

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

## **Theme #1: Understanding contributors to disproportionate environmental health impacts to facilitate their consideration in decision making**

Multiple aspects of where we live, learn, work, and play can contribute to disproportionate environmental and health impacts. These aspects can include biological, chemical, physical, social, and cultural dimensions as well as others. Several sessions at the Symposium will focus on commissioned technical papers and poster discussion sessions to examine factors that may result in disproportionate environmental health impacts among minority and low-income populations. These factors include, but are not limited to:

- 1) Proximity to environmental hazards;
- 2) Susceptibility/vulnerability;
- 3) Unique exposure pathways;
- 4) Multiple and cumulative environmental burdens;
- 5) Community capacity to participate in the decision making process;
- 6) Physical infrastructure; and
- 7) Chronic exposure to stress and the implications for health outcomes related to exposure to environmental hazards.

### **Related Sessions**

*March 17, 2010*

#### **1:00 – 2:30 p.m. Concurrent Breakout Sessions**

- State-of-the-Science Commissioned Paper Panel: Proximity

[Proximity to Environmental Hazards: Environmental Justice and Adverse Health Outcomes](#)

*Purpose:* To explore and define how proximity to environmental health hazards and their sources contributes to disparities in environmental health impacts among ethnic and racial minority and disadvantaged populations and discuss opportunities to incorporate this information into the environmental policy decision making process.

Session Chair/Speaker: **Juliana Maantay**, Professor, Department of Environmental, Geographic and Geological Sciences, Lehman College, The City University of New York

Speakers:

**Jayajit Chakraborty**, Associate Professor, Department of Geography, University of South Florida

**Jean Brender**, Associate Dean for Research and Professor, Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics, Texas A&M University

Discussant: **Peter Langlois**, Senior Epidemiologist, Texas Department of State Health Services

- State-of-the-Science Commissioned Paper Panel: Multiple and Cumulative Impacts/Effects [The Importance of Rigorous Analytical Strategies for Elucidating Cumulative Risk Burdens and Disproportionate Effects](#)

*Purpose:* To explore the contribution of exposure to multiple and cumulative environmental stressors to adverse environmental and health impacts, and also to disparities in environmental health impacts among ethnic and racial minority and disadvantaged populations and discuss opportunities to incorporate this information into the environmental policy decision making process.

Session Chair/Speaker: **Steven H. Linder**, School of Public Health, University of Texas

Speakers:

**Amy D. Kyle**, Associate Professor, Environmental Health Sciences, School of Public Health, University of California, Berkeley

**Gary Ginsberg**, Toxicologist, Division of Environmental Epidemiology and Occupational Health, Connecticut Department of Public Health

Discussant: **James Ransom**, Chief, St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Council

**1:00 – 2:30 p.m. Concurrent Breakout Sessions (continued)**

- State-of-the-Science Commissioned Paper Panel: Susceptibility and Vulnerability [Differential Vulnerability and Susceptibility: Expanding the Scope of Risk Assessment](#)

*Purpose:* To explore the relationship between vulnerability/susceptibility factors (including social factors) and disparities in environmental health impacts among ethnic and racial minority and disadvantaged populations. In particular, summarize how vulnerability modifies the relationship between environmental agents and health impacts and discuss opportunities to incorporate this information quantitatively into environmental risk assessment and the policy decision making process.

Session Chair/Speaker: **Joel Schwartz**, Professor of Environmental Epidemiology, Harvard School of Public Health

Speakers:

**Dave Bellinger**, Professor, Department of Environmental Health, Harvard University and Senior Research Associate in Neurology, Children's Hospital, Boston

**Thomas A. Glass**, Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and Faculty Associate, Johns Hopkins Population Center

Discussants:

**Wilma Subra**, Subra Company, Louisiana

**Sally Darney**, National Program Director for Human Health, EPA

• State-of-the-Science Commissioned Paper Panel: Unique Exposures

[Outliers Matter in Environmental Justice: Unique Exposure Pathways and Disproportionate Exposures in Low Income, Minority, Native American, and Other Populations](#)

*Purpose:* To elucidate how unique exposure pathways contribute to disparities in environmental health impacts among ethnic and racial minority and disadvantaged populations and discuss opportunities to incorporate this information into the environmental policy decision making process.

Session Chair: **Joanna Burger**, Division of Life Sciences, Rutgers University

Speakers:

**Michael Gochfeld**, Environmental and Occupational Medicine, University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Rutgers University

**Dan Kass**, Acting Deputy Commissioner, Environmental Health, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Discussant: **Earl Hatley**, Local Environmental Action Demanded, Oklahoma

**3:00 – 5:00 p.m. Concurrent Poster Discussion Sessions**

- [Data and Methodology Needs: Proximity \(Poster Discussion Format\)](#)
- [Data and Methodology Needs: Multiple and Cumulative Impacts/Effects \(Poster Discussion Format\)](#)
- [Data and Methodology Needs: Susceptibility and Vulnerability \(Poster Discussion Format\)](#)
- [Data and Methodology Needs: Unique Exposures \(Poster Discussion Format\)](#)

[Link poster abstracts]

**3:00 – 3:40 p.m. Poster Review**

**3:40 – 5:00 p.m. Presentation and Discussion**—Participants discuss the posters; focus is on methods, data sources, and results as related to methods

March 18, 2010

10:30 – 12:00 p.m. **Concurrent Breakout Sessions**

- State-of-the-Science Commissioned Paper Panel: Psychosocial Stress

[Community Stress and Psychosocial Hazards](#)

Purpose: To explore how psychosocial stress contributes to disparities in environmental health impacts among ethnic and racial minority and disadvantaged populations and discuss opportunities to incorporate this information into the environmental policy decision making process.

Session Chair/Speaker: **Pamela Tucker**, Division of Toxicology and Environmental Medicine, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, CDC

Speakers:

**Charlton Coles**, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, CDC

**Steven Couch**, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, CDC

**Bruce McEwen**, Professor and Head of the Harold & Milliken Hatch Laboratory of Neuroendocrinology, Rockefeller University

**Deborah Cory-Slechta**, Professor, Department of Environmental Medicine, University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry

Discussants:

**Jane Clougherty**, Harvard School of Public Health

**Mark Mitchell**, President, Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice

- State-of-the-Science Commissioned Paper Panel: Physical Infrastructure

[The Contributions of Physical Infrastructure to Environmental Health Disparities: Housing, Transportation and Water](#)

Purpose: To elucidate how physical infrastructure/built environment contributes to disparities in environmental health impacts among ethnic and racial minority and disadvantaged populations and discuss opportunities to incorporate this information into the environmental policy decision making process.

Session Chair: **Dave Jacobs**, National Center for Healthy Housing

Speakers: **Rajiv Bhatia**, Director, Occupational & Environmental Health, San Francisco Department of Public Health and University of California, San Francisco

**Jim VanDerSlice**, Associate Professor and Associate Division Chief, Division of Public Health, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine, University of Utah

Discussants:

**Laurel Firestone**, Community Water Center, Visalia, CA

**Corine Li**, Manager, Drinking Water Office, Region 9, U.S. EPA

• State-of-the-Science Commissioned Paper Panel: Social Capital and Community Capacity To Participate in Environmental Decision Making

[Community Participation in the Environmental Decision-Making Process: Can It Reduce Disproportionate Impact?](#)

Purpose: To explore the relationship between community capacity to participate in the public policy decision making process and disproportionate environmental health impact among ethnic and racial minority and disadvantaged populations and how this information can be incorporated into the environmental policy decision making process.

Session Chair: **Nicholas Freudenberg**, Distinguished Professor and Director, Department of Public Health, Hunter College of the City University of New York

Speakers:

**Barbara Israel**, Professor, Department of Health Behavior and Health Education, School of Public Health, University of Michigan

**Manuel Pastor**, Professor of Geography and American Studies & Ethnicity, University of Southern California

Discussant: **Peggy Shepard**, Executive Director, WeACT

**1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Concurrent Poster Discussion Sessions**

- [Data and Methodology Needs: Psychosocial Stress \(Poster Discussion Format\)](#)
- [Data and Methodology Needs: Physical Infrastructure \(Poster Discussion Format\)](#)
- [Data and Methodology Needs: Social Capital and Community Capacity To Participate in Environmental Decision Making \(Poster Discussion Format\)](#)

[Link poster abstracts]

**1:00 – 1:45 p.m. Poster Review**

**1:45 – 3:00 p.m. Presentation and Discussion**—Participants discuss the posters; focus is on methods, data sources, and results as related to methods