuttle

Metroshuttle buses are free and link the city centre's main rail stations, shopping areas and businesses. Information on routes available at: http://www.tfgm.com/buses/Pages/metroshuttle.aspx

Metrolink

Metrolink is a convenient tram network serving Manchester city centre and further afield. Metrolink runs every few minutes from early morning until late in the evening. Metrolink operates through both Piccadilly and Victoria stations. Manchester Central's nearest Metrolink stop is St Peter’s Square. From there, we're just a few minutes on foot, right behind the Midland Hotel. Routes and information can be found at: www.metrolink.co.uk

Taxi

There is a dedicated taxi rank at the front of the venue for pick ups and drop offs. Black cab taxis are readily available at Manchester Airport and both Piccadilly and Victoria train stations.
Organising Committee:
Dr Sotiris Vardoulakis
Dr Bernd Eggen
Dr Clare Heavside
Prof John Thornes

For further information please contact:
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