Roundtable with journal editors

Side event at the First Conference on Air Pollution and Health

(13.30 - 14.30, Wednesday, 31 October 2018, Salle A)

This side event will discuss the evolution and tendencies related to the scientific journals that publish articles on the effects of air pollution. Editors of leading scientific medical journals will share their views on the technical evidence regarding air pollution, publication policies, research gaps and communication strategies.

Background

Air pollution is an issue of common concern worldwide, and the scientific community has been an essential player in cumulating evidence and raising awareness on air pollution negative impacts on population health. Similar to other fields of research, there has been a multiplication of journals available to publish studies, analysis and results that cover the effects of air pollution. Internet has made accessible what was before kept in libraries usually only visited by students and scholars. Scholars, students, experts and the public can now access dozens of journals that publish peer reviewed articles in the wide field of air pollution.

Moving the agenda on air pollution for WHO and its partners means also to understand, anticipate and orient the trends in the research agenda and this also means to keep a dialogue with the scientific community and its main journals that also represent a fundamental communication channel. Several questions are relevant to address and of interest for those in public health involved in the air pollution arena. Which are the topics that are being published and will be influential in their fields or across fields in the next future? How much the costs of publishing and open access policies are changing the field? How much is conflict of interest an issue in air pollution publications?

But, old questions are still valid: what types of articles are published on the relation between air pollution and health? How the criteria for recommendation for publication, revision or rejection have changed? What was publishable twenty years ago and is not today? Which articles attract more attention from the media? How much the journals have to invest in dissemination activities of the results of the papers they publish?

To address and discuss these questions editors and editorial members of the British Medical Journal, Environmental Epidemiology, Environmental Health, Environmental Health Perspective, World Health Organization Bulletin and International Journal of Public Health have been invited. Examples will be given to illustrate the arguments. This discussion will provide an introduction and prompt the discussion on the opportunities for the research agenda that within a large international scientific cooperation can be discussed and hopefully adopted to improve globally air quality.
Moderator:

- Dan Greenbaum, Health Effects Institute, USA

Panelists (Journal Editors):

- Bert Brunekreef, Environmental Epidemiology
- Michael Brauer, Environmental Health Perspective
- Laragh Gollogly, WHO Bulletin
- Fiona Godlee, British Medical Journal
- Francesco Forastiere, Environmental Health

Discussants

- Xiaoming Shi, National Institute of Environmental Health, China
- Pierpaolo Mudu, World Health Organization