

September 9th 2005 - Workshop on environmental epidemiology and exposure assessment

Two international environmental health organizations are joining together to host a workshop on environmental epidemiology and exposure assessment, AND YOU ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT FOR THE PROGRAM. The two organizations are International Society for Environmental Epidemiology (ISEE) and International Society for Exposure Assessment (ISEA) We will meet at George Washington University's Ross Hall on Friday September 9, 2005 from 3:00 to 6:00pm. Ross Hall is located adjacent to Foggy Bottom Metro stop, 2300 'Eye' Street NW, and continuing medical and nursing education credits will be available. The workshop is cosponsored by GWU's EOH Department, and Washington Capitol SRA. The joint ISEE/ISEA chapter aims to meet twice a year--fall and spring.

We are inviting submission of abstracts with emphasis on 3 broad topics:

- * Environmental measurements and disease risks;
- * Reviews of topical areas in environmental epidemiology and exposure assessment with novel ways of prevention; and
- * Research methods for exposure assessment, risk assessment/risk communication, environmental health policy, and environmental epidemiology.

Your abstract should follow the format attached below (between ****), and it should be emailed to **Ms. Maria Salnik** <moet01@gwu.edu> by 6:00pm August 23, 2005.

Telephone 202-994-1734. If you have a data driven project, please use the following headings: Background, Methods, Results, and Summary/Conclusions. Please limit your word count to no more than 325, and indicate if you wish to have a poster OR oral presentation. Please below for list of topics for abstract submission.

PESTICIDES FROM THE PAST: REPATRIATION OF INDIAN CULTURAL ARTIFACTS MAY PLACE MUSEUM STAFF AND TRIBAL MEMBERS AT RISK.

Goldsmith DF, George

Washington University, Washington DC, USA--Poster or Oral

Background In the U.S. repatriation of Indian ceremonial artifacts from public and private collections has begun as required under U.S. law called the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). Ceremonial objects have been preserved with pesticides, fungicides, and antimicrobial agents, including arsenic, mercuric chloride, DDT, strychnine, tobacco, and naphthalene. Indian communities are concerned about the safety and health of handling these objects (especially risks to native children and elders); and museum staff, scientists, and managers seek guidance about workplace toxicity and prevention.

Purposes This presentation is designed to introduce this issue to international environmental and occupational health researchers.

Another rationale for this talk will be to offer opportunities for presentations by Indian health leaders, by museum employee health specialists, and pesticide researchers.

Issues to be addressed

- 1) The life of sacred objects through native eyes, description of uses of repatriated Indian ceremonial items, including ages of users and amounts of time spent with objects
- 2) The cumulative exposure to pesticide products by museum staff, possible short-term and long-term health hazards
- 3) The possible known health risks from excess exposure to these pesticide products
- 4) Means to reduce pesticide exposures from native perspective as well as from 'scientific' approach
- 5) Importance of health surveillance and public health approaches
- 6) Recommendations for future research and prevention activities
- 7) Risk communication tools for both native culture and museum workplaces are needed

Recommendations

It is essential to understand the possible risks from these pesticides and preservatives, though appropriate prevention steps can be taken without waiting for definite health findings from epidemiology research studies. These steps include quick sampling to assess presence of pesticides, communication to both Indian and museum communities of findings, use of appropriate personal protective equipment, and health surveillance of exposed groups.

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Keywords: Pesticide exposure, Indigenous peoples, cancer, chronic health effects, preservatives, sacred artifacts

Topics for abstract submission (not exclusive): infectious disease epidemiology; toxic exposure sampling; work and environmental exposures; occupational/environmental epidemiology; water, air, soil, agricultural risk and exposure assessments; children's environmental health; environmental health disparities and 'paradoxes'; bioterrorism and public health risks; immigrant environmental health; chronic diseases and respiratory hazards; job/environmental exposure matrices; post 9/11 health responses; methods in pollution epidemiology; take home hazards; community environmental justice; environmental/occupational nursing; agency science/international policy; sentinel exposure or health events; military and Veterans' health/industrial hygiene/toxicology; reproductive epidemiology and

hazards; exposure factors; exposure to persistent organic pollutants; exposure modeling; pollutant susceptibility and vulnerability; exposure field study methodology; ethics of exposure analysis/environmental epidemiology

If you belong to either ISEE or ISEA, registration will be \$20.00; if you are *student member* of ISEE, ISEA, AIHA or SRA, registration will be FREE. All other students, \$10. All others will be \$25.00, but if you join one or both the organizations at the door, you will only pay up to \$20 (depending on student status). Registration for 9/9 will cover cost of refreshments, poster set ups, and other administrative costs. More information about ISEE can be found at <http://www.iseepi.org/>; and more information about ISEA can be found at <http://www.iseaweb.org/>

[David Goldsmith is willing to help with abstract preparation up to August 23, 5:00pm for students only; abstracts will be judged by 2 current students--N LaVerda and M Salnik, a newly minted MPH, S Lynch, and M Dellarco.]

The workshop will have listings of internships, job listings, pre- and post doctoral fellowships, upcoming programs as well as a set of invited, agency representatives, distinguished speakers and will be the place to network in environmental health and exposure assessment. The September 9 session will highlight presentations at the 2 meetings later in 2005.

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