

NERAM International Colloquia Series

Health and Air Quality: Interpreting Science for Decision Makers

NERAM (Network for Environmental Risk Assessment and Management) announces a series of five International Colloquium to promote a clear understanding of the public health implications of research on health effects related to air quality including the associated uncertainties for use in policy analysis.

HEALTH AND AIR QUALITY 2001

Implications of Health Effects Research for Policy Decisions on Particulate Matter

January 29 -30, 2001, Ottawa Congress Centre, Ottawa, Canada (*program attached*)

HEALTH AND AIR QUALITY 2002: Critical Scientific Issues for Policy Decisions on Air Quality: Interpretation of Mortality Studies (Time series, Cohort, and Displacement): Johns Hopkins University

HEALTH AND AIR QUALITY 2003, 2004 and 2005:
Themes and Location TBA

Goals of the NERAM Colloquia Series:

1. To bring together scientists, policy makers, and stakeholders to share perspectives on the implications of health effects research for policy decisions on particulate matter and to understand uncertainties based on a comprehensive debate of the issues.
2. To widely disseminate findings in a policy friendly and accessible format.
3. To generate concrete, prioritized research initiatives to reduce these uncertainties and to facilitate the research.

HEALTH AND AIR QUALITY 2001

Implications of Health Effects Research for Policy Decisions on Particulate Matter

January 29-30, 2001

Ottawa, Canada
Ottawa Congress Centre

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

Objective

Epidemiological research carried out over the past 20 years provides a foundation for **policy decisions** to protect public health from long term exposure to airborne particulate matter. Recent research efforts to address uncertainties in results from large scale cohort mortality studies, to identify risk factors for morbidity and mortality, and to characterize the impact of particulate air pollution on life expectancy have important risk management implications. The objective of the Colloquium, the first in a linked series, is to interpret the current state of science for evidence-based decision-making on air quality objectives. **The Colloquium Series is unique in its purpose and organization. The prime focus is not the detailed discussion of the results of studies, but to relate findings to public health issues and identify future research studies and directions that will aid policy-makers. The breakout sessions have been designed for this purpose.** The Colloquium Series provides a timely opportunity for structured debate on the policy relevance of research findings, key issues and uncertainties in assessing risks to public health, and scientific information and associated research needs for regulatory decision-making.

The presentations and discussions will focus on addressing the following questions:

- What is known about the Health Effects of Air Quality?
- What is not known? What is the range of uncertainty?
- Which health effects are significant for Policy Options?
- Based on a structured debate, what is the interpretation of the available science?
- What feasible research should be done? Short-term? Longer-term?

The Colloquium Series will be of interest to health and environment regulatory agencies, environmental and public health groups, industry and the scientific community. The Colloquium will report in plain language suitable for public policy development and debate.

Pre-Colloquia Documentation available to Participants

1. Prepared papers
2. List of issues and the scientific debate based on the literature

International Steering Committee
(membership is subject to change for Colloquia 2002-2005)

Tom Dann, Environment Canada
Rick Burnett, Health Canada
Geoff Granville, Shell Canada
Daniel Krewski, Centre for Population Health, Univ. of Ottawa
John Shortreed, NERAM, University of Waterloo
Sverre Vedal, University of British Columbia
Ken Ogilvie, Pollution Probe
Robert Willes, Cantox Environmental Inc.

Jonathan Samet, Johns Hopkins University
Dan Greenbaum, Health Effects Institute C
Mark Utell, University of Rochester
John Vandenberg, US EPA
Peter Boyle, European Institute of Oncology
Arpad Somogyi, Health and Consumer
Protection, European Commission

MONDAY, January 29, 2001

8:30 Introduction & Welcome

Conference Co-Chairs: *Daniel Krewski*, Centre for Population Health
Robert Willes, Cantox Environmental Inc.

BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION OF TOPIC

Chair: *Claude Fortin*, Environment Canada

8:40 Historical Perspectives on the Regulation of PM_{2.5}.

Dan Greenbaum, Health Effects Institute

9:00 Current Status of Canada-wide Standards for Ambient PM

Tom Dann, Environment Canada

9:15 Current Status of U.S. Standards for Ambient PM

John Bachmann, USEPA

PLENARY SESSION

Chair: *Mark Raizenne*, Health Canada

9:30 Scientific Information Needs for Regulatory Decision-making

Robert Maynard, UK Department of Health

10:00 OPEN DISCUSSION

10:15 *BREAK*

10:30 Overview of the Re-Analysis of The Harvard Six City Study and American Cancer Society Study on Particulate Air Pollution and Mortality

Daniel Krewski, Centre for Population Health
University of Ottawa

11:00 **Panel Discussion**

Aaron Cohen, Health Effects Institute

John Vandenberg, USEPA

Geoff Granville, Shell Canada

George Thurston, New York University

11:40 OPEN DISCUSSION

12:00 – 13:00

LUNCH

CHARACTERIZATION OF HEALTH EFFECTS

Chair: *Michael Thun, American Cancer Society*
Douglas Dockery, Harvard School of Public Health

13:00 Design of Cohort Studies

Bert Brunekreef, University of Utrecht

Discussant: *Ira Tager, University of California at Berkley*

13:30 Plenary Discussion

13:45 **Spatial Analysis of Ecologic Risk Factors for Cardiorespiratory Disease**

Mike Jerrett, McMaster University

Discussant: *Michael Hayes, Simon Fraser University*

14:15 Plenary Discussion

14:30 **Spatial Analysis of Air Pollution Data**

Rick Burnett, Health Canada

Discussant to be Confirmed

15:00 Plenary Discussion

15:15

BREAK

15:30 **Assessing Exposure to Particulate Air Pollution**

Petros Koutrakis, Harvard University

Discussant: *George Thurston, New York University*

16:00 Plenary Discussion

16:15 **Impact of Particulate Air Pollution on Quality Adjusted Life Expectancy**

Doug Coyle, University of Ottawa
Discussant: *John Evans, Harvard University*

16:45: Plenary Discussion

End Session at 17:00h

DINNER TO FOLLOW

Dinner Speaker to be Confirmed

<p>⇒ Additional Issues and comments about current issues may be submitted up to 21:00h (09:00 pm) for consideration and possible inclusion by the Steering Committee in the January 30 break out sessions</p>
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TUESDAY, January 30, 2001

8:30 – 10:00 **BREAK-OUT SESSIONS:**

Epidemiological Research Needs for Particulate Air Pollution

Chair: *Jonathan Samet, Johns Hopkins University*
Rapporteur: *Arden Pope, Brigham Young University*

Public Health Significance of Research Results

Robert Maynard, UK Department of Health
Rapporteur: *John Evans, Harvard University*

Monitoring Exposure to Ambient Air Pollutants

Chair: *Helen Suh, Harvard School of Public Health*
Rapporteur: *Warren White, Washington University*

Risk Models for Particulate Air Pollution

Chair: *Rick Burnett, Health Canada*
Rapporteur: *Francesca Dominici, Johns Hopkins University*

10:00 – 10:30

BREAK

10:30 – 11:30 **Rapporteur Reports on Break out Sessions** (15 min. each)

Chair: *John Shortreed, NERAM*

11:30 Discussion

12:00 – 13:00 LUNCH

13:00 – 15:00 **Implications for Air Quality Objectives**

Co-Chairs: **John Vandenberg**, EPA
Daniel Krewski, Centre for Population Health

15:00 – 15:15 BREAK

15:15 – 15:35 **Summary of Key Issues Addressed at the Colloquium**

Jonathan Samet, Johns Hopkins University

*Recording of opinions of all participants based on the issues identified,
the results of the break-out sessions, and other inputs.*

15: 35 **Where To From Here: Priorities for Research – Short Term and Long Term**

Chair: **Daniel Krewski**, Centre for Population Health

16:00 **Closing Remarks**

Robert Willes, Cantox Environmental Inc.
Peter Boyle, European Institute of Oncology

POST COLLOQUIUM

A Colloquium summary document will be prepared by the International Steering Committee. **Comments and additional documentation may be submitted to the steering committee until February 28, 2001**

The Colloquium Papers including the summary document will be published in a **Special Issue of the Journal of Toxicology and Environmental Health.**