



## **2014 HEALTHY-POLIS workshop:**

# **Challenges and Opportunities for Urban Environmental Health and Sustainability**

**International Conference on Urban Health: [www.icuh2014.com](http://www.icuh2014.com)**

**6th March 2014, University of Manchester, United Kingdom**

### **BACKGROUND**

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Densely populated urban areas are facing environmental health challenges including contamination of air, water and soil. Sprawling urban areas contribute to traffic congestion, with associated air pollution, noise and long commuting times affecting public health and productivity. Climate change is likely to aggravate certain health risks in cities by increasing the frequency and severity of extreme weather events, such as heatwaves and floods, and potentially contributing to air pollution episodes. On the other hand, climate change mitigation and adaptation policies can provide a range of health co-benefits associated with low carbon buildings, urban green spaces, active transport, and renewable energy generation.

Cities are complex systems that demand systems-based, interdisciplinary research methods involving epidemiologists, toxicologists, urban planners, environmental and public health scientists. Methodological innovation and standardisation of epidemiological, exposure and risk assessment methods across countries, are needed to address complex environmental health challenges in the context of climate change and sustainable development.

The new Healthy-Polis international consortium ([www.healthy-polis.org](http://www.healthy-polis.org)) is organising its first annual workshop on “Challenges and Opportunities for Urban Environmental Health and Sustainability”, as part of the Urban Health 2014 conference in Manchester. This will be an opportunity for researchers and stakeholders working in this inter-disciplinary area (environmental public health, urban planning and transport, built environment, climate change adaptation and mitigation, air pollution and noise, and sustainable development) to share experiences, exchange views on the management of health risks in the urban environment, and identify opportunities for collaboration.

## PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

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- 11.00-11.05 Welcome and introduction  
*Dr Paul Cosford, Director for Health Protection and Medical Director, PHE*
- 11.05-11.15 Introduction to Healthy-Polis international consortium  
*Dr Sotiris Vardoulakis, Air Pollution and Climate Change Group Leader, PHE*
- 11.20-12.00 Session 1: Environmental Health Risks in Urban Areas**  
*Chair: Professor Sir Andy Haines, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine*
- 11.15-11.30 Global health impacts of climate change  
*Dr Bettina Menne, WHO Europe*
- 11.30-11.45 Infectious disease threats from global environmental change  
*Dr Jan Semenza, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control*
- 11.45-12.00 Built environment and health risks from air pollution  
*Dr Otto Hänninen, National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL), Finland*
- 12.00-13.00 Lunch**
- 12.30-13.00 [Healthy-Polis scientific advisory committee meeting]
- 13.00-14.00 Session 2: Case Studies (posters)**  
*Chairs: Professor John Thornes / Dr Clare Heaviside, Public Health England*
- 14.00-15.00 Session 3: Healthy Sustainable Cities**  
*Chair: Professor Keith Dear, Duke Global Health Institute, China (TBC)*
- 14.00-14.20 Public health impacts of greenhouse gas emissions reductions strategies in urban environments  
*Professor Paul Wilkinson, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine*
- 14.20-14.40 Integrated decision-making for sustainable housing, energy and wellbeing  
*Professor Michael Davies, UCL*
- 14.40-15.00 An integrated decision-support framework for sustainable management of urban pollution  
*Professor Adisa Azapagic, University of Manchester*
- 15.00-15.50 Panel Discussion**  
*Professor Sir Andy Haines (LSHTM), Dr Bettina Menne (WHO Europe), Dr Ann Marie Connolly (PHE), Professor Michael Depledge (Exeter University), Dr Louise Newport (Department of Health), Professor Thomas Krafft (Maastricht University)*
- Questions:**
- Policy needs and priorities for future collaborative research?
  - Key indicators for urban environmental health and sustainability?
  - Key methods for integrated assessment of policies and interventions?
  - Capacity building and training needs?
- 15.50-16.00 Conclusions and Future Steps**  
*Dr Sotiris Vardoulakis / Dr Bernd Eggen, Public Health England*

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**Organising Committee:**

Dr Sotiris Vardoulakis

Dr Bernd Eggen

Dr Clare Heaviside

Prof John Thornes

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