



**International Geographical Union
Commission on Health and the Environment C12.19
Report from June 2017 to December 2018**

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1. IGU CHE Mandate & Strategic Foci

1.1 Mandate approved for the period 2016 – 2020

“Members of the IGU Commission on Health and the Environment carry out research on health and health care in the natural and built environment recognizing the importance of gender and diversity in a globalized world. The strategic foci for the mandate period 2016 to 2020 are:

- 1) the analysis of quality of life with an emphasis on health, health care, and the environment at various geographic scales;
- 2) the links among global change, global health and the environment; and
- 3) urban health and the role of migration and immigration.

These foci reflect both the continuation of the previous work carried out by IGU CHE and the strategic aim to further strengthen with our contribution’s important international initiatives like *Future Earth*, *One Health*, *Health and Wellbeing in the Changing Urban Environment* as well as the necessary scientific contributions to the environmental health components of SDG agenda. The CHE members continue to represent IGU in the aforementioned and many other international initiatives over the mandate period 2016-2020. They contribute as health geographers to the international efforts to improve global health and global health governance. IGU CHE provides a platform for its members in collaboration with the members of the various national and regional (health geography) specialty groups to discuss, define and further develop concepts, conceptual frameworks and curricula related to health geography and the emerging fields of global health and planetary health.”

2. IGU CHE Commission composition

2.1. Co-Chairpersons:

Prof. Thomas Krafft, Co-Chair (Netherlands)
University of Maastricht / e-mail: thomas.krafft@maastrichtuniversity.nl

Prof. Paula Santana, Co-Chair (Portugal)
University of Coimbra/ e-mail: paulasantana.coimbra@gmail.com

2.2. Steering Committee Members:

Prof. Raul Guimarães, Steering Committee Member (Brazil),
State University of São Paulo / e-mail: raulguimaraes@uol.com.br

Prof. Liliana Dumitrache, Steering Committee Member (Romania)
University of Bucarest / e-mail: dosaredumitrache@yahoo.com



Prof. Yang Linsheng, Steering Committee Member (China)
Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research (IGSNRR), Chinese
Academy of Science (CAS) / e-mail: yangls@igsnr.ac.cn

Prof. Svetlana Malkhazova, Steering Committee Member (Russia)
Moscow State University / e-mail: sveta_geo@yahoo.com

Prof. H. Blaise Nguendo Yongsi, Steering Committee Member (Cameroun)
School of Health Sciences, Catholic University of Central Africa / e-mail:
sir_nguendoyongsi@hotmail.com

Dr. Sarah Lovell, Steering Committee Member (New Zealand)
University of Canterbury / e-mail: sarah.lovell@canterbury.ac.nz

Prof. Aminata Niang-Diene, Steering Committee Member (Senegal)
Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar, Senegal/ aminata.niang@ucad.edu.sn

Prof. Susan Elliott, Steering Committee Member (Canada)
University of Waterloo / e-mail: susan.elliott@uwaterloo.ca

Dr. Julie Vallee, Steering Committee Member (France),
CNRS, Paris, France / e-mail: julie.vallee@parisgeo.cnrs.fr

2.3. Honorary Members of IGU CHE

To honor and recognise their valuable contribution to the scientific field and their longterm leadership the IGU CHE has extended honorary memberships to:

Prof. Yola Verhasselt (Belgium)
Académie Royales des Sciences d'Outre-Mer / e-mail: kaowarsom@skynet.be

Prof. David Phillips (Hong Kong)
Lingnan University / e-mail: apias@fn.edu.hk

Prof. Mark W. Rosenberg (Canada)
Queen's University / e-mail: mark.rosenberg@queensu.ca

2.4. Health Geography Researcher Network

Since 2012 the commission has created a Health Geography Researcher Network as a regular sub-commission to enhance the direct interaction between researchers and to specifically reach out to young scientist. The intention of the group is to actively contribute to the exchange in the field of health geography research and teaching and to support health geographers in their early career. Currently 16 researchers are jointly steering the group coordinated by two chairpersons: Eva Pilot (Netherlands) and Claudia Costa (Portugal). The researchers are from the Netherlands, Germany, Portugal, Nigeria, China, France, UK, New Zealand, Malaysia, Argentina, Russia and Brazil. The steering group is composed of 8 female and 7 men.

Some 366 researchers across the globe have joined the Health Geography Researcher Network through the Facebook webpage, in addition to the IGU CHE members.



More information can be found on the International Geographical Union Commission on Health and the Environment Researcher Network homepage <http://www.healthgeography.org/> and on the facebook webpage <https://www.facebook.com/Health-Geography-Researcher-Network-779298652122288/>

2.5. CHE Commission Members list by Country

The Commission has 445 members from 60 countries, xxxxx. 249 members follow the Commission through the website. 366 follow the Health Geography Researcher Network through the Facebook page (table 1).

In May 2017 the Commission revised its member list, removing closed email accounts. Therefore, the members list represents the membership status in May 2017. The Facebook followers list was extracted in the 14th December 2018. The Commission communication is provided for the listed members and also the Facebook followers.

3. Meetings and Activities supported and/or co-sponsored by the CHE and activities with IGU representation by CHE in 2017-2018

During 2017-2018 IGU CHE has continued to actively support and/or co-sponsor key meetings and activities for the scientific community. A short overview on the main activities is provided in the following:

June-December 2017

- VIII National Symposium of Health Geography - GeoHealth 2017, June 27 - July 1, Dourados (Brazil)

The symposium was organized under the theme “Health on the Border and the Frontier(s) of Health”. This theme considers the geographic context of Brazil's extensive international border and the need to broaden the understanding of health-disease processes through different frontiers of knowledge, ethnic, geographical, otherness, humanity. The expected results of the 8th edition of GeoHealth were: deepening the theoretical-practical discussions of Geography and Health, strengthening national and international networks of researchers, and exchanging experiences from different contexts. The relevance of this event is becoming wider since it has significant presence of Latin American researchers.

- IMGS'2017 Conference, July 2-7, Anger (France)

The 17th IMGS was entitled “Practicing health and medical geography in 2017”. Three main questions were addressed during the 2 plenary sessions and 63 parallel sessions: 1) How does the diffusion of health care, medical models and practices participate to the globalization process? 2) How does the socio-spatial distribution of health-related resources improve spatial justice? And 3) How does the wide range of methods currently used to collect data impact research in health and medical geography?

The audience was composed of 279 delegates from 30 countries. Like in the previous editions, IMGS has evolved as an excellent platform for young scientists to present and discuss their research and also to present and discuss new ideas and work in progress in an workshop discussion format. Selected papers will be published in Health and Place or Social Science Medicine. A Business Meeting of the CHE Steering Committee was organized on the



Table 1. Number of members by Country

Country	Members' list	Facebook followers
Argentina	4	2
Australia	4	6
Austria	1	2
Bangladesh	1	0
Belgium	3	6
Brazil	53	28
Cameroon	3	0
Central African Republic	0	1
Canada	20	22
Chile	1	0
China	26	5
China Hong Kong	1	0
Colombia	1	3
Cuba	1	0
Czech Republic	1	1
Denmark	2	1
Egypt	0	2
Ethiopia	0	1
Finland	1	0
France	14	7
Germany	9	37
India	14	49
Indonesia	0	4
Italy	1	1
Ivory Coast	0	1
Jamaica	1	0
Malaysia	1	0
Mali	0	1
Malta	0	1
Morocco	0	2
Mexico	3	0
Myanmar	0	2
Netherlands	9	21
New Zealand	10	8
Nepal	0	2
Nigeria	4	4
Norway	0	1
Pakistan	1	11
Peru	0	3

Country	Members' list	Facebook followers
Poland	1	0
Portugal	24	67
Puerto Rico	1	0
Romania	4	5
Ruanda	0	2
Russia	7	4
Senegal	1	0
Slovakia	0	1
Spain	2	3
Sri Lanka	0	2
South Africa	0	3
Sweden	1	2
Swiss	0	4
Thailand	1	0
Tunisia	0	2
United Arab Emirates	0	2
United Kingdom	7	11
United States of America	9	21
Uruguay	0	2
Venezuela	1	0
Total	249	366



6th of July 2017. The focus was on organization of the 18th IMGS followed by the discussion on the geographic location of the 19th IMGS. The Health Geography Researcher Network organized an open meeting on the 4th of July to present the sub-commission and its activities and to invite interested participants - in particular the young scientist - to actively join the network.

- IGU Thematic Conference on Land Use/Cover Changes, Biodiversity and Environment. Local and Regional Development, September 11-15, Bucharest & Tulcea, Romania

Liliana Dumitrache, on behalf of IGU CHE, co-organized this conference that aimed to bring together scientists and stakeholders from various connecting fields to address different effects of ecosystems changes, to set-up mitigation and adaptation strategies and contribute with scientific information to local/regional land use, planning and environmental policies. Besides the plenary and parallel sessions, two full day field trips completed the scientific programme. IGU CHE was co-sponsor of this thematic conference.

- 14th International Conference on Urban Health, September 26-29, Coimbra (Portugal)

The overall theme of ICUH2017 was: Health Equity: The New Urban Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals. ICUH2017 received 1380 abstracts considered for evaluation of persons coming from 65 countries, from which 30% were accepted. Thus, the total of 578 communications (oral and posters) represents 55 countries. The top 10 countries of received communications are: India (67), Brazil (66), UK (54), US (52), Portugal (37), Spain (29), Australia (18), Canada (17), China (16), and Germany (15). The Conference was attended by 640 delegates and participants from 65 countries, from those 62% are from high income countries and 38% from low income countries. The plenary sessions encompassed the following themes: i) Integrating work on the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda to improve Health Equity in Cities; ii) Understanding and Addressing Demographic, Epidemiological and Societal Changes in Cities; iii) Urban Governance and Equity-oriented Policies; iv) Healthy Urban Planning, Measurement and Metrics: Data and Research; v) Urban Health Care Systems in Cities – Access, Services and Quality; vi) Environmental Health and Urban Sustainability.

Paula Santana, on behalf of IGU CHE, was the President of the Organizing Committee. IGU CHE was also one of the funding partners, supporting financially the participation of young health geographers from Africa in this meeting. Furthermore, during the conference an International Geographical Union meeting took place involving the International Geographical Union's Commission on Health and Environment (IGU CHE) and Sub-Commission (Health Geography Research Network). At this meeting two main items were discussed: i) Current status of Planetary Health Initiative, SDG research and Future Earth; ii) Review and update of current working plan for the period 2017-2020.

- 12th International Seminar on Medical Geography "Health, Ethics and Migration", December 14-16, Perugia, Italy

The Seminar focused on the theme of relationships that may arise between "health, ethics and migration", divided into three sessions, the fourth reserved for free contributions on the problems of Medical Geography. It was attended by 72 Colleagues speakers, of which 28 from European and extra-European countries. 43 reports were presented that allowed to examine, in many ways, the methodologies of the scholars of the various scientific fields. These relationships have given rise to interesting discussions that have allowed us to deepen the topics dealt with, and which were reported in the initial part of the volume of Acts. IGU CHE was co-sponsor of this thematic conference.



2018

- Session “Shaping Urban Environments for more Equitable and Healthier Places” on World Health Summit Regional Meeting, 2018, April 19-20, Coimbra (Portugal)

Paula Santana, on behalf of IGU CHE, co-organized a well-attended thematic session at the World Health Summit Regional Meeting, organized by the M8 Alliance. Four relevant international speakers gave their insight on the topic “Shaping urban Environments for more equitable and healthier places”: Jo Ivey Boufford from the International Society for Urban Health, Monika Kosinska from World Health Organization, Paulo Freitas from Instituto Marquês de Valle Flôr and Steffen Nielsen from Novo Nordisk. More than 100 participants on the Meeting assisted to this session.

- 2018 Meeting of French Health Geographers, June 14-15, Lyon (France)

The meeting gathered members of several French networks interested in the links between health and the territory, disregarding their profile or disciplinary entry: Health Commission of the French National Committee of Geography -CNFG, Health and Territories axis of the International College of Sciences of the Territories -CIST and Francophone Review on Health and Territories. Julie Vallée represented the Commission on this event.

- 12th International Symposium of Geospatial Health, 2018, June 4-6, Moscow (Russia)

The 12th International Symposium of Geospatial Health was organized by the Russian Academy of Sciences, under the theme of “Health Geography”. Svetlana Malkhazova, on behalf of IGU-CHE co-organized the symposium under the auspices of the International Geographical Union (IGU), and was dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Institute of Geography of Russian Academy of Sciences. The symposium was constituted by 22 oral presentations from several countries (e.g. Russia, Portugal, Italy, the Netherlands, United States of America) exploring significant topics of health geography research. Sessions were chaired by Svetlana Malkhazova, Laura Rinaldi, Fedor Korenny, Robert Bergquist and Sherif Amer. The occasion provided an opportunity to make an overview of international trends in geography’s development, to analyze the growing impact of scientific research internationalization, the aggravation of global problems, changing theoretical paradigms, radical renewal of research methods and predictions’ validity, as well as to strengthen the integration between social and environmental branches of geography.

- IGU Quebec 2018 Conference, August 6-10, Quebec (Canada)

During the 34th International Geographical Conference – Accounting for Difference, four oral presentation sessions and one poster session was organized by IGU CHE under the topics: Global Health and Planetary Health: Concepts and Evidence, Health Policy and Systems Research and Urban Environmental Health. Presenters from 11 countries came to those sessions, delivering more than 15 oral presentations.

- Pre-Conference Workshop on Health, Healthcare and the Environment, 2018, August 2-4, Kingston (Canada)

The event was organized in collaboration with CAG Health and Health Care Study Group and co-sponsored by IGU CHE. More than 40 participants coming from Canada, China, USA, New Zealand, Netherlands and Mexico attended the pre-conference. With a single stream of papers



the meeting provided an excellent opportunity to extensively discuss new research.

- 2018 International Seminar Geography & Health: Theory and Method, September 27-28, University of Brasilia (Brazil)

The Seminar aimed to discuss, through an international vision, the main methods and theories currently used in the field of Health Geography. The event featured national and international speakers from several universities and research institutes in Brazil, Latin America, France, Netherlands, Cuba and Argentina. This seminar allowed the expansion and insertion in the international debate of researchers, professors and undergraduate and graduate students, as well as professionals from different areas that deal with health geography in their daily lives. IGU CHE was co-organizer of this Seminar. Thomas Krafft represented the Commission on this event.

- Health Geography Tour Workshop 2018, October 10, December 14 (France)

Two maternity visits have been organized in 2018 by National Committee of Geography of Health (CNFG) and École des hautes études en santé publique (EHESP). These visits to a public and a private maternity allowed to the participants to have a closer look on access to Maternity Services in France. Julie Vallée has represented the Commission on those visits.

- Health, Well-being and Quality of Life Session on Colóquio Ibérico de Geografia 2018, November 5-6, Lisbon (Portugal)

Paula Santana, on behalf of IGU CHE, co-organized a well-attended thematic session at the Iberian Geography Colloquium (Colóquio Ibérico de Geografia). 52 researchers presented 22 oral presentations organized in 5 sessions. Coming from Portugal and Spain, they presented the results from their research at international, national, regional and local scales. Mortality, Morbidity, Mental Health, Population Health, Built Environment, Access to Health Care and population distribution where some of the topics being presented.

Planned conferences and related activities of IGU-CHE in 2016-2020 (preliminary overview)

- IX National Symposium of Health Geography - GeoHealth 2019, will be held in Blumenau (Brazil) in June 19-21. The overall theme is In defense of SUS... MORE Geography.
- 1st Scientific Conference Interdisciplinarity of Health and Healthcare, June 27-28, 2019 held in Lodz, Poland. Overall aim of the conference is to discuss the achievements and research results on the improvements and development of systems in various areas of health and healthcare.
- 18th IMGS Symposium of Medical Geography will be held in Queenstown (New Zealand), in June 30 - July 5, 2019. The overall theme is New Directions, Enlarging Our World.
- 3rd CEGOT International Meeting will be held in Coimbra (Portugal) from September 25 – 28, 2019. The overall theme is Territorial Cohesion and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
- 13th International Medical Geography Seminar will be held in Perugia (Italy) in



December, 2020. The overall theme is not yet identified and structured but it is possible to be "Health and Tourism" or "Health and Travel".

- 36th International Geographical Conference 2022 will be held in Paris (France) from July 18-22, 2022. The overall theme is 'Time for Geographers'.

4. Networks

IGU CHE members are actively involved in two international networks, the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the International Society on Urban Health (ISUH).

Collaboration with ICSU on 2017-2018 period follow the same activities reported before.

Regarding International Society of Urban Health (ISUH), IGU CHE is part of the Scientific Committee of the Annual Conference, supporting its organization, evaluating the quality of the presentations and disseminating the Conference through their members.

5. Publications/ Dissemination:

Books

- Giovanni De Santis (a cura di), *Salute, Etica, Migrazione, Dodicesimo Seminario Internazionale di Geografia Medica* (Perugia, 14-16.12.2017), Perugia, Guerra Edizioni Edel srl, 2018, ISBN 978-88-557-0627-8.

Journals

- The *Revue Francophone sur la Santé et les Territoires* aims to increase the visibility of health geographers publication in the francophone academic world and toward the anglophone audience as well. The journal is hosted on the Open Journal Edition platform. 14 papers have been published in 2017 and 2018. More information: <https://rfst.hypotheses.org/>

Journal Special Issue

- A special issue of the *Journal Sustainability* (https://www.mdpi.com/journal/sustainability/special_issues/challenges_and_responses_to_population_health_and_urbanization) was published under the topic "Challenges and responses to population health and urbanization in the 21st century". Contributions are mainly from the papers presented at IGU CHE pre-conference at Xi'an in August 2016. In 2017, 11 papers were published on this special issue.
- A special issue of the *Journal Salud Colectiva* (<http://revistas.unla.edu.ar/saludcolectiva/article/view/1763>) was published under the topic "Geografía de la salud: bases y actualidad". 10 papers were selected and published on volume 1 of the Journal in 2018.
- A special issue of the *Journal International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* (https://www.mdpi.com/journal/ijerph/special_issues/geographic_disparities) will be published under the topic "Social Determinants and Geographic



Disparities in Health and Health Care". The call for papers will end in the end of 2018.

- A special issue of the Journal "Geography. Environment. Sustainability" dedicated to the XII International Symposium of Geospatial Health will be published in 2019.

Papers resulting from Health Geographers Meetings

- Ergler C., Lovell SA., Watkins A., Milligan C., Thompson L., Exeter D. and Kearns R. (2017) Looking back and moving forward: Health geography in Aotearoa and beyond. *New Zealand Geographer* 73(3): 205-217. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/nzg.12169>

Webpage

- IGU CHE website <http://www.iguhep.org/> includes announcements, member information, reports and meeting minutes. Around 350 visitors are accessing the page on a weekly basis. All relevant announcements for the webpage can be sent to the webpage manager Eva Pilot (eva.pilot@maastrichtuniversity.nl).
- The health geography Researcher's network of the commission can be found in addition to the IGU CHE webpage on <http://www.healthgeography.org>. Around 250 visitors are accessing the page on a weekly basis. All relevant announcements for the webpage can be sent to the webpage manager Eva Pilot (eva.pilot@maastrichtuniversity.nl).

Facebook

- The Health Geography Researcher Network has initiated a Facebook page for Health geography researchers to interact and exchange vacancies and information on conferences and interesting publications and so on. The link to the open Facebook group page is <https://www.facebook.com/Health-Geography-Researcher-Network-779298652122288/>. Currently around 366 people are part of the group on Health Geography Researcher Network on Facebook.