



**International Geographical  
Union Commission on Health  
and the Environment  
(IGU CHE)**



**International Geographical Union  
Commission on Health and the Environment C12.19  
Report from January 2018 to December 2019**

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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](mailto:thomas.krafft@maastrichtuniversity.nl)

Prof. Paula Santana, Co- Chair (Portugal)  
University of Coimbra/ e-mail: [paulasantana@uc.pt](mailto:paulasantana@uc.pt)

### 2.2. Steering Committee Members:

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

Prof. Liliana Dumitrache, Steering Committee Member (Romania)  
University of Bucarest / e-mail: [dosaredumitrache@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:kaowarsom@skynet.be)

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

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

### **2.4. Sub-Commission Health Geography Researcher Network' Co-Chairpersons**

Eva Pilot (Netherlands)  
University of Maastricht / e-mail: [eva.pilot@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:eva.pilot@maastrichtuniversity.nl)

Claudia Costa (Portugal)  
University of Coimbra/ e-mail: [claudiampcosta@uc.pt](mailto:claudiampcosta@uc.pt)

### **2.5. CHE Commission Members list by Country**

The Commission has members from 66 countries. 249 members follow the Commission through the website. 467 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 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019. The Commission communication is provided for the listed members and the Facebook followers.

Table 1. Number of members by Country

Country	Members' list	Facebook followers
Angola	0	1
Argentina	4	1
Australia	4	9
Austria	1	2
Bangladesh	1	0
Belgium	3	8
Brazil	53	55
Cameroon	3	0
Cambodja	0	3
Central African Republic	0	1
Canada	20	17
Chile	1	0
China	26	5
China Hong Kong	1	0
Colombia	1	4
Cuba	1	0
Czech Republic	1	2
Denmark	2	3
Egypt	0	2
Ethiopia	0	1
Finland	1	0
France	14	10
Germany	9	37
India	14	53
Indonesia	0	3
Italy	1	3
Ivory Coast	0	0
Jamaica	1	0
Japan	0	1
Latvia	0	1
Malaysia	1	2
Mali	0	1
Malta	0	2
Morocco	0	3
Mexico	3	2
Myanmar	0	2

Country	Members' list	Facebook followers
Netherlands	9	18
New Zealand	10	8
Nepal	0	3
Nigeria	4	4
Norway	0	0
Pakistan	1	8
Peru	0	3
Poland	1	1
Portugal	24	113
Puerto Rico	1	0
Romania	4	5
Ruanda	0	2
Russia	7	4
Senegal	1	0
Slovakia	0	1
Spain	2	5
Sri Lanka	0	2
South Africa	0	5
Sudan	0	1
Sweden	1	1
Swiss	0	7
Thailand	1	1
Tunisia	0	1
United Arab Emirates	0	0
United Kingdom	7	16
United States of America	9	21
Uruguay	0	2
Zimbabwe	0	1
Venezuela	1	0
Total	249	467



### 3. Meetings and Activities supported and/or co-sponsored by the CHE and activities with IGU representation by CHE in 2018-2019

During 2018-2019 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:

- 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.

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

The Symposium is organized jointly by the International Society of Geospatial Health (GnosisGIS), Department of Biogeography, Lomonosov Moscow State University and the Institute of Geography of Russian Academy of Sciences. The aim of the Symposium is: 1) to facilitate collaboration of health scientists involved into geospatial modeling in medical and veterinary geography; and 2) to maintain a network of collaborating health workers and earth scientists dedicated to development of global computer-based models that can be used for improved control programs for a wide range of diseases of medical and veterinary importance. The symposium was constituted by 25 presentations and 4 posters.

- 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.

- 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.

- 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.

- 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.

- Analyse de réseaux appliquée aux données de santé (ARAQNÉE). Paris, 28 novembre 2018.

Report about the meeting available here: <https://hal.archives-ouvertes.fr/hal-02054253/document>

- 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.

- Accessibilité spatiale aux soins : éclairages théoriques et méthodologiques. Paris, 12 juin 2019.

More information available here: <http://cist.cnrs.fr/accessibilite-spatiale-aux-soins-eclairages-theoriques-et-methodologiques/>

- 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.

More information: <http://inscricao.eventos.ifc.edu.br/index.php/geosaude/geosaude>

- 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

More information: <http://www.kbo.uni.lodz.pl/index.php/ihhc19-menu>



- 18<sup>th</sup> IMGS Symposium of Medical Geography, held in Queenstown (New Zealand), in June 30 - July 5, 2019. The overall theme is New Directions, Enlarging Our World.

The IMGS is the main meeting ground for health geographers across the English-speaking world along with interested researchers from other disciplines. In 2019, the 18th International Medical Geography Symposium (IMGS) made its first foray into the Southern hemisphere and was held in Queenstown, New Zealand against the backdrop of Lake Wakatipu and the Remarkables mountain range.

This edition aimed to present diverse approaches to conventional fields of medical and health geography and new methodological and theoretical perspectives on health and wellbeing as well as interdisciplinary insights into people/place/space relationships and the outcomes for health and wellbeing. At this conference, we acknowledge the need for interdisciplinary perspectives to help create a world with better health outcomes for current and future generations, and for diverse contributions from across the world and new theoretical and methodological perspectives that might enlarge our world.

The significance of the land to the tangata whenua (local Māori) was captured by Professor Angus Macfarlane who opened the conference with a thoughtful powhiri (traditional welcome) welcoming the 205 delegates from places as diverse as Australia, Japan, Uganda and the UK.

In an opening keynote, Dr Anneka Anderson addressed the inequities that have shaped indigenous health and spurred calls for action. Bringing song and cause for self-reflection, the IMGS also hosted inaugural special sessions dedicated to indigenous geographies organised by a contingent of scholars from Canada.

The organising committee welcomed all individuals interested in environmental health, health policy, urban and rural health, global health, health equity, public health, and relevant research methods. Fifty paper sessions addressed emerging topics in health geography, such as nutrition, and new takes on traditional strands including climate change and the spread of vector borne diseases, cultural perspectives on access to health services, and new technologies for capturing mobile data. The rise of big data, Deleuzian perspectives on assemblage, and a wellbeing lens were strong themes throughout the conference. Professor Sarah Atkinson (Durham) took up the latter in a keynote persuasively arguing for the role of geographers in rescuing discourses of wellbeing from a currently toxic path focused on individual responsibility.

Delegates braved the cold to take part in the traditional conference field trip cruising Lake Wakatipu, to explore historic Arrowtown, mountain bike and bungee for the brave, before taking shelter in Gibbston Valley winery when the rain got too much. The highlight of the conference was the gala dinner; after ascending the Skyline Gondola we were treated to a powerful performance by Wakatipu High School's kapa haka group and dinner overlooking the lights of Queenstown.

The conference finished with the Health Geography Award, promoted by the International Geographical Union Commission on Health and the Environment (IGU CHE), based on the initiative of the Health Geography Researcher's Network (HGRN). The aim of this prize is to create visibility, stimulate and support knowledge on health geography so it is dedicated to graduate students and researchers (up to 5 years after the PhD) who have made outstanding presentations during IMGS.



- 3<sup>rd</sup> CEGOT International Meeting, held in Coimbra (Portugal) from September 25 – 28,



2019. The overall theme is Territorial Cohesion and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Almost 200 researchers, decision-makers and school teachers presented their viewpoints and works which take up the theme of territorial cohesion and sustainable development relative to one or more of its objectives, namely: SDG3 - Good Health and Well-being, SDG4 - Quality education, SDG8 - Decent work and economic growth, SDG10 - Reduced Inequalities, SDG11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities, SDG12 - Responsible Consumption and Production, SDG13 - Climate Action and SDG15 - Life and Land. Almost half of the 118 presentations were dedicated to Good Health and Well-being, Reduced Inequalities and Sustainable Cities and Communities, revealing the relevance of these topics for the scientific community.



- 16th International Conference on Urban Health, held in Xiamen (China) from 4 to 8 November 2019. The overall theme is People Oriented Urbanisation: Transforming Cities for Health and Well-Being.

More information: <http://www.isuhconference.org/>

- Méthodes participatives en santé environnement. Paris Nanterre, 12-13 novembre 2019.

More information: <https://calenda.org/676149>

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

- 2èmes Rencontres de Géographie de la Santé will be held in Rennes (France) from 11-12 June 2020. More information: <https://rdvgeosante.sciencesconf.org/>
- Il Congresso de Geografia da Saúde dos Países de Língua Portuguesa (GEOSAÚDE 2020) will be held in Lisbon (Portugal) from September 9-11.
- Colloque international du CIST – Population, temps, territoires [With three thematical sessions relative to health] will be held in Paris Aubervilliers (France) in November 2020. More information: <https://cist2020.sciencesconf.org/>
- 13<sup>th</sup> 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".





- 36<sup>th</sup> 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 2018-2019 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

- *Abécédaire de géographie de la santé* / edited by Sébastien Fleuret, Clélia Gasquet-Blanchard et Anne-Cécile Hoyez (2019).  
Link: <https://materielogiques.com/epistemologie-de-la-medecine-et-du-soin/293-abecedaire-de-la-sante-geographie-et-sante-9782373612202.html>
- *Medico-geographical Atlas of Russia "Healing Springs and Plants"* / edited by S.M. Malkhazova. – Faculty of Geography, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow, 2019. – 304 p.
- Niang-Diène A. *Gouvernance de la santé au Sénégal*. Paris, Harmattan, Collection Populations, *Tome 1* (Evolution of the Senegalese health system) 260 p. *Tome 2* (Health Governance, stakes and practices), 2019 - 260 p.
- Svetlana Malkhazova, Varvara Mironova, Natalia Shartova and Dmitry Orlov. *Mapping Russia's Natural-Focal Diseases. History and Contemporary Approaches*. Springer International Publishing, 2019. – 205 p.

### 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. 12 papers have been published in 2018 and 2019. More information: <https://rfst.hypotheses.org/>

### Journal 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#published](https://www.mdpi.com/journal/ijerph/special_issues/geographic_disparities#published)) was published under the topic "Social Determinants and Geographic Disparities in Health and Health Care". 11 papers were selected and published on this special issue.

- A special issue of the Journal "Geography. Environment. Sustainability" dedicated to the XII International Symposium of Geospatial Health will be published in 2020.

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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 almost 500 people are part of the group on Health Geography Researcher Network on Facebook.