FOUNDATION: PUBLIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH Topic Area

Humankind has been increasingly transforming the natural environment ever since the advent of agriculture about 10,000 years ago. Human impacts have been rapidly accelerating over the past two centuries as a result of the Industrial Revolution and accompanying population explosion, with negative outcomes including extensive pollution of the land, water and air and the emerging threat of climate change. The Public and Environmental Health Topic Area will provide a forum for research and advocacy addressing the complex relationship between the environment and human health, and environmental causes of disability and disease.

The co-chairs of the Diversity, Disability and Public Health Topic Area are seeking presentations describing advances in the field of public health and highlighting innovative thinking for addressing challenges, and making a deeper positive impact. We are particularly interested in presentations on environmental factors – whether they be pollutants, hazardous waste, sanitation or air quality – in both the natural and built environments that potentially cause birth defects in newborns, chronic conditions in children and adults, or secondary conditions for people with disabilities. Examples of topics that are currently receiving attention in the public health subfield of environmental health include:

- Emerging scientific research on environmental factors which can contribute to disability and disease clusters (e.g., birth defects, cancer, asthma);
- Addressing health inequities in communities subjected to high levels of industrial pollutants;
- High priority environmental health issues needing attention in developing countries;
- Emerging health threats from climate change (e.g., expanding ranges of mosquitoes and other disease vectors) and how it impacts marginalized communities;
- Policy and/or practice considerations for ensuring clean water, land and air for subsequent generations;
- How urban and/or rural environments can be designed to reduce possible public health harms, especially those in marginalized communities;
- Effective strategies to orient political discussions to critical environmental health issues;
- How pollutants differentially impact people of different ages, gender, ethnicity, or disability status;
- Initiatives, best practices and partnerships that foster collaboration and state of the art science between environmental health groups, health professionals and disability organizations;
- Ways in which professionals, communities and families can prevent secondary conditions for people with disabilities;
- Legal advances that address violations of the rights of persons with disabilities to live work, worship, learn and play in environments that are safe and healthy;
• New advances and initiatives to protect newborns and children from adverse effects of unsafe environments, pesticides and other pollutants.

We welcome proposals in any of the presentation formats described on the conference webpage at: http://www.pacrim.hawaii.edu/submissions/presenters/formats/. Please check the criteria for each format and ensure that you have the appropriate number of presenters for your chosen format. You may submit proposals online at: http://www.pacrim.hawaii.edu/submissions or send your proposals via email to prcall@hawaii.edu.

For more information please contact the Topic Chairs:
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