

EHB 13

Early Morning Tutorials

Wednesday, 21 August

Title: How to be a reviewer for a scientific journal?

Name of the lecturer: Jane C. Schroeder

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Affiliation incl. country of the lecturer: SNRN, NIEHS, Davis, USA

Summary (max 100 words): How do you review a scientific paper? This is something that is not typically taught, yet is an essential component of the scientific process. Dr. Jane Schroeder, editor for Environmental Health Perspectives, will address this question and comment on several important topics related to reviewing scientific papers. For example, how to ensure that you cover the important issues while optimizing efficiency; how to identify substantive issues and fatal flaws; assessing a paper's potential contribution to the literature; adapting a review to requirements and expectations of the journal; and how to clearly indicate concerns while also providing constructive comments to help authors improve their work. This morning session is geared towards students and new researchers; however, anyone is welcome to attend.

Title: Epigenetics - Memories of Past Exposures and Predictors of Diseases: Methodological Considerations and some Findings

Name of the lecturer: Wilfried Karmaus

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Affiliation incl. country of the lecturer: University of Memphis, Tennessee, USA

Summary (max 100 words): Recent findings suggest that both the environment and underlying genetic sequence variation influence DNA methylation, which in turn seems to modify the risk conferred by genetic variants for various health conditions. DNA methylation may act as an archive of early developmental exposures, which then can modify the disease risk related to genetic variants. Genetic variants and DNA methylation, when jointly assessed, produce a break-through in the estimation of relative disease risks. Due to the inheritance of epigenetics, we anticipate an emergence of information leading to novel treatment strategies in the current generation and prevention of diseases in future generations.

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Title: Outbreak investigation for environmental hazards

Name of the lecturer: I-Jen Wang

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Affiliation: Taipei Hospital Department of Health, China Medical University

Summary (max 100 words): It is important to repair the house before it rains. This session will discuss how to do an outbreak detection and environmental investigations, how to use descriptive epidemiology to generate hypothesis, and how to perform risk management and communication. A few examples will be provided for illustration, such as melamine and DEHP food contaminated events and H1N1 outbreak. By problem based learning, you will get familiar with how to handle an outbreak, visit the site linked to the outbreak, make an assessment of adverse health effects and their relationship to the exposure environment, and perform risk management.

Title: Health impact assessment methods for industrial development projects in tropical regions

Name of the lecturer: Mirko Winkler

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Affiliation incl. country of the lecturer: Swiss Tropical- and Public Health- Institute, Basel Switzerland

Summary (max 100 words): Implementation of industrial development projects in complex eco-epidemiological settings in the tropics can trigger a variety of events, including influx of people, changes in land use patterns, infrastructure enhancements and transformed ecosystems. Health impacts that are attributable to an environmental exposure are often the consequence. In order to minimize negative health outcomes and maximize health benefits, health impact assessment (HIA) is used as a decision-making tool to evaluate and quantify potential health effects. The tutorial will introduce the HIA approach with particular emphasis on potential environmental health impacts of industrial development projects in tropical regions.