

Contamination of the environment has become an increasing concern in today's society. Understanding how our health is affected by the environment and developing effective approaches for minimizing adverse effects requires collaboration between environmental scientists, epidemiologists, health professionals and policy makers.

Environmental epidemiology is concerned with patterns of disease in populations that experience environmental exposures that are often involuntary, such as exposures to disinfection by-products in drinking water and air pollution. Because of the particularity of the approach, it is necessary to understand study design and practical consequences of choices made when planning and undertaking an environmental epidemiological study. Determining the associations between environmental factors and human health, however, is not of direct relevance for policy makers or the public because the information does not quantify the magnitude of a problem for a specific population and does not allow a comparison with other exposures or factors that affect health. Because the presence and magnitude of environmental exposures may be subject to legal restrictions or influenced by political or economic pressures, the translation of the results from environmental epidemiology are thus necessary. Risk assessment allows for this translation, although, by their nature, these studies can be subject to much criticism.

The course addresses the linkage between environmental epidemiology, risk assessment and policy-relevant analysis with the perspective of a multidisciplinary process. Through case studies, students will learn about the use of environmental epidemiology in the application of preventive public health risk assessment, debate the role of risk assessment in future health policy decisions and practice strategies for communicating risks.

Teaching methods: Teaching will involve lectures, case studies of current research and risk assessment, discussions of selected readings and workshop sessions where students develop and discuss research and risk assessment plans. Course participants will have the opportunity to work together in small groups to discuss studies from the epidemiologic literature and current issues in environmental epidemiology and risk assessment. The course will be taught in English and supporting materials will be in English.

www.evsp.cime.es

Hasta el 13 de junio

Santander

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Horario:

Mañanas: 9,00 - 14,00 h
Tardes: 16,00 - 18,00 h
(excepto viernes)

Plazos

Solicitud de becas

Del 28 de abril al 30 de mayo

Apertura de matrículas

Desde el 30 de abril hasta completar plazas

CÓDIGO: 88001

TARIFA: A

A partir del 16 de junio

Santander

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Tel.: 942 29 88 00
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Fax: 942 29 88 20

Horario:

Mañanas: 9,00 - 14,00 h
Tardes: 16,00 - 18,00 h
(excepto viernes)

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Menéndez Pelayo

MENORCA 2008

PROYECTO IMAGINANDO

UNA MIRADA JOVEN A
LA FRONTERA DEL CONOCIMIENTO

**Environmental Health and
Society: from research to
decision-making**

**Maria Mirabelli
Laura Pérez Grau**

Escuela de Verano de Salud Pública
Mahón, Menorca,
del 22 al 26 de septiembre de 2008

Co-Organised by:



Patrocinio:



UIMP
Universidad Internacional
Menéndez Pelayo



**Environmental Health and Society:
from research to decision-making**

Directors

Maria Mirabelli

Research Fellow

Centre for Research in Environmental Epidemiology (CREAL)

Municipal Institute of Medical Research (IMIM-Hospital del Mar)

El Consorcio de Investigación Biomédica en Red en Epidemiología y Salud Pública

Laura Pérez Grau

Research Fellow

Centre for Research in Environmental Epidemiology (CREAL)

Municipal Institute of Medical Research (IMIM-Hospital del Mar)

Del 22 al 26 de septiembre de 2008

Monday 22

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND EPIDEMIOLOGY

- 10,00 h Course participant presentation
- 10,30 h Environmental health and environmental epidemiology research in our society
- 11,30 h Case study:
current research in air pollution and health
- 12,30 h Workshop/Discussion:
Developing a research hypothesis

Tuesday 23

**ENVIRONMENTAL EPIDEMIOLOGY:
RESEARCH DESIGNS**

- 9,30 h Introduction to research designs for environmental health
- 10,30 h Guest speaker presentation
Disinfection by-products in water and health effects
Cristina Villanueva
Centre for Research in Environmental Epidemiology, Barcelona
- 11,30 h Guest speaker presentation
Maternal fish consumption in pregnancy, fetal growth and child neurodevelopment
Michelle Mendez
CREAL
- 12,30 h Workshop/Discussion:
Why weigh risks benefits?
Michelle Mendez
Maria Mirabelli
Laura Pérez Grau
Cristina Villanueva

Wednesday 24

**RISK ASSESSMENT:
APPROACH AND CONCEPTS**

- 9,30 h Introduction to risk assessment
- 10,30 h Guest speaker presentation
Risk assessment and evidence-based public health
Nino Künzli
Centre for Research in Environmental Epidemiology, Barcelona
Institució Catalana de Recerca i Estudis Avançats
- 11,30 h Guest speaker presentation
The use of risk assessment in evidence-based public health: the example of Health Impact
Nicola Cantoreggi
Health evaluation unit, University of Geneva
Jean Simos
Health evaluation unit, University of Geneva

- 12,30 h Workshop/Discussion:
Addressing limitations and uncertainties in risk assessment?
Nicola Cantoreggi
Nino Künzli
Maria Mirabelli
Laura Pérez Grau
Jean Simos

Thursday 25

**LINKING ENVIRONMENTAL EPIDEMIOLOGY AND
DECISION-MAKING**

- 9,30 h Reviewing other aspects of risk assessment in the decision-making process
- 10,30 h Introduction to the precautionary principle
- 11,30 h Guest speaker presentation
The role of evidence in risk characterization: example for health risk of electromagnetic fields
Martin Rösli
University of Bern
- 12,30 h Workshop/Discussion:
precautionary measures and their implications for our society
Maria Mirabelli
Laura Pérez Grau
Martin Rösli

Friday 26

CHALLENGES AND FUTURE NEEDS

- 9,30 h Workshop:
challenges of research and risk communication
- 10,30 h Round table:
the future of environmental risk assessment: scientific and community needs
- 12,30 h Course conclusions