

# Improve Environmental Health Competence for Research and Actions: Sentinel Physicians for the Environment (SPE)

## Convener

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## Background and significance

In 400B.C. Hippocrates stated that in Medicine any investigation should take into account the environment where the patient lives. Probably the first modern environmental epidemiology study was the “natural experiment” carried out in London in 1854 by an anaesthetist named John Snow . Environmental-Health(EH) surveillance is getting more and more essential for EH prevention across the world (Behbod,2016).

Indeed knowledge and recognition of EH issues are not a common practice amongst physicians. Nevertheless some very significant (but rare) experiences have shown they can help detect critical situations and they influenced effective actions and attitudes. 90–95% of patients are initially cared for by Family Doctors(FDs) and 80% of health problems are managed within primary care (World rganization of Family Doctors-WONCA9( E Hummers-Pradier,2009). FDs could also be a very valuable source of a huge amount of useful data, helping inform decisions leading up to effective environmental-health understandings and actions either at local or at global level, as well as to support public health authorities in implementing Environmental-and-Public-Health-Tracking(EPHT) and Health-Impact-Assessment(HIA) based on early detection of selected health outcomes collected at local community level.

## Aim

To strengthen networks of physicians interested in contributing to environmental health surveillance in collaboration with environmental epidemiologists

## Content

Starting from some experiences some key messages will be shared:

- Why and How SPE (Lauriola, 2018) can effectively cope with global and local threats with policymakers, polluters and citizens (NEJM,2019).
- short and comprehensive description of methods and results of some significant in the field experience.

It will be arranged as a time breakdown of presentations given by

- clinicians contributing data/education
- organisations with access to FD data;
- epidemiologists estimating incidence of health endpoints attributable to environmental exposures

The balance of input between education, representative organisations with data access, and epidemiology work needs to be considered.

**Interest for the workshop**

This workshop aims at sharing methods and results of the use of this new source of data to translate scientific evidence into individual and collective actions. In particular it will be showed how effective it is. As such some concepts mainly dealing with Governance and experiences will be shared with the Environmental Epidemiology Community. In particular it will encourage the development of an innovative locally-based strategy within EPHT and HIA yielding to effective environmental-health understandings and actions either at local or at global level, in addition it will be promoted a “community” of experts and institutions in this field.

**Maximum number of attendees**

100

**Duration workshop**

Half day